

The empire had been divided by Diocletian, and divided several times during this period, so this is no more important than previous divisions, except that they didn't get together again. Two parts; nominally it was one empire, with two emperors, because it was too big for one man to rule over. But actually they came to be more and more distinctly separated from one another. Now we began last time our discussion of number V., The Fifth Century. I am trying to keep this by centuries, because our purpose in church history is not to see how something has developed, but to understand something of the lives of Christians in past days. And in each century there are about three generations of people, although there may be somebody who is a little baby in the beginning of the century who may be still living in the end. But he doesn't remember anything about the beginning, and he rarely has any influence at the end. As to actual active life of people, there are three generations usually in a century. You will find very few people today who are active and important today who had any great importance in the life of our country or in the life of their own towns, even, fifty years ago. You will find a good many who did thirty years. You think about- actually of three generations coming on, living their active life, and disappearing from importance, three of them in the course of one century. So if you get events of one century mixed with another, you are mixing up a situation at a time when certain people are active with a situation when their great great grandchildren are the leaders, and that naturally gives you a very distorted understanding. So I am trying to at least keep the centuries distinct. Under V., The Church in the Fifth Century, we began last time, A. A General Survey of the Century. And from a political viewpoint, the vital thing in this century is the sweeping of the Germanic tribes across the empire. This was a century in which there was a complete overturning of the West. The East was greatly affected, but the West was overturned. And this separated the East from the West. It really wasn't the fact that