

and therefore it is not quite as clear to us now, but you have then the two extremes and the one extreme won out at the council of Constantinople in 754, but the western church refused to recognize that as an ecumenical council and the monks in the eastern church were opposed to it and there were a great many in the east who didn't like what it had done and so it was not affective in the church and it was not recognized as a 7th ecumenical council and then one of the emperors married an Athenian woman named Irene and this woman named Irene who married this emperor who venerated images and she didn't see why these lovely images should be destroyed and after her husband's death, her son being a little boy, she became the reg~~ant~~ of the empire and she took her stand against the iconoclasts and she managed to get rid of the man who was the archbishop of Const., to get him removed and to get her secretary put in as archbishop of Const. and then she wrote the bishop of Rome and said, why not have a real ecumenical council and the bishop of Rome said that would be a very fine idea and do away with this so-called 7th ecumenical council and so she called a council and they wanted to meet in Const, but the soldiers and the iconoclasts in general in Const. were too heated and excited about it, they couldn't have it there, and take a stand in favor of images. It was impossible in Const. and so they hit on a very clever idea. They said, we will hold the council over in Nica. It is not far away, we can still have an influence over it, it is a little town, there won't be the same influences of a lot of people who are against us around Const., it is a place where the first council of Nicea was held, its name carries weight and influence, we will hold a council in Nicea, and so they held the 2nd council of Nicea in 787. There were two priests and a deacon there representing the bishop of Rome. There were three hundred and fifty bishops of the eastern church, it was presided over by the bishop of Const. who had formerly been Irene's secretary and the Council decided that it was wrong to destroy images and that it was wrong to give to images the worship that you give God, but a proper worship of images is right and so they said, you may give real adoration to God and you can represent God to you in images and help to give ~~you~~^{him} the adoration you should, and that, of course refers to the Lord Je-
sus Christ as well.