

you would take the next two or three years. The evidence on it is very very extensive and is tremendously important. All we want to do is hit the high spots and to say a little bit about the general course of events between these high spots, but it is something that a Christian leader should be very aware of. Much in it has many interrelations with our own time. 4th century 300-400 A.D.

5th Century is almost as important as the 4th during its first half. During the second half it was practically normal. That is why I rate the 4th century so much more important. The two strands about which I speak are almost entirely within the 4th century from 300-400.

Now under c - we are looking at the Rise of Arianism and only the beginning of the Arian Controversy - its rise and the Council of Nicea. The average Christian today knows a little bit about Church History will think that Arianism rose, the Council of Nicea settled it and that was the end of it. Nothing could be more contrary in history than that, so I hope you will not get that impression. I have put the Rise of Arianism and the Council of Nicea together as we are mentioning 1 - a, the Great importance of the Arian Controversy. Now to really understand its import you have to know of course, what it is, but we'll put that under subsequent heads.

b - its background

Here I think it is important that we get a clear understanding. Where in the Bible does the word Trinity occur? Where in the Bible does the word Deity of Christ occur? You would name thirty vital theological terms which are extremely important in our Christian church today which you will not find anywhere in the Bible. Now this does not mean to say that these are not vital theological matters but they are a matter of our attempt to state in brief language the clear teaching of the Bible. The Bible is not a book like a mathematical formulae book with a few basic statements with the concept fully explained there. The Lord might have given ~~them~~ us such a book and I don't know how many people would have read it or try to study or understand it.