

2. Council of Nicea 325

There never was a more important gathering of Christian leaders in the history of the church unless it be the council in Acts 15. a. Calling of the Council. It was called, as an ecumenical council should be by an emperor. There were eight ecumenical councils which are so recognized by the Greek Orthodox Church and by the Roman Catholic Church and at least the first four by practically all protestant groups and every one of these was called by an emperor.

**** 12 word used in Luke where it says that the word went out from Caesar that all the world should be taxed. It means the inhabited world. That area which is under the control and direction of the emperor. So an ecumenical council is a council which an emperor calls in order to determine matters related to the church for the whole world. Constantine did not want to determine matters but he wanted to give the church leaders a chance to come to an agreement on it. So, he issued his call and felt that the facilities of the empire would be at their disposal for transportation. You would think this would bring a great many from the West but actually there were only about ten dignitaries from the West and over 300 from the East part of the empire. There were only about ten from the West but one of these was the man who presided at the Council _____ $10\frac{1}{2}$ from Spain. He came from as far as anybody who came to the council. He was an old friend of Constantine and a man for whom Constantine had very high regard. He was a very earnest Christian and a very fine man, not a great man but an able man and a good man. _____ 10 was the man who presided after Constantine opened it, addressed the people, told them what he wanted them to do, then _____ was in charge of the other meetings. No - Constantinople was not yet founded - not until 328. If Constantinople had been in existence, it probably would have been held there and would tremendously have increased the importance of Constantinople because the Romans were always saying - "Oh, what's Constantinople - you weren't even founded when the great Council of Nicea was held. We are the great capital city of the world" This was held in the area of _____ in a little town called Nicea in Asia Minor.