

in further detail. In our Presbyterian churches, we insist that our clergy shall declare their acceptance of the system of doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession, but we make no such requirement of the members of the church. The members are required simply to give credible evidence of truly knowing Christ as Saviour. The purpose of the creed is not something that every member of the church must agree upon but it is a means of keeping unbelief out of the church, out of the leaders of the church. You can't expect the rank and file as they begin, to have a thorough understanding, but if the leaders of the church is true, they will grow in their understanding. So the group came together and one of Arius's good friends was a man named Josephus, now the Josephus of whom you are already familiar. There were several men named Josephus in this century of considerable importance. We have already become acquainted with Josephus of Caesarea. He was the greatest scholar of the period. He was a man of wide reading and a powerful writer and student, and he had been elected unanimously in Caesarea to be a bishop of Caesarea after the persecution stopped. He had been in prison during the persecution. He was not a leader. He was a scholar. Then there was another Josephus who was the bishop of Nicomedia. Nicomedia was the place where Diocletian had his capital. It is the place where the persecution began. This man who was bishop of Nicomedia in Asia Minor, was a very good friend of Arius; a man who supported Arius. Then there were a few others who strongly supported Arius at the council. There were quite a few who were very very suspicious of Arius views but there were two men who were particularly determined that Arius views must be made to be apparent that it was not a Christian view. These two men were a Bishop named Marcellus and a young man who was only a deacon but who had come with the bishop of Alexandria to the meeting. This man's name was Athanasius. He is the most important man by far that we have mentioned yet. Athanasius had already written a small book on the trinity. He has a man of Greek background, a man who had been brought up in Alexandria so he was Egyptian by citizenship though Greek by background. Athanasius as a young man had caught the attention of Bishop Alexander.