

I've already mentioned to you how the Council of Nicea decided that both bishops should continue but should cooperate with each other instead of opposing each other and that whichever died the other would continue alone. In this way the schism was to be settled; well it was a nice idea but it didn't work because the Milesians from this time on vigorously supported the Arians. I don't think it means they were necessarily Arians but that they were against the leading group in Egypt which was strongly for the Nicene Creed so that some of them became among the first opponents of Athanasias. Athanasias perhaps had wisdom enough to see that though this sounded like a very beautiful compromise, it was not very workable because they say that he opposed this arrangement. But he was only a deacon at the council and had no authority on it but his opinion was that it was unwise to settle it this way. Then the council also said that each province should hold a council twice a year and then twice a year the bishops of each province should meet together in order to take up whatever matters would be necessary to discuss and make decisions in their areas. There seems to have been an effort made to get the council to make a pronouncement that ministers should not marry but the council did not make any such action. They say that it was one of the martyrs who spoke out against this action and who saved the day against any such action. There was also a statement among the canons of the council of Nicea which recognized that the area in the West around Rome should have the Bishop of Rome as the superior in the church in that area, sort of a patriarch in that area and that the Area of Alexandria should have a Bishop of Alexandria and the area of Antioch should have a Bishop of the area of Antioch. They did not give this as if they were establishing any new system but recognized that this was to be a system which had come into existence. That each of these three bishops was recognized by the people as the leader in his area was accepted. Then they went on to say that the Bishop of El _____ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ which was the pagan name for Jerusalem should have special authority and power. Well now this is a summary of the other actions of the council of Nicea but the most vital of course is its relation to Arianism. So we go on to No. 3.