

But we notice that one of them, Constantine II who was a friend of Athanasias when he was * in exile in France was well received by Constantine II. Constantine II only lived until 340 and then he died. When he died Constans took over his territory. So now for 10 years Constans holds the West and Constans also favored the Nicene Creed. So in the West until 350 they had no* difficulty. The Westerners were not the same sort of arguers and fighters over precise details of theology that the Easterners were anyway. This was the doctrine they had received, this is what they understood the Bible taught, this is what the Nicene Creed and Council held and in the West the people seemed to have followed it without much opposition or trouble, until 350. But in the East Constantius had Alexandria, Josephus of Nicomedia as the Bishop and it was easy for him and others to persuade Constantius that the Arians leaders were the good people. They were the people really loyal to the emperor, their's was the view that really should be established, instead of this new innovation of Homoousian which isn't in the Bible after all and why should they allow this innovation. The Fathers didn't know it; it wasn't used in the last century. Let's stand on the truth as passed down, not mentioning the fact that Arian did have a brand new explanation of the theory which most of them were standing with. But in the East Constantius little by little gave his support to the Arians. Eventually Constantius ruled the whole empire and then the Westerners were in real difficulty. So we mentioned 1. The Sons of Constantine and we should simply mention further under that that when Constantine died, it seemed to be quite reasonable to everyone that anyone in exile be allowed to go home. So Athanasias returned to his bishopric. So Marcellus returned and many of these returned although in Antioch, the new bishop kept on holding his power there. ~~But in the~~ Most of those exiled returned to the place where they had been so Athanasias returned for two years in Alexandria and it seemed as if everything was going to be peaceful but it didn't last long.

2. The Progress of Arianism.