

council and had sent two representatives and when he found that he had condemned Athanasias, he repudiated what they had done. So now Constantius sent word to Liberius that after all Constantius was the Roman Emperor and surely Rome should be in line with the Empire and this wicked man Athanasias was out of his seat now and was no longer a figure of importance and they were going to have a council at which they were going to make a definite position on these doctrinal matters and he ordered Liberius to come to the council. Liberius refused to come so the soldiers were sent and seized him and took him off and he was away from Rome for two years with the Emperor always demanding that he attend the councils and he always refused. Then a council was held with an action declaring that Jesus Christ was a creature and that it was blasphemy to confuse him with God the Creator. He was the first made of all creatures, it was he who had created the world; he was the great instrument of salvation but he was a creature; he was not God. And this creed was accepted by the council under Constantius pressure. Constantius wanted it to be an Ecumenical council but it had not been recognized as such in later years. But this was recognized - Liberius refused to attend the council but time went on - he was away from Rome nearly ^{three} ~~two~~ years and another man, Felix, a man on the Arian side, became Bishop of Rome and just how much of an Arian Felix was we do not know. We do not know a great deal about Felix. Some say he was an Arian who later changed his views, later repented of his views and changed them. Others say he never was an Arian but in order to hold the position, he subscribed to the words that Constantius wanted him to. At any rate Liberius held in exile there - unable to do anything about conditions in Rome, and anxious to get back to his people, finally seems to have decided, for the sake of the testimony - think of the good I can do with a little compromise. So it seems most certain that Liberius signed either an Arian creed, or an Arianizing creed in order to get permission to get back to Rome. Now the Roman Catholics try to insist that this is not the case; that he did not. But they do say there was a long and serious controversy which began very early - long before the protestants began - about Liberius