

There are other periods of 15 years that are more vital but for a two year period - this had tremendous importance. I don't think there is any other two year period in the world more important than the two years between 361 and 363.

E. THE REIGN OF JULIAN

In the providence of God when the leaders of the Roman Empire became Christians, in the providence of God it was a good thing that the one Constantius who did more toward making Christianity a state religion than any previous one, supported Arianism and opposed the true Christians then as he had supported true Christian doctrine ?????? and had persecuted in order to advance it. He was persecuting in order to destroy it although he was also strongly opposed to paganism. That purged the church and cleansed it and blessed the leadership of people who stood for the truth because they believed it, not because the emperor was for it. But now we have a trial for the church which in the providence of God was powerfully used. This is the reign of this man Julian, who in the providence of God, only lasted about two years. But these two years were of tremendous importance.

1. Julian's background

We mentioned that when Constantine died, the soldiers destroyed all his relatives not wanting to have fighting and anarchy in the empire, like they did when Alexander the Great died, fought one against the other until they were all gone - they had killed all his relatives except his three sons who were to reign over the empire. But there were two little boys whom they did not kill. These little boys were just harmless little fellows, they couldn't set up a division in the empire - so they were allowed to live. The oldest of these is not particularly important was a boy named -----3 $\frac{1}{2}$, the younger was Julian. They are the sons of Constantine's brother.

Nephews of Constantine the Great - cousins of Constantius because they are sons of Constantine's brother.