

Now one of Julian's ways of injuring Christianity was saying "we'll increase their victory". So he gave the order that all the bishops who have been exiled by Constantius are now free to return to their homes. He did not say he would reestablish them as bishops ~~but~~ - he didn't think they should have bishops but he did claim to take an attitude of toleration that the people could believe any religion they wanted to. They would be free as far as religion was concerned although he gave his support to the pagan religion. So the bishops were free to come back now and they came back and many to be free and given back the property which had been taken away from them. They came back and pretty soon the people were welcoming them and ~~were~~ the people who you might have expected to be against them were standing behind them - a great many of them so that it didn't work out the way Julian was hoping it would. In the case of Athanasias, he had been hiding in the desert you remember and as soon as word came that Constantius was dead, Athanasias couldn't wait to get back to Alexandria and didn't wait for any order from Julian. He knew the needs of his people and he came right immediately back to Alexandria. The people of Alexandria loved him and without the imperial power against him he was quite safe there. So he came back and drove out of town the Arian bishop who had been there six years and Athanasias set to work to reestablish things in Alexandria in the church and to try to advance the Nicene Creed. Julian's plan then to get the christians to bickering did not work because they realized the seriousness of the situation they were facing. It was like the situation in England in the time of King James II who was a Roman Catholic. According to British law at that time, everybody had to attend the Episcopal Church and the dissenting groups were meeting out in the country secretly and there were many of them. The Romanists had no right to hold services in England at that time. King James II gave the order that they should be toleration and freedom to hold services. Well the dissenting groups did not avail themselves of the opportunity or back up the king as he expected they would because they knew very well that he was just using them to injure