

Exiled bishops - exiled by Constantius were to be free to return to their homes although not to be replaced in their positions as far as he was concerned. He didn't bother them. When he gave that order, Athanasias was already back and already had been welcomed by the people of Alexandria. Now Athanasias took an active position in the opposition to what Julian was doing but Athanasias also immediately sent the word to advance true Christianity in his own area and in fact throughout the empire. While he was hiding in the desert he had been in correspondence with the others all over the Christian world and he was aware of the difficulties and problems that there were so he called a council at Alexandria. He couldn't have done this under Constantius as Constantius would not have permitted a council to meet under a man who believed in the Nicene Creed. But Athanasias called this council and to it bishops who were friendly to Athanasias and who believed in the Nicene Creed came together. Some were from the West, mostly from the East - but it gave them a chance to examine various problems and so it was very important.

1. Council of Alexandria -

a. Problem of Terminology

This can easily become a great problem. You can find two men who believe exactly the same things and yet whose words flatly contradict one another. And you can have sharp controversy between their followers just because they use different terms to express the same thing. On the other hand, you can have two men who use almost the same terminology, one of whom is an ardent Christian and the other who is an utter unbeliever. I was talking to an old college professor of mine one day. He had ~~then~~ then become a professor at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He said to me - "that what this

world needs is regeneration by the Holy Spirit". Now I might have said exactly the same thing and anybody hearing him and hearing me say it would believe we believed exactly the same thing. But I knew the man didn't believe a bit as I believe. In fact I don't believe he believes in a personal God at all. So when he said that I asked him what he meant by regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Well he and I were alone, there was nobody to take down his words