

Julian reigned over the whole Roman Empire as you know, From December 361-early part of 363. Julian was succeeded by Jovian. He reigned about 8 months from 363-364. One mornin they went into his tent and they found that the fire had been left burning through the night and it had exhausted the air and he suffocated. He was a rough soldier and he died there in his tent. He was a man who was a Christian in his viewpoint and a follower of the Nicene view. Jovian had declared his support for the Nicene view. I did not mention to you the fact that Athanasias had been sent into Exile. Julian when he was emperor and all the bishops came back intended to say except Athanasias but he hadn't said it and Athanasias was back already anyway. So Julian, hearing Athanasias was back didn't want Athanasias around because he knew what an able man Athanasias was, Athanasias was looked up to by all the people of Egypt almost as a king even though he simply was the Bishop, a leader in the church. He was beloved by all the Christians practically in Egypt and other people greatly admired him. So Julian sent orders to arrest Athanasias to take him into exile again and they put him on a boat and in some way Athanasias caught on that there were two hired assasins on the boat who were supposed to kill him on the boat and he dived into the water and got off and escaped into the desert and was with his friends in the desert for a few months. He wrote back and said "this trouble won't last long." Of course whether this was just a courageous summing up or whether the Lord gave him true reason for confidence we don't know but once Julian was gone, Athanasias came back again. This council at Alexandria was during the brief time while he was there before he went into exile for the fourth time. Jovian welcomed Athanasias and treated him with a great friendship but he only lived 8 mon. as emperor. St. Augustine a century later said that God let Jovian live and reign a less time even than Julian did so that no emperor would become a Christian for the sake of Constantine's good fortune but only for the sake of eternal life. Constantine was the first great Christian emperor and he was successful in everything. Jovian is the 2nd real Christian emperor and he had a very brief reign and died, and Augustine explained it that way. Anyway when Jovian died they appointed another general named Valentinian I. He was emperor