

in themselves be of great importance. But they are precursor of tremendously important events which took place a comparatively few years later. You might say the first rays of light begin to appear. As in the evening when the first star begins to appear as night comes, the end of Valens reign as we look back on it, seems to be the beginning of that which resulted in the end of the ancient world and the coming of the middle ages. So a few words about the events which led to Valens death are important here, not so much for their immediate effect on church history as for understanding of the whole process of events which completely changed the face of Europe and changed the whole history of the Western world. Now these events were related to the relationship between the Romans and the Germanic tribes to the North. As I already mentioned to you, in another connection, the Germanic tribes are nothing new. They had contact with the Romans as early as the time of Julius Caesar and in fact there may have been contact much earlier. At 100 AD there was a whole book written by one of the leading Roman Historians, which was dealing with the Germanic tribes in which he discussed the nature of these barbarian tribes, and compared them with the Romans, showing how the Romans were much superior to them, in that the Romans had their fine houses and knowledge of writing and their valuable civilization and all that while these tribes were wandering in the wilderness and with little knowledge of civilization of that type - But showing how the Romans were much inferior to them because of the very low morality of the Roman with their frequent divorces and their very loose living, while the Germanic tribes were very loyal to their marriage vows and very monogamous and in this regard, morally they were way ahead of the Romans. But then not to think that the Germans were so much better than the Romans he goes on to show there was as much drunkenness among the Romans and many times as much among the Germanic tribes, and many were greatly addicted to drunkenness. Now there were a people then, of different blood, different race, from the original settlers of Italy - a very different language than the original who had established the Roman civilization. They were not so completely different from the people of the Roman empire at this period because one of the great causes for the greatness of Rome was ~~for~~ that from very early days,