

We will have a fair amount to say about him before we are through. But this is how Theodotius first became emperor...on the invitation of Gratian. So Theodotius immediately rushed to the East and there quickly gathered some troops and he indulged in a number of ~~scrimishes~~, tried not to enter into a real battle or war with the goths, but enough scrimishes to upset them and confuse them and get them to see that they could not simply go on and take over things, without strong opposition. Then he met with them and suggested they make peace. So he made peace, allowing them to settle in the empire, taking 40,000 of their men into his own army and making some of them prominent under his control. So he put an end to the Gothic war for the time being, and had no further immediate trouble with the Goths. There was much trouble not many years after that. Now Theodotius continued to reign in the Eastern empire from 378 until his death in 395. At the time of his death, he was emperor of the whole empire, so you see he demanded great importance in the East and in the West. Theodotius is the first of the emperors to be received into the Christian church by a bishop who was definitely orthodox. The Arian bishops had pretty much had things their own way. Theodotius was definitely orthodox in his view and sought out the bishop in the church to be received.

Now we have mentioned Gratian who lived from 375 to 383 and in 383 Gratian was killed.

You can't say Constantine was orthodox or wasn't - he didn't understand... question - Constantine was baptised by Josephus of Nicomedia, an Arian and Valens and Constantius had had for their leaders, Arian bishops, but Theodotius sought out an orthodox bishop. In the West we have had orthodoxy before.... I'm not going to bother you with the name of the usurper who killed Gratian in 383 but when a usurper killed Gratian in 383, Theodotius allowed him to continue ~~as his self~~ in the Eastern Empire until he tried to go into Italy and to take over Italy. ^{which Valentinian II and his mother were holding} Then Valentinian II was killed and another usurper took over and now Theodotius entered in with an army and he overcame them and thus established himself emperor of the whole empire. So Theodotius was nominally, for his last three years, emperor of the whole empire. Actually he had considerable influence and activity in the East during the last 10 years.