

F. Downfall of Arianism - when you think of Arianism you naturally think of the greatest opponent of Arianism in history and that brings us to the Last Days of Athanasias. Athanasias did not live to see the downfall of Arianism but he lived to see it greatly weakened and he had a great part in its weakening. Athanasias was 40 years - 46 years - bishop of Alexandria. He died in 373. We have noticed something of the difficulties that he had to face, difficulties which would have wrecked any ordinary man but Athanasias was one of the most able men in all church history. He was able as a man who faced terrible calamities and upsets and was able to have sufficient control of his nervous system and his whole attitude to go through them peacefully and continuously* his work safely, Even though he spent years hiding in the desert, he was attacked by assassins repeatedly. There was a time at church when he was holding a service that he was surrounded by soldiers and the attempt made to get in there; another when he was in a boat and assassins tried to kill him, and he dived into the water and escaped. He had a life which would have worn out the nerves of most people but he not only survived these situations but was able to act as an administrator so well that he won the favor of all the people of ^{Egypt} ~~the area~~ and the great love of the truly Christian people of ~~the area~~ Egypt. He was a great administrator, he was a fine writer, a man whose Easter letters which had been ordered by the council of Nicea, that the pope of Alexandria should send a letter every year telling the whole Christian world when Easter would be, and in these Easter letters he discussed doctrines, practical problems etc. and they had a tremendous influence. He had many controversial writings, writings on commentaries, devotional writings, and his writings are among the greatest writings of ancient times by any means, ^{not} but they have a very high level as writings and thoughts and as influences. He was a man who was absolutely single eyed in his opposition to Arianism but a man who was charitable on lesser points and was ready to work out the best way of handling the various problems that arose. He notice how he called the council of Alexandria while Julian was Emperor and was able through this