

So they had this discussion and I don't think it was the argument that moved Valens so much as the unanimity of the people of Egypt. After all, Valens had and his court actually ~~going~~ to be practical if they were going to continue as Constantinople was dependent on the grainship from Egypt. You remember that Constantine had sent him into exile in the first place because of the false story that he had been holding back the grain ship from Constantinople. Egypt was a tremendously important part of the feeding of the empire and of the economic life of the empire. And with the people of Egypt now unanimously behind Athanasias, it was decided that the wise thing to do was to admit the argument and say that it does not apply to Athanasias. So Valens gave the word that this would not apply to Athanasias and gave him surety that he would not be bothered, and Valens for the next six years, as long as Athanasias lived, honorably held to the assurance that he had given. So Athanasias had six more years of active work in Alexandria and of influence throughout the empire. Much ~~that~~ Valens wanted to destroy of the nicene view and advance the Arians, there was a force working in the empire with the letters from Athanasias and the high regard in which Athanasias was held, which could not be ~~altered~~ altogether overcome. Now this was not the sole reason for the downfall of Arianism but it certainly was an important part. Athanasias died with the knowledge that the evidences were that the Arians were losing out, that more and more the people were turning away from them and more and more turning in the direction of the Nicene creed. So we leave Athanasias at this point and go on for a brief look at a new movement which appeared on the horizon and against which Athanasias had done some writing and warning in his last days. question - yes, in the letters which Athanasias sent out, among the other many matters which he mentioned, he did give a list of the books of the N.T and this is an evidence that by that time the Christian world was unanimously agreed upon ~~the~~ which the books of the N.T. were, but that Athanasias never came to make a decision about whether a book belonged there or not. He did not make the selection or anything like that. The Christian world had come to that conclusion before that time. The canon of the O.T. and the N.T. was something