

Gratian was not yet 20 years of age. Theodotian was nearly 40, but was an able man. Gratian appointed him and asked him to become Emperor of the East. Eventually he became emperor of the whole empire. But for most of his career he was simply Emperor of the East and set to work to get things in order and did an excellent job of it. He was a very able man on the whole, a very excellent emperor. He was a man of war, a man accustomed to giving orders and having them carried out. He had a strong temper. He occasionally did things he regreted later. He was honest. He was a real Christian, an earnest Christian. He was a man who gave way to his passions and particularly the passion of anger, in cases where the situation fully warranted it but did regret going as far as he did. He was an able leader, a soldier and able administrator, an earnest Christian who when he made mistakes usually sincerely repented of them. Like in the case of David, there was one case where a number of months elapsed. But Theodotius was thoroughly and firmly convinced of the Nicene faith. Theodotius proceeded to give orders that Arian preaching should not be carried out in the empire over which he ruled. That was his order. He declared that no Christian permitted which did not recognize the true deity of the Lord and the full teaching of the scriptures in this regard. So immediately the people who had given their support to Arianism simply to please Valens, these people immediately switched their support to the Nicene creed to please Theodotius. There are always people of that kind. They were certainly not the most influential or the most important. The fact is that the activities of Athanasias were known - for years they said Athanasias against the world - Athanasias is a long voice and the world is turned against what he believes. The world has moved on to a newer age and we have better truth and we don't believe these old fashioned things. But Athanasias stood against the world, effectively and successfully and though he did not live to see the end of Arianism, his influence was one of the tremendous factors in its final death. We cannot overlook the work of Capadotians, Basil and the two Gregorys who also exerted a tremendous influence and did a tremendous job in convincing the leadership of the Eastern