

When the Council of Nicea adjourned, Constantine thought the whole matter was settled. They had voted with all but five ~~which held to~~ to adopt this creed. The matter was settled. Those who would not sign this creed were considered not entitled to be Bishops and Constantine ordered that these five should be exiled. ✠ Josephus of Nicomedia was a very good friend of Constantine who had taken his strong stand with the Arians and at first refused to sign the creed. He was also exiled and it looked as though the whole matter was settled. They had a great dinner, a great festival, Constantine had the finest dinner he could put together given to the bishops and Josephus of Caesarea said afterward, it was just like the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It was just wonderful, with the great emperor Constantine sitting at the head and the bishops of all over the world there with him. But when they went back to their homes, it soon became evident to some that those who were the friends of the arians were plotting together in order to try to get the situation changed. So, during the next few years, it was not long before someone succeeded in persuading Constantine that it was a mistake to keep Josephus of Nicomedia in Exile. He was a good friend of the Emperor before and if he made a little mistake at the council; the good hearted man and Christian leader had suffered for what he did and doubtless now fully understood his wrong. Constantine wrote Josephus ~~and told him he was sorry~~ and Josephus wrote he was very sorry he had incurred the Emperor's displeasure. He was welcomed back and not so long after that when Constantine founded the city of Constantinople; he called Josephus to become Bishop of Constantinople. So here you have one of the Arian leaders in a position of great importance now in the church. Then they looked around and found that the Bishop of Antioch who had been split with Athanasias and his group; found certain grounds on which they could allege that he had committed acts unworthy of a Bishop. We have no basis now on which we can test the evidence and know whether he was or not. They persuaded a council to order that he be deposed and exiled, removed from being Bishop and they got a man in as Bishop of Antioch, 2nd largest city in the empire, who favored the Arian people. But here the people that strongly held the view that Athanasias