

know something about ancient history, would be much interested in getting more details than just the bare high points. On the other hand, we just don't have time to spend a great deal of time on this tremendous century and consequently we cannot go into the details enough to make it really easy to follow for those who have no background at all about it. So get all you can of the details but be sure you get the main points because the main trend of events is tremendously important. I believe it is the second most important century in history. Of course the most important is the 16th during the reformation and we take a full semester and maybe a little more on that century and then we are terribly rushed. But this one is the next most important and we have to rush through it. We are looking at d. The Reign of Constantius.

As you know the reign of Constantius is from 337 to the end of 361. Now those dates are not so tremendously important but the approximate time certainly is. The greater part of the middle third of the century, Constantius was ruling and as we notice, he ~~ruled~~ ruled in the East the whole time. He ruled in the West, Constantine II ruled three years and then Constans took over the whole of the west and ruled for another 10. Then a usurper held it three years until Constantius came with an army and defeated and destroyed him; and that meant that for the last 8 years, Constantius was absolutely supreme. Now what was the last heading I gave? The Victory of Arianism. This comes in the year after Constantius had the whole empire in his hands. Before that time, Constantius had the East but the West was in Constans hands and Constans favored the Nicean View. The result had been that in 346, Constans had insisted that his brother Constantius, permit Athanasias to come back and Constantius felt it necessary from a political viewpoint to do so and so he brought him back but received him with great friendship and treated him so graciously that Athanasias thought Constantius really wanted him to be back in his Bishopric in Alexandria. That gave Athanasias ten interrupted years from 346 until 356 in Alexandria as Bishop. During that time, he was constantly preaching, holding meetings all over Egypt and doing a great deal of personal work with the people all over the country. He had a tremendous