

Constantine wanted a creed. Constantine was surprised when they overwhelmingly voted down the Arian creed. He hadn't realized that these men who had made so much noise actually represented only about 1/10 of the people. He hadn't realized that but he did want that this noise should stop and either people should adopt their views or that they should put them aside and go forward in the work of the church. So they said "let's adopt a creed" and Josephus of Caesarea presented a creed. Now Josephus of Caesarea you know, different from Josephus of Nicomedia. Josephus of Nicomedia is an Arian leader, a politician, a good friend of Constantine. He knew how to advance himself. He was an ecclesiastical leader. Josephus of Caesarea is a Bishop but primarily a scholar. He wrote his church history which is a great value. He wrote on Damascius he wrote on Constantine, his books are of real value. He was a true scholar not a controversialist. He doubtless was a real Christian even though some people tried to make out that he had not stood as he should during the persecution. Most scholars feel that that is unjustified because if he had not stood bravely during the persecution; it is pretty hard to think that once it was over he would have been elected unanimously to be bishop of Caesarea. But Josephus said that "here is the creed that we use in my church in Caesarea - how would you like this" and so he presented it and it is a beautiful creed. He said "we believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things, both visible and invisible and in one Lord Jesus Christ; the Word of God, God from God, light from light, the only begotten Son, the firstborn of all creation, begotten of the Father before all ages by whom also all things are made, who for our salvation was made flesh and lived among men and suffered and rose again the third day and ascended to the Father and shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and in the Holy Spirit. Now what better could you want than that? The people at the meeting said "that's marvelous - look what it says about Christ - look how it exalts him - look at the tremendous things it says about him - what better could you want than that". Josephus said "certainly, that is the creed we use in Caesarea, that is a real Christian creed. Why can't we adopt this" Well if what they were doing was to adopt