



COUNCIL OF NICAEEA

Council of Nicaea

325

First Ecumenical Council

- ✠ Convoked and underwritten by Constantine to settle Arian controversy
- ✠ From 250 to 318 bishops present, mostly Eastern
- ✠ Adopted a baptismal creed, probably from Jerusalem (by tradition, attributed to Eusebius)
- ✠ Affirmed Son is of *the same substance* (*homoousios*) as Father (5, then 2 dissenting)
- ✠ Creed included anathemas against Arian beliefs
- ✠ 20 canons formed basis for later church law
- ✠ Determined unified date for Easter
- ✠ Meletian schismatics' ordinations were to be re-ordained, though Meletius was suspended
- ✠ Identified patriarchal sees Rome, Antioch, and Alexandria; Jerusalem accorded special honor
- ✠ Permitted reconciliation of Novatianists (*cathari*), required [re]baptism of Paulianists
- ✠ Ended neither Arian conflict nor the schisms