



THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

Lesson 47

February 12, 2020

In our previous class we looked at the various councils that the church conducted in beginning in 325 A.D. up to the Council of Chalcedon. Prior to this council we looked at...

COUNCILS

- **Council of Nicaea, 325**
- **The Council of Constantinople, 381**
- **Council of Ephesus, 431**

In all of these councils the church attempted to pin down the nature of Christ. Some argued that He was both divine and humane. Other argued that He was more divine than human. And yet some believed that his humanity should be the primary focus of Christ.

By the time we come to 451, we see another council called to order; it was...

THE COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON,

451

- **The debate raged on concerning the nature of Christ.**
- **What two character represented the confusion of Christ's nature?**
- **Who called for a council to settle the matter?**
- **What bold statement did the council make regarding Leo and the apostle Peter?**
- **What proclamation did Leo, the bishop of Rome make regarding Christ's nature?**
- **What was Theodoret, bishop of Cyrus required to confess?**
- **What did the council decree regarding the bishop of Constantinople?**

The two characters who captured the confusion of Christ's nature were Nestorius and Eutychus. Nestorius believed in two natures of Christ emphasizing the humanity of Jesus, while Eutychus believed that the divine should have been emphasized.

Marsian called for a council at Chalcedon to settle the matter in 451.

The council declared that Peter spoke through Leo.

Leo's conclusion was that Christ is both divine and human.

Theodoret was required to confess "Mary, Mother of God".

The Council also decreed that the bishop of Constantinople was equal to the bishop of Rome.

COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE, 553

- **What was the doctrine of Eutychus?**
- **What was the doctrine of Eutychus called?**
- **Eutychus' doctrine was so prominent that Emperor Justinian called for a council in 553.**
- **Many bishops disagreed with Eutychus even though the Roman emperor and the bishop of Rome changed their minds several times.**

The doctrine of Eutychus believed that after the incarnation of Christ, He had only one nature (Divine).

The doctrine of Eutychus was called Monophysitism Mono:One; Physis:Nature.

COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE, 680

- **Monophysitism asserts that Christ has only one divine nature.**
- **Monothelism means one will (divine will). Its adherents believed that Christ had two natures (physical and divine) and one will or personality.**
- **This view failed to see the humanity of Jesus (Heb.4:15).**
- **The outcome of the council in 680 was Christ had two wills (human and divine).**

THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA, 787

- It was to settle the “iconoclastic controversy” image worship.
- The bishops in the west (Rome) favored it, while the bishops in the east (Constantinople) did not.
- How did John, bishop of Damascus defend the use of images?
- By 860, the Council of Constantinople decreed that images should be worshipped.

LIFE, WORSHIP, AND DOCTRINE UNDER ROMANISM

- **The Establishment of Catholicity**
 - **The NT was the recognized authority, but they believed it needed an authoritarian interpretation.**
 - **The bishops became the spokesmen of orthodoxy.**
 - **By the 6th century there was a pattern designated as “Catholic”.**
 - **The word “Catholic” means universal.**
 - **The Lord’s church is universal, but the word took on a different meaning with strange doctrines.**

(Read book).

(Read bullets).

SACERDOTALISM

- **In the NT Christ is man's only mediator (1Tim.2:5).**
- **A priestly class was formed that mirrored Judaism and paganism. The sacraments were originally presided over by a single bishop, then elders or presbyters became official priests.**

BAPTISM

- NT baptism was an expression of one's faith and conviction of sin (Acts 2:38).
- Later it became a ceremony that could only be performed by an approved official.
- Various rituals occurred:
 - Devil was renounced, salt was poured on the head, the converted was given milk and honey.
 - The converted would wear a white robe and given a crown to symbolize victory.
 - Three baptism representing the Godhead.
- Sprinkling was approved and Novatian was the first known case in 251 A.D.
 - Infant baptism became common in 450 A.D.