



Basil the Great
330-379 A.D. Greek Christian leader and Bishop of Caesarea, as well as a spirited adversary of Arianism.



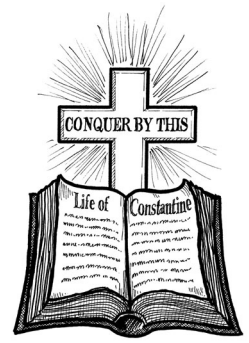
Athanasius
293-373 A.D. Greek (Egyptian-born) patriarch of Alexandria and chief advocate in the conflict against Arianism.



The Golden Age of India
c. 320-535 A.D. A period in India's history beginning during the reign of the Gupta Dynasty and marked by its prosperity in the arts, sciences, and religion.



Cyprian of Carthage
died 258 A.D. Bishop of Carthage and martyr. Shepherded Christians in North Africa while under persecution by the Roman Emperors Decius and Valerian. Instituted principle of church's power to pardon deadly sin.



Eusebius
300 A.D. Roman physician of Greek descent. Embroiled in controversy, Eusebius believed that the non-practicing could be resolved with the church after repenting, but was opposed by Anacletus. Emperor Maxentius charged both with disturbing the peace and exiled them to Sicily, where Eusebius died.

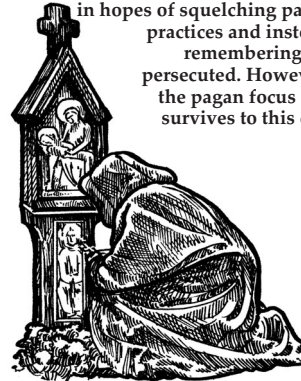


Ptolemy
second century A.D. Alexandrian astronomer, geographer, and mathematician whose initial work, *Almagest*, gives his theories of planetary motion in detail. His studies were based on the belief that all celestial bodies revolve around the earth.



Diocletian
245-313 A.D. Roman emperor who endeavored to rule more effectively by reorganizing administration, finances, and military forces of the empire, ultimately dividing the territory into east and west. He was noted for the last great persecution of Christians by his desire to revive the old religion of Rome.

Valentine
died 269 A.D. A martyr who was beheaded for his faith, he is believed to be of Rome and of Terni (Interamna). Due to pagan, mythological practices of the Roman Lupercalia festival, February 14 was declared "St. Valentine's Day," in hopes of squelching pagan practices and instead, remembering the persecuted. However, the pagan focus still survives to this day.



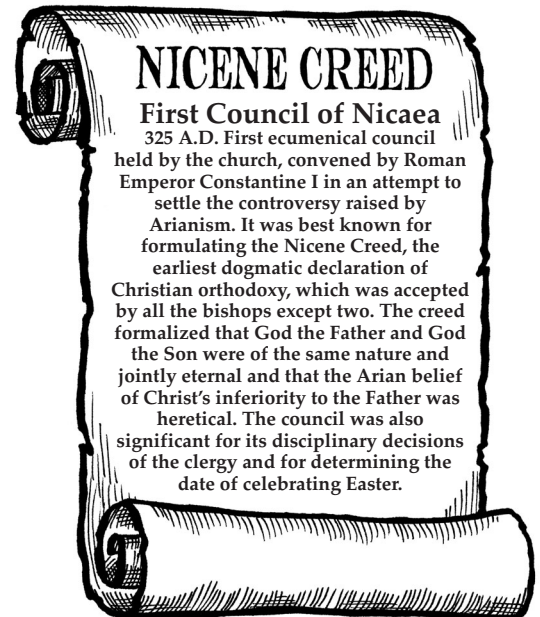
The Maya Civilization
c. 250-900 A.D. A people of the Mexican, Belizean, and Guatemalan rainforests who, although in existence long before the time of Christ, thrived during this classical period. They were known for their hieroglyphics, temples, colorful pottery and fabric, and knowledge of mathematics and astronomy, leading to the development of a precise calendar.



Origen
185-254 A.D. Greek (Egyptian-born) Christian writer, teacher, and church father, known for authoring *Hexapla*, his interpretations of the Old Testament. This work was urgently demanded by the confusion which prevailed in Origen's day regarding the true text of Scripture, due to the fact that the widely used *Septuagint* had been written with freedom to make corrections and additions.



Constantine I
285-337 A.D. Roman emperor who embraced the Christian faith and terminated the persecution of Christians. He published the *Edict of Milan*, extending privileges to Christians. He rebuilt Byzantium as a new "Rome," naming it Constantinople.



NICENE CREED

First Council of Nicaea

325 A.D. First ecumenical council held by the church, convened by Roman Emperor Constantine I in an attempt to settle the controversy raised by Arianism. It was best known for formulating the Nicene Creed, the earliest dogmatic declaration of Christian orthodoxy, which was accepted by all the bishops except two. The creed formalized that God the Father and God the Son were of the same nature and jointly eternal and that the Arian belief of Christ's inferiority to the Father was heretical. The council was also significant for its disciplinary decisions of the clergy and for determining the date of celebrating Easter.