

Behind Closed Doors: The First Ecumenical Council And The Turning Point of The Birth of Christianity

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Historical Essay

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PROCESS PAPER

I chose this topic because I wanted to write an essay for the recognition of Christian history and its biggest impacts in the global. It was the beginning when the religion started to take place and started to begin spreading. Conducting my research was difficult at first since this topic was new to me and I had to find the right websites to find the right information to take.

I had to compare information that I had gathered from separate sites to ensure any false facts will not be written in my essay. I made sure to ask specific questions about my topic (including; the dates, major events, people, etc.)

I annotated the articles that I've gathered my information on, and simplified it into a short thorough summary. I had many priorities I had to focus on to this point forward, including on how I could make my essay hooking to the judges. With all the many many participants in the competition, chances are tight.

From competing with this topic before, I realized and learned from that experience what I had to work on. Time management is crucial especially in competitions when it comes to deadlines. I find taking my time on a typical assessment/essay makes better work. I find the next most important thing from my experience is comments/suggestions from other people. Having other people or my friends helping me with my essay helped build up my work and resolve sentences that I would've not fixed before I was suggested to. Overall, having past experience helps guide you and get to know that topic more clearly than the first time as for my mistakes, wording, and organization.

I figured my title had to be the first thing I had to think about since it's the first thing that the judges would see. Without a clever title, it loses the judge's interest. This also goes to the beginning or intro of my essay, a first impression sort of situation. It doubts the judges thoughts so that you could hold onto their attention for the argument.

The overall purpose of why I chose this topic was because I thought that Christian history/events won't be a topic that would be discussed upon competitors, and would be a great way to write one of the major catholic events that made its landmark in Christian history. Understanding and learning about catholic history really connects with other global events that the religion played its role in. Even for people who don't believe in catholicism, christianity still is a topic in history that individuals should learn more about their events, deeds, and many creations that is still present to this day.

Introduction

The call to action was clear and urgent: Constantine, the mighty emperor of Rome who was the mastermind in the known world to the ancient city of Nicaea in modern-day Turkey. The fate of Christianity, and the future of the empire itself, hung in the balance. What wonders and creations would be created at the Nicene Council that would shape the course of Christian theology forever?

The council of Nicaea was a major church council held in the city of Nicaea, (currently known as Iznik, Turkey), in the year of 325 A.D. The founding principle of the Nicene Creed– a fundamental statement of Christian faith that's been commonly used in churches for over 1,500 years. Their assemblies that were held in this monumental event of the ante-nicene periods had created a major history mark in the making of Christianity. Christological issues were resolved, the Nicene Creed was created, but most importantly it was a change, a start. The issuance of the Nicene Creed, the council was led by Roman Emperor Constantine The Great to address several issues that previously divided the Christian church including the dating of Easter. The Nicene Creed was to affirm at the time, there were a number of disagreements among Christians about the nature of Jesus Christ and his relationship to God. Some argued that Jesus was not fully divine.

A Crisis Appears

The Nicaean Council of 325 AD was a turning point in history for many reasons. One of the most important outcomes of the council was the formulation of the Nicene Creed, a statement of Christian faith that has been accepted by most Christian denominations ever since. The Creed established the belief in the Holy Trinity, which defined God as one individual including three people: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit which are the believed gods in Christianity. This had a major impact and turning point on Christian theology and the course of global history. Before the creation of the Council of Nicaea, a christological crisis within the Christian church started to interfere in one of the most major beliefs in Christianity which was the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Trinity is a Christian doctrine that is used in today's churches. When this crisis was identified as a problem, it was spread throughout congregations and throughout the whole empire. After recognition, a council assembly was ordered to take place in the church to raise unity and resolve the crisis, this is also where the infamous Council of Nicaea began to take place. Constantine the Great was a Roman Emperor and the first to convert to Christianity.

Along with many lifetime achievements, he found the Council of Nicaea to be an opportunity and his duty to take part in one of the most major roles in this assembly in order to help resolve it. This became a turning point in Catholic history. Constantine the Great, taking part in one of the major roles during the assemblies, viewed conflict within the Christian church and saw that it should be his duty to heal schisms wherever they appeared.

Arguments and Debates

Representatives, including bishops, participated in the assemblies to discuss and determine the issues of the Christian faith. The primary issue that the members of the council addressed was the relationship of Jesus Christ to God. This was a major point of contention at the time, with some arguing that Jesus was a separate entity from God while others were stuck

believing that he was the same valued as God. The council ultimately believed that God and Jesus had the same essence in each other. These theological debates created divisions within the church, and Constantine hoped that a council of church leaders could resolve the disagreement and provide guidance for the future.

The first council attempted, yet failed to establish the uniform date for Easter because of some of the objections that occurred in their discussions. It affected the policy they also couldn't adopt on the celibacy of clergy, which is a requirement or law upon priests who can't be married or involved in a relationship. Although the Nicene Council tried to resolve these issues with a heresy denying the divinity of Christ, the council declared that Christ was co-eternal with God and therefore fully divine. This was a significant moment in the history of Christianity establishing the orthodoxy of the faith but also the time where the establishment of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, paving the way for further future theological development and the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

In addition to discussing the nature of Jesus Christ, the council also addressed various doctrinal issues, such as the timing of the nature of baptism, the role of bishops in the church, and the relationship between the Church and the state. The council's decisions were crucial in establishing the foundations of Christian doctrine and establishing the Christian church as a major player in the religious landscape of the time. The emperor provided funds, food, and shelter for the bishops and clergy who attended the council, which was attended by over 300 clergy. One of the most significant decisions made by the council was the adoption of the Nicene Creed, which stated the faith of the Christian Church and declared the deity of Jesus Christ. The Nicene Creed was first adopted from the first council of Nicaea that was first introduced on 19 July, 325 A.D.

The Nicene Creed was established at the end of the assembly, which lasted from May 325 A.D to July 325 A.D. This was made as a quote or a list of cites relating to Jesus Christ which was used in Catholic churches taught to children. The creed also turned down the teachings of Arius, who denied the divinity of Christ, and rejected the idea of the Trinity. The First Council of Nicaea is seen by many historians as a significant turning point for the history of Christianity, as it helped to establish Christian doctrine and a unified church. It helped to establish Nicaea as an important center of Christian worship and culture as a safe place of teaching religion. The Nicene Creed is still being recited in christian churches today.

Closing

The Council of Nicaea concluded with the establishment of the Nicene Creed, a statement of Christian faith that defines the nature of the Trinity and the divinity of Christ. The Creed, which is still being used today, declares that Christ is officially co-eternal with God and therefore fully divine. The Council also established the date of Easter to be held on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. The resolution of the Arian controversy marked a significant turning point in the history, as it established the orthodoxy of the faith, paved the way for further theological development, and strengthened the unity of the church. The Nicene Creed was issued at the end of the council and it became a widely accepted statement of Christian faith affirming the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the resurrection of the dead.

In conclusion, the Council of Nicaea was a turning point in the history of Christianity due to its pivotal role in shaping the doctrine that would go on to define the Christian faith. The council established the biblical canon, which is the basis for the modern Bible, and it also introduced the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, which is a key belief in most branches of Christianity. Overall, the council played a significant role in resolving other important doctrinal

issues, such as the divinity of Christ, and the relationship between the Father and Son. As the first ecumenical council, the Council of Nicaea set a precedent for subsequent councils and served as a model for how religious doctrines can be debated. In short, the Council of Nicaea was a defining moment in the history of Christianity, and its importance continues to be felt to this day.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Second Council of Nicaea". Encyclopedia Britannica, 24 Jul. 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Second-Council-of-Nicaea-787>. Accessed 7 November 2023.

This site targets more about explaining the second council of nicaea, which was the seventh ecumenical council of the christian church meeting in Nicaea. Besides talking about the significance of the after effect really, it focuses more on the topics they discussed in the second assembly about christianity. Artifacts were presented on the site that were used during the time of the second council of nicaea in 787 AD.

Petruzzello, Melissa, First Council of Nicaea, Edinburgh, Encyclopedia Britannica Inc. 1768. <https://www.britannica.com/event/First-Council-of-Nicaea-325/additional-info#history>

This site talks about the significance, history, and description of the first council of nicaea and how it made an impact on Christianity. Participants and the key people in the assemblies are mentioned and how they played their roles. This website thoroughly explains the full process about what they talked about in their meetings including the problems and things left unsolved.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "history of early Christianity". Encyclopedia Britannica, 30 Aug. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-early-Christianity>. Accessed 7 December 2023.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-early-Christianity>

This site explains the time period of early christianity, when this religion was introduced into the global.

Secondary Sources

Bevan, Richard, The Council of Nicaea: Resolving the Crisis In Early Christianity, A+E Networks, 1995. <https://www.history.co.uk/articles/the-council-of-nicaea-resolving-The->

[crisis-in-early-christianity](#)

This site is similar to the first website that also talks about the history and conflict of the council of nicaea. It introduces the council of nicaea and also introduces christianity. It splits the events into their own individual topic in the article, mainly the biggest events that were mentioned in the assembly.

The Council of Nicaea and Three Others, Shah, Zia H, 11/30/2011.

<https://themuslimtimes.info/2011/11/30/the-council-of-nicaea-and-three-others/>

This article talks about the aftermath of the council of nicaea. It does mention the history and discussions of the assembly, but mainly likes to explain how their discussions affected christianity. It mainly targets how it affected christianity and the present time. One of the many creations and cites that were mentioned in the infamous assembly, is put into this article and is added onto the meaning and deepens the effect of the after effect.