

# Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

The Synod at Nice set forth this Creed.

## The Ecthesis of the Synod at Nice.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten (of his Father, of the substance of the Father)<sup>1</sup> God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made, both which be in heaven and in earth. Who for us men and for our salvation came down [from heaven] and was incarnate and was made man. He suffered and the third day he rose again, and ascended into heaven. And he shall come again to judge both the quick and the dead.

And [we believe] in the Holy Ghost. And whosoever shall say that there was a time when the Son of God was not, or that before he was begotten he was not, or that he was made of things that were not, or that he is of a different substance or essence [from the Father] or that he is a creature, or subject to change or conversion--all that so say, the Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes them.

From *The Seven Ecumenical Councils*, ed. H. Percival, in the *Library of Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers*, 2nd series (New York: Charles Scribners, 1990), Vol XIV, 3

## CYRIL, OF JERUSALEM Jerusalem Creed ABOUT A.D. 350

We believe one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages, very God, by whom all things were made; who appeared in the flesh, and became man was crucified and was buried; rose on the third day; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and will come again in glory, to judge the quick and the dead; of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who spake in the prophets. And in one baptism of repentance for the remission of sin and in one holy Catholic Church; and in the resurrection of the flesh, and in life everlasting.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Two Dissertations in Scripture and Tradition on the Constantinopolitan Creed and other Eastern Creeds of the Fourth Century, by Fenton John Anthony Hort; On monogenes theos (only-begotten god) in John 1:18.

<sup>2</sup> CYRIL was elected Bishop of Jerusalem in 350; was expelled by the Arians in 360; reinstated in 361; attended the second œcumenical Council in 381 as an advocate of the Nicene orthodoxy (although for some time he had sided with the semi-Arians); he died in 386. He wrote in 348, while he was presbyter of the Church in Jerusalem, twenty-three Catechetical Lectures ( Κατηχήσεις ) or Sermons on the baptismal Creed used in Jerusalem, which he asserts to be the faith of the universal Church (*Cat.*XVII. § 3), also 'the holy and apostolic faith' (*Cat.* XVIII. § 32), although Cyril knows nothing of a literal composition by the Apostles. The Lectures were delivered to those who hoped to be baptized on the ensuing Easter eve. The Creed thus explained is not given at length in the manuscripts, since it was not to be written on paper, but to be engraved on the memory, and to serve to the baptized Christian as a viaticum for his journey through life, by which he might test the doctrine of Cyril or any other teacher. He claims for it antiquity and agreement with the Scripture from which it was drawn (*Cat.* V. § 12). From these Lectures and ancient headings A. Aug. Toutté, the Benedictine editor of the Works of Cyril (Venet. 1763), has compiled the following creed. It closely resembles the Nicene Creed of 325, but, like that of Eusebius, it avoids the ὁμοούσιον. At the same time, it contains most of the additional clauses of the Constantinopolitan Creed of 381.

**THE SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL  
THE FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE  
A.D. 381**

**THE HOLY CREED WHICH THE 150 HOLY FATHERS SET FORTH, WHICH IS  
CONSONANT WITH THE HOLY AND GREAT SYNOD OF NICE.(1)**

(Found in all the Collections in the Acts of the Council of Chalcedon.)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the Right Hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead. Whose kingdom shall have no end. (I)

And [we believe] in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver-of-Life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And [we believe] in one, holy, (II) Catholic and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, [and] we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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Comp. the critical edition of Cyril's Lectures by Reischl and Rupp, Munich, 1848-1850; my *Church History*, Vol. III. pp. 924 sqq.; Swainson, l.c. pp. 16 sqq.; Hort, l.c. pp. 84 sqq. The fourth Catechetical Lecture of Cyril, in which he goes over the creed in a summary way, is printed in Heurtley's *De Fide et Symbolo*, pp. 42-60.

**A DOCUMENTATION, OF SCRIPTURE, OF THE CREED OF  
THE SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL  
THE FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE  
A.D. 381**

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| 1) We Believe in one God,   | 1) I Cor. 8:6, Eph. 4:6, I Tim. 2:5.   |
| 2) the Father Almighty,   | 2) No verse. There is El (God) Shaddai (Almighty) but no Ab (Father) Shaddai.  |
| 3) maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. | 3) Yahweh is the maker and of heaven and earth and not Elohim who is the creator. Is 44:24, 51:13, 42:5. Gen. 1:1  |
| 4) And in one Lord Jesus Christ,                                      | 4) I Cor. 8:6, Eph. 4:5.   |
| 5) the only begotten Son of God,                                      | 5) Jn. 3:18  |
| 6) begotten of the Father before all worlds                           | 6) No verse.   |
| 7) Light of Light,  | 7) No verse.   |
| 8) very God of very God,  | 8) No verse.   |
| 9) begotten not made,   | 9) All men are begotten (gennao), Mt. 1:2, 1:20. He was made [poieo] Heb. 3:1-2  |
| 10) being of one substance with the Father,                           | 10) No verse.  |
| 11) by whom all things were made.                                     | 11) No verse. In (en) him and through (dia) him is used in Col. 1:16. (Hebrews 1:2 At the end of these days, He hath spoken unto us in his Son,—whom he hath appointed heir of all things, through whom also he hath made the ages;) |
| 12) Who for us men and for our salvation <u>came down from heaven</u> | 12) Came down from heaven, (Jn. 3:13, 6:38, 41, 42, 51, 58).   |
| 13) and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary,          | 13) No verse with incarnate. There is, 'begotten by Holy Spirit' (Mt.1:20).  |

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| 14) and was made man,   | 14) No verse.   |
| 15) and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.   | 15) I Cor. 1:13   |
| 16) He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the Right Hand of the Father. | 16) Eph. 4:8-9, Acts 2:33-34.   |
| 17) And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead.  | 17) Acts 10:42, 17:31.  |
| 18) Whose kingdom shall have no end.  | 18) Luke 1:33.  |
| 19) And [we believe] in the Holy Ghost, the <u>Lord and Giver-of-life</u> ,   | 19) No verse for Lord and Giver of life.  |
| 20) who proceedeth from the Father,   | 20) Jn. 15:26.  |
| 21) who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,   | 21) No verse.   |
| 22) who spake by the prophets.  | 22) II Pet. 1:21, Hebrews 1:1 ...God spake unto the fathers, in the prophets,   |
| 23) And [we believe] in one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.   | 23) No verse.   |
| 24) We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,   | 24) Mk. 1:4, Luke 3:3, water immersion, Acts 1:5 "Because, John, indeed, immersed with water; but, ye, in holy spirit shall be immersed." |
| 25) [and] we look for the resurrection of the dead  | 25) I Cor. 15.  |
| 26) and the <u>life of the world</u> to come. Amen.   | 26) No verse. Life of the world?  |

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## Jerusalem Creed ABOUT A.D. 350

We believe one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages, very God, by whom all things were made; who appeared in the flesh, and became man was crucified and was buried; rose on the third day; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and will come again in glory, to judge the quick and the dead; of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

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## CONSTANTINOPLE CREED A.D. 381

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