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Facebook Rebuttal # 2 The Nicene Creed

For many years, people have been saying that the books of the Bible were accepted by the Nicene Council. They say that at this Council, the people in attendance decided which books of the Bible would be accepted and which books would be thrown out, thereby controlling what would be considered the truth. However, there is no historic documentation to support these claims, they are purely error.

Some of the most recent claims by those that I refer to as “*Back Yard Bible Scholars*” is that at the Council, it was decided that Jesus was the son of God and born in a manger in Bethlehem. Prior to the Nicene council, it was believed that Jesus was born in a cave in Ethiopia.

To disprove all of the false notions is a simple task, consider the following:

1. Anyone familiar with biblical prophecy knows fully well that it was prophesied by the prophet Micah, hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, where Jesus would be born. **Micah 5:2** (AMP) says, “*But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you are little to be among the clans of Judah; [yet] out of you shall One come forth for me Who is to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from of old, from ancient days (eternity).*”

In **Matthew 2:4-6** (AMP) we read, “*So he called together all the chief priests and learned men (scribes) of the people and anxiously asked them where the Christ was to be born. (v5) they replied to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: (v6) And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are not in any way least or insignificant among the chief cities of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler (leader) Who will govern and Shepherd My people Israel.*” (See **John 7:42 & Matthew 2:1**).

2. The notion that the council met to determine whether or not Jesus was “*born in Bethlehem in a manger*” is a clear indicator that the “*Back Yard Bible Scholars*” know nothing at all about the birth of Jesus. A simple look at **Luke 2:7** exposes their ignorance, there we read, “*And she gave birth to her son, her firstborn; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.....*” so it’s clear, the

Bible does not teach that Jesus was born in a manger, it says that after his birth he was “**laid**” in a manger.

3. Another clear indicator that the “**Back Yard Bible Scholars**” know nothing about the biblical Jesus is the notion that the council met to make Jesus the son of God. Once again, a quick look in the bible, the source containing the events surrounding the life of Jesus, quickly exposes their shallow knowledge of the bible. In **Luke 1:35** (AMP) we read, “ *Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you **will be called the Son of God.***” The fact that Jesus was always known as the “**Son of God**” is so clearly taught throughout the New Testament that it is impossible for anyone looking to miss!!!

In **Matthew 16:13-16** (AMP) we read, “*Now Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi. He asked His disciples, who do people say that the Son of Man is? (v14) And they answered, some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. (v15) He said to them, but who do you [yourselves] say that I am? (v16) Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the son of the living God.***” (See **John 19:7** & **Matthew 27:54**)

4. The claim that the council met to make Jesus Divine rather than human is another example that the “**Back Yard Bible Scholars**” are clearly in error. In **John 1:1** (AMP) we read, “*In the beginning [before all-time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the word was God himself.*” In verse 14 we read, “*And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory....*” (See **John 1:3**- Jesus created/made all things, **John 10:30** & **John 5:18**)

Therefore, for some to say that the Nicene council met to determine and/or initiate the aforementioned, already established, biblical facts is pure foolishness. Why would they need to meet to determine or initiate what was already clearly taught in the bible?

One need only read the Nicene Creed!! The contents of the Creed clearly indicate the matters of concern that were discussed and settled. Hence the writing of the Creedal statement from that Council.

However, since there has been so much error around the Nicene Council and its Creedal statement at its conclusion, I’ve decided to take a few more minutes to bring the truth of the matter to surface. That said, consider the following:

One purpose of the Nicene Council was to resolve disagreements arising **from within the church of Alexandria**, and not to “**Hammer out**” a unified religious system for all to follow as the “*Back Yard Bible Scholars*” claim. The primary disagreement was over the nature of the Son (Jesus) in his relationship to the Father. More specifically, the question was whether or not Jesus was “*begotten*” by God the Father from his own being and therefore having no beginning, or was Jesus created out of nothing by God the father and therefore having a beginning.

Arius, a popular presbyter, from whom the term “**Arianism**” comes, was the one taught and believed that Jesus was created, not “**begotten**” and therefore not God the Son. To some his views were clearly heretical while others were confused by his views.

The Nicene Council met with approximately **250-318** attendees to discuss the views of Arius. Although Constantine had invite some 1800 bishops of the Christian church, and not members of other religions as the B.Y.B.S claim, only **250-318** attended. (Note: Arius did not come to correct the Council, the Council met to review his position and decide if it was correct based on what the Bible taught) After being in session for approximately one month, (May 20th to June 19th) the Council made known its beliefs in the Nicene Creed. All but two (2), along with Arius, agreed to sign the Nicene Creed. Arius and the two who did not sign the Creed were banished to Illyria for their heretical views. Arius did not go to Illyria because there was a “*hit*” out on them as the B.Y.B.S. claim, he was banished because of his heretical views.

The known subjects discussed were:

- 1) The Arian question regarding the relationship between God the Father and God the Son.
- 2) The date of celebration for Easter.
- 3) The Meletian Schism.
- 4) Various matters of church discipline, which resulted in twenty canons.
 - a) **Church Structures**: Focused on the ordering of the Episcopacy.
 - b) **Dignity of the Clergy**: Issues of ordination at all levels and suitability of behavior and background for clergy.
 - c) **Reconciliation of the Lapsed**: Establishing norms for public repentance and penance.

- d) **Readmission to the Church of Heretics and Schismatics:** Include issues of when re-ordination and/or rebaptism were to be required.
- e) **Liturgical Practice:** Including the place of deacons, and the practice of standing at prayer during liturgy.

The Arian controversy spread doctrinal views that were clearly contrary to what the Bible taught. Therefore, it was a unanimous vote from the 250-318 attendees that disagreed with Arius. Remember, only two out of the 250-318, agreed with him.

Currently, through the Jehovah's Witnesses, the old Arian Heresy that was proven wrong has resurfaced. Only those not familiar with church history have embraced this erroneous teaching.

Finally, if the Nicene Council met to discuss things like where Jesus was born or what books in the Bible should be accepted, I would think their findings would be stated in the Nicene Creed. The term "**Creed**" comes from the Latin word, "**Credo**" which means "**I believe**". It should be noted that all the church creeds had only two (2) specific purposes in mind:

1. To refute heresies that had arisen in the church
2. To provide a positive affirmation of what views Christians hold in common

Therefore, every Christian would do well to familiarize themselves with the churches creeds. It should also be note that creeds are not the bible and should never supersede the plain teaching of scripture.

For the interested reader, all that has been said here is available over the internet, you need only take a minute to look for yourself to find the truth. For those who do not have an internet connection, here is the Nicene Creed:

(Please note that Arius had issues with the deity of Jesus, not his virgin birth. The virgin birth was already clearly taught in the Bible. See Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25, verse 25 clearly states Mary and Joseph had no "union" (sex) until after Mary gave birth. These references in the creed are positive affirmations of the views that Christians hold in common)

The Creed:

The Nicene Creed (325AD)

We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with one Father;
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who
With the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified,
Who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

God Bless,
Bishop-Elect D. M. Duncan

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