



THE NICENE CREED

Faith of Our Fathers



Definitions

■ Creed

- Latin, *credo, credere*
- I believe, a form of belief

■ Belief

- Biblical sense
 - If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all (Is 7.9)*
- Rooted in personal encounter with God

Historical Considerations

- Apostle's Creed

- From Baptismal celebrations (2nd-3rd cc.)

- Dialogue

- Triple renunciation

- Triple assent

- *Credes? Credo!*

- Triple immersion

- 3rd c. expansions

- Christ

- Holy Spirit



East vs. West

■ East

- Multiples Churches, multiple Creeds

■ West

- Focus: facts of Salvation History
- Spread with Latin language
- Final form 9th c. (Gaul)
- Differ on theological emphasis, not belief
- Apostolic ‘legend’: 5th c.



The Nicene Creed



History

- Council of Nicaea (325 AD)
 - Response to Arianism
(Denial of Christ's divinity; subordination to Father)
- Constantinople II (381)
 - Refined articles on Christ
 - Expounded on Holy Spirit

History (cont.)

- Necessity to define truth of Revelation
- Modifications: clarifications to avoid error
- Shifts notion/purpose of Creed
 - Baptism/conversion ☒ orthodoxy
 - Ensures deposit of Faith, communion



The Creed in Liturgy

- 3 Creeds (Nicene, Apostles', Athanasian)
- Eastern Churches: only Nicene Creed
- Roman Church
 - Baptism: Apostles
 - Eucharist: Nicene, Apostles', Athanasian
 - Nicene Creed only used in Mass
- Creed begins *Missa Fidelium*

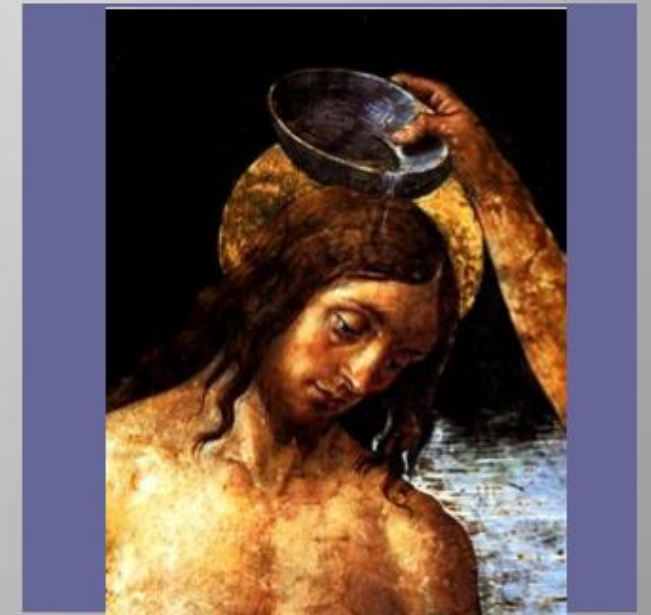


Credo, I do Believe

- Original sense:
 - Baptismal assent, not recitation of doctrine
 - Signifies conversion
- Doesn't require full understanding
 - *Credo ut intelligam*
 - *Lord, I believe, help my unbelief* (cf. Mk 9.24)
- Leads to desire for knowing, loving

The Nicene Creed

A Gift to unpack over a lifetime of Faith



Nicene Creed – 4 parts:

I believe in one God, the Father....

origin

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ....

history

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
Lord....

agent

I believe in one, holy, catholic &
apostolic Church....

consequence

TRINITY

Nicene Creed – Father (origin)

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty,

One God, not many Deut 6: 4-5

maker of heaven & earth,

Only God can call
existence out of nothing

of all things visible and invisible.

Eg: Earth, man (body & soul in
image of God); heaven, angels

Nicene Creed – Jesus (Salvation History)

I believe in one Lord Jesus
Christ, the Only Begotten
Son of God, born of the
Father before all ages.

Messiah =
anointed
one
Acts 10:38

Mt 1:21
Name
'Jesus'
means
'God Saves'



Nicene Creed - Jesus

God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with
the Father; through him
all things were made.

'begotten' = same
nature
'consubstantial' = same
substance

Nicene Creed — Incarnation of Jesus & role of Virgin Mary

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, & by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary & became man.

Holy Spirit — Lord & giver
of LIFE
'overshadows her'

Jesus born of Mary;
Jesus is God;
Mary is Mother of God



Nicene Creed – Christ dies for us

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death & was buried, & rose again on the 3rd day in accordance with the Scriptures.

- Adam & Eve sinned (ate from forbidden Tree of knowledge of Good & Evil)
- Ejected from Garden so they wouldn't eat from Tree of ETERNAL LIFE & thus be eternally in a BROKEN state
- Prophets came & went
- Finally God sent His SON to die on the Tree of ETERNAL LIFE & become THE FRUIT which we can eat to be 'returned to the garden'



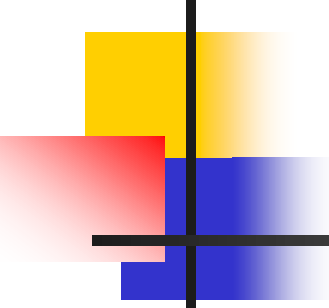
Nicene Creed- Jesus' Resurrection

He ascended into heaven & is seated at the right hand of the Father.

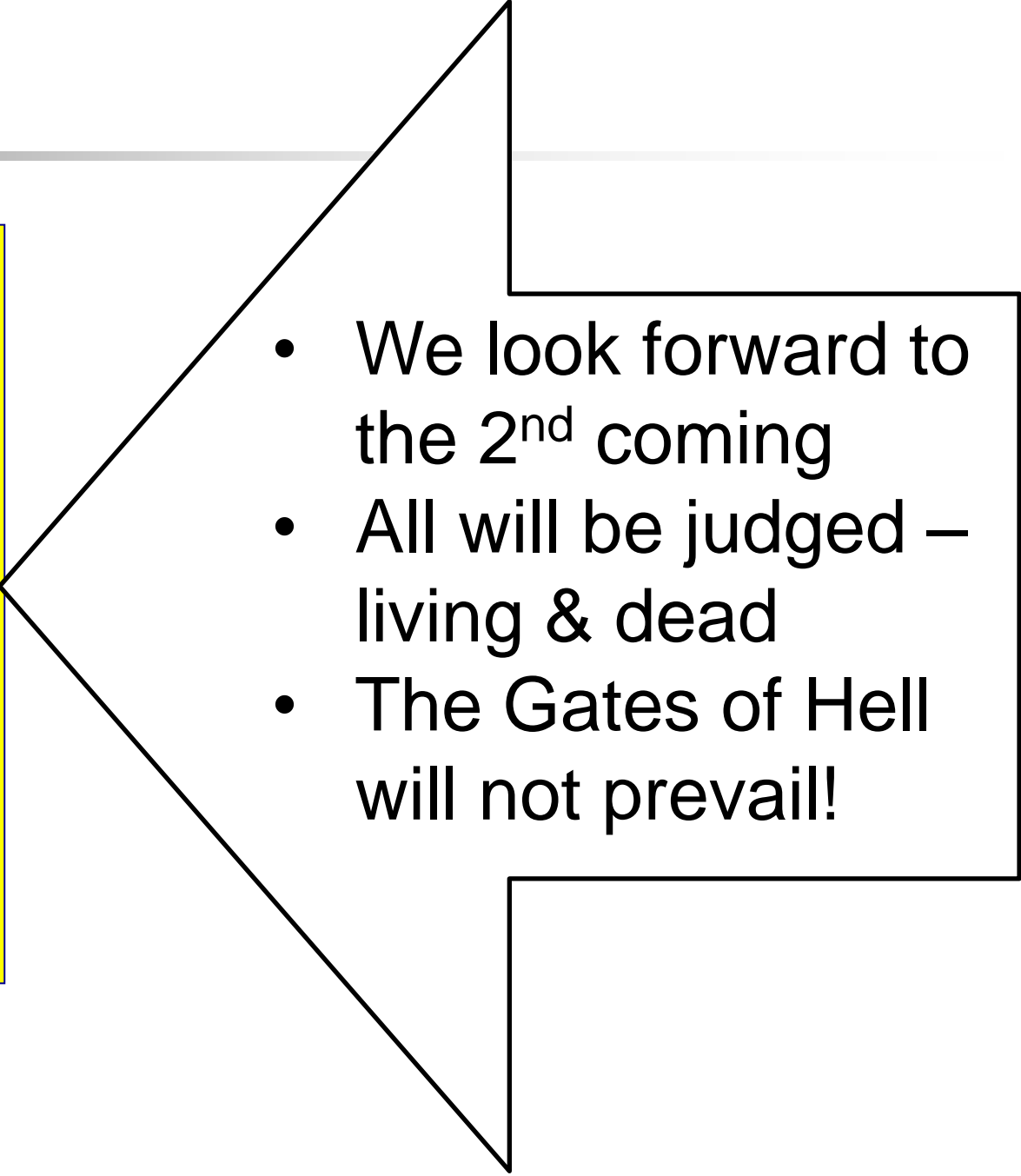
- The empty tomb,
- Appeared to many
- Real & glorious body
- Opens to Gates of Heaven for us!

Nicene Creed – Jesus

His 2nd coming



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

- 
- We look forward to the 2nd coming
 - All will be judged – living & dead
 - The Gates of Hell will not prevail!



Nicene Creed- the Holy Spirit

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father & the Son, who with the Father & the Son is adored & glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

- ONE GOD; 3rd Person of God
- Creative (giver of life – overshadowed Mary)
- Church burst out from behind closed doors when Spirit came upon them



Nicene Creed – the Church

I believe in
one,
holy,
catholic &
apostolic
Church.

Christ instituted ONE Church Mt16:18

Because Christ instituted it

Universal – ALL are welcome

From Apostles & Missionary;
go tell everyone Baptize



Nicene Creed

I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of
sins & I look forward
to the resurrection of
the dead & the life of
the world to come.
Amen

One Baptism – we
do not ‘rebaptize’

Forgive sins
through Baptism &
Reconciliation

Souls to heaven upon
death; body resurrected
at 2nd coming of Christ

Heaven! Seeing
God face to face!
The Beatific Vision

From root of
‘BELIEVE’



Nicene Creed

“May your Creed be for you a mirror.

Look at yourself in it, to see if you believe everything you say you believe.

And rejoice in your faith each day”

St. Augustine