



## SESSION 11: DEATH OF CONSTANTINE THROUGH VALENTIAN – CONTENT

1. In 337 Emperor Constantine died and was succeeded by his three sons: Constantine II who ruled Britain, Gaul and Spain, Constans who ruled North Africa and the central empire, and Constantius who ruled Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. Athanasios returned to Alexandria from his first exile.
2. In 339 Eusebius of Nicomedia, now Bishop of Constantinople, drove Athanasios out for his second exile.
3. In 340 Constantine II died and Constans took his share of the empire.
4. In 347, the Arian Gregory of Cappadocia, who had succeeded Athanasios as Bishop of Alexandria, died; Athanasios returned to Alexandria.
5. In 350 Constans was murdered by a usurper; in 353 Constantius defeated the usurper and became emperor of the entire empire. In 356 Constantius deposed Athanasios for his third exile.
6. In 357 Constantius called the Council of Sirmium, which rejected the Nicene Creed. Western bishops were Arian; Eastern bishops were not.
7. In 361 Constantius died and was succeeded by cousin Julian the Apostate. Although he did not sanction persecution of Christians, he did publicly ridicule them. He promoted the worship of the gods of classical Greece, and for that created an organizational structure modeled on the Church. He did not care about the Church or Arianism. (Basil the Great of Cappadocia had studied in Athens, along with Julian and Gregory of Nazianzus.)
8. In 362 Athanasios returned from exile; he was so popular that Julian exiled him for the fourth time.
9. In 363 Julian is succeeded by Jovian, a Nicene Christian. Athanasios returned to Alexandria.
10. In 364 Valentinian succeeded Jovian. Under the influence of Arians, he exiles Athanasios for the fifth and final time.
11. On February 1, 366 Athanasios was reinstated, spending the last 7 years of his life communicating with Basil the Great of Cappadocia, who was establishing monasticism in Asia Minor.