

Arius, Priest of Alexandria
(250 - 336 AD)

Began with adoptionism
Accused Alexander of Patripassianism

Only the Father is eternal
Only the Father has no beginning

Therefore the Son has a beginning
Therefore the Son is created, as we are

Arius, on the Word of God:
"There was a time when He was not"
"If **they** were both eternal, that would
make **them** brothers!"

This is christology of ascent
that means:
Jesus is a man who becomes a god

(cf. John 1:1, New World Translation)

this implies:
Christ is more like us than like God
salvation is by example

Jesus was adopted by God
this happened because of His obedience
we can be adopted by God, too
Jesus saved Himself
we save ourselves by following Him

Modern Versions:
Jehovah's Witnesses
Mormons (Latter Day Saints)

Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria
Athanasius, Successor to Alexander

Previously agreed upon orthodoxy
Accused Arius of demoting Christ

Only the Father is unbegotten
But the Son is still eternal

The Son has no beginning
The Son is begotten, but not created

Alexander:
"Always a Father, always a Son"
"If the Word is not eternal, then Yahweh
God was not always the Father"

This is christology of descent
that means:
Jesus is God who becomes a man

(cf. Philippians 2:6-11)

this implies:
Christ is more like God than like us
salvation is by divine intervention

Jesus is the only "natural" Son of God
(only-begotten = uniquely generated)
we can be adopted sons & daughters
this happens by accepting Him by faith
Jesus is the substitution for us
we are saved by identifying with Him

The Council of Nicea, 325 AD
Called by Constantine the Great

Eusebius of Caesarea brings a creed,
which becomes the template for the
Nicean creed

The controversy over *homoousios*

Finished at Constantinople, 381 AD