

The Nicene Creed	
1 We believe in one God,	Malachi 2:10, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:6, 1 Tim 2:5
2 the Father, the Almighty,	Revelation 1:8, 4:8, 11:17
3 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.	Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 42:5, Isaiah 45:12
5 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,	Matthew 7:21, Matt 12:8
6 the only Son of God,	Acts 9:20, Romans 1:4, Hebrews 4:14
7 eternally begotten of the Father,	Hebrews 1:5
8 God from God, Light from Light,	John 1:1, John 1:9
9 true God from true God,	John 1:17, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 1 John 5:20
10 begotten, not made,	John 1:1-2, Acts 17:29
11 of one Being with the Father;	John 1:1-14
12 through him all things were made.	John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2, Colossians 1:16
13 For us and for our salvation	Acts 2:21, John 3:12-13
14 he came down from heaven,	
15 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary	Luke 1:26-2:20
16 and became truly human.	John 1:14
17 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;	Matthew 27:1-58
18 he suffered death and was buried.	Matthew 14:12
19 On the third day he rose again	Matthew 28:1
20 in accordance with the Scriptures;	Mark 14:49, Luke 24:27, Acts 17:2-3
21 he ascended into heaven	Acts 1:9-12
22 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	Matthew 26:64, Mark 16:19
23 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,	John 14:3
24 and his kingdom will have no end.	Hebrews 12:28, 2 Peter 1:11, Rev. 11:15
25 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,	Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8
26 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	Luke 11:13, John 14:26, John 20:22
27 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,	2 Cor 13:14, 1 Peter 1:12, John 17:4-5
28 who has spoken through the prophets.	2 Peter 1:21
29 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.	John 17:20-23
30 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.	Ephesians 4:5
31 We look for the resurrection of the dead,	Phil 3:10-12
32 and the life of the world to come. Amen.	Rev 20:6, 21:1-4

Bishop Alexander of Alexandria indulges his presbyters in a theological debate, preferring that they come to an orthodox conclusion on their own, without him having to impose it on his authority. The debate gets out of hand. Among the presbyters, Arius leads the heterodox faction. He even spreads his views through popular songs. Alexander issues a letter condemning Arius, but when another bishop agrees with Arius, the dispute has to be escalated higher.

AD 325

The Ecumenical Council of Nicea convenes to settle two controversies: Arianism and the date of the Pascha (Easter). It adopts the Nicene Creed to combat Arianism and makes it a mandatory test of orthodoxy. It rejects anything that does not conform to the Nicene Creed.

AD 367

Bishop Athanasius issues his annual Easter Letter, the main purpose of which was to announce the dates of the holy days in the coming year. In 367, he includes list of the books of scripture, which is the New Testament as we have it today. He is not making a new list, he is only using his authority to endorse long-standing practice. In some areas, some people still object to Revelation because they feel it is conducive to the heresies defeated at Nicea.

AD 381

The Ecumenical Council of Constantinople convenes to settle the controversies of Apollinarianism and Montanism. It expands the Nicene Creed to include statements about the Holy Spirit.

AD 382

A church council in Rome affirms the same list as Athanasius. It vindicates Revelation as part of scripture, despite its misuse by heretics. All later Church actions agree with this ruling.

AD 431

The Ecumenical Council of Ephesus reaffirms the Nicene Creed and makes it unchangeable by local councils.

AD 589

A local council in Toledo, Spain, adds the *filioque* clause to the Nicene Creed.

AD 796

Bishop Paulinus of Aquileia defends the *filioque* clause at a council in Friuli.

AD 807

In Jerusalem, western monks use the *filioque* clause in their worship. Eastern monks accuse them of irregularities. The dispute is escalated to the western monks' patriarch, Bishop Leo of Rome [Pope Leo III]. Leo approves of the sentiment, but not the change in the creed. Leo has the original creed engraved on silver tablets and places them in Peter's tomb.

AD 1054

The Great Schism