

CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

The Cappadocian Fathers and The Trinity

Lesson 23

Biblical-Literacy.com

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Who is
Jesus?

Who is Jesus?





Who is Jesus?

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty ...
and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
begotten from the Father ... God of God ...
begotten not made, of one substance with the
Father...”

Two Different Heresies:

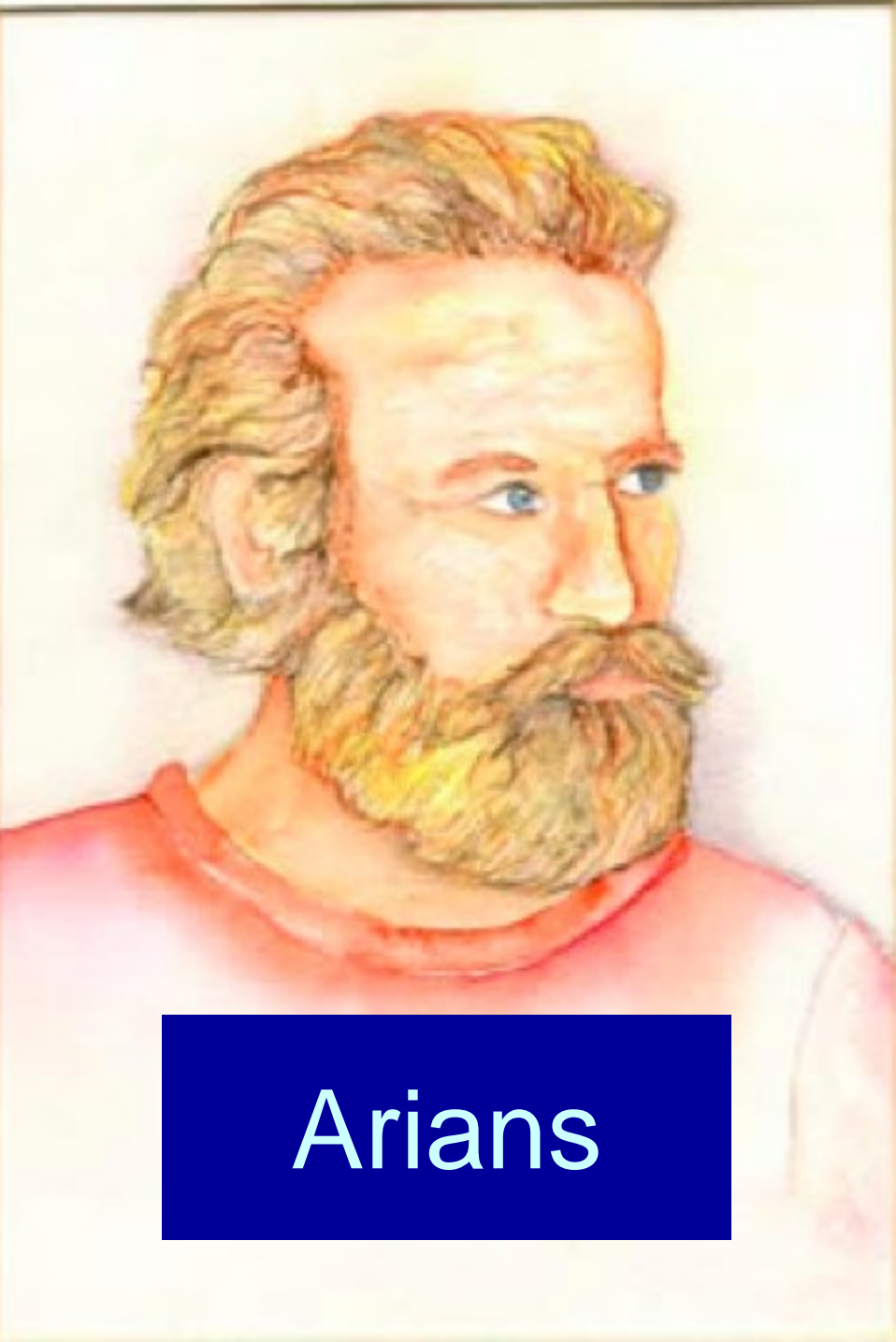
Two Different Heresies:

Arians

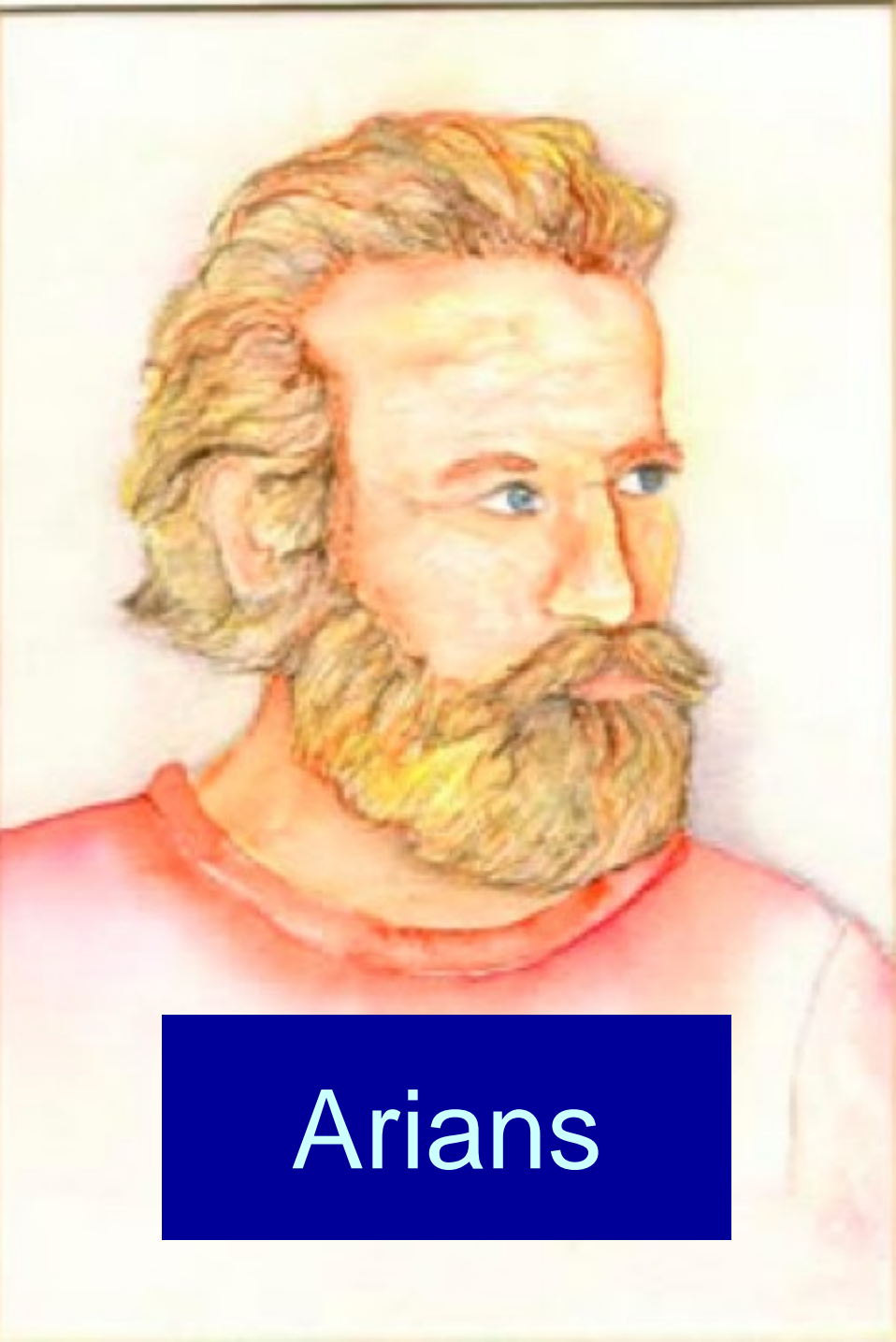
Two Different Heresies:

Arians

Sabellians

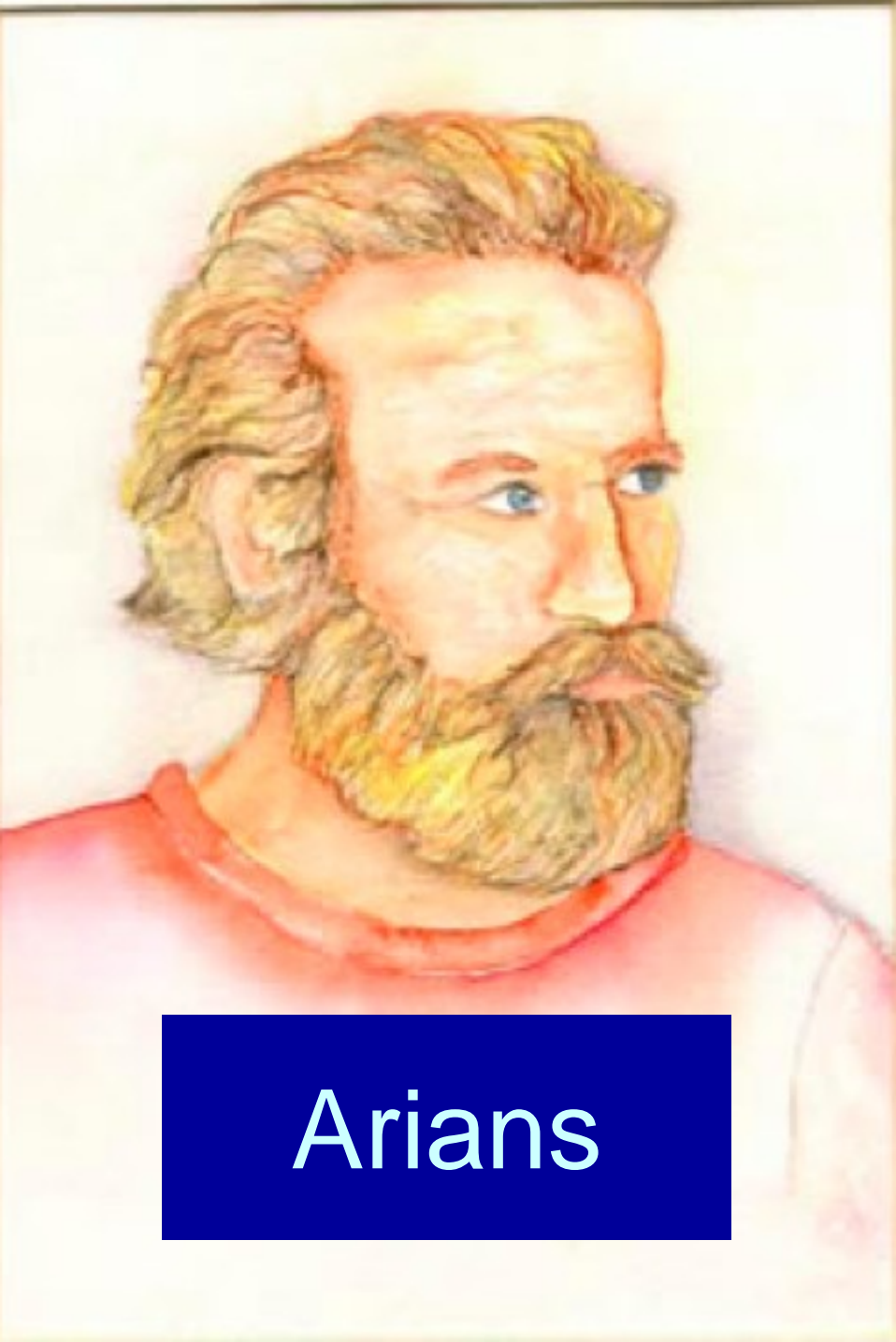


Arians



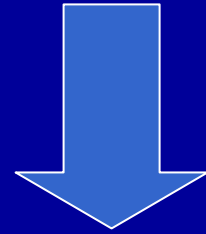
Arians

God

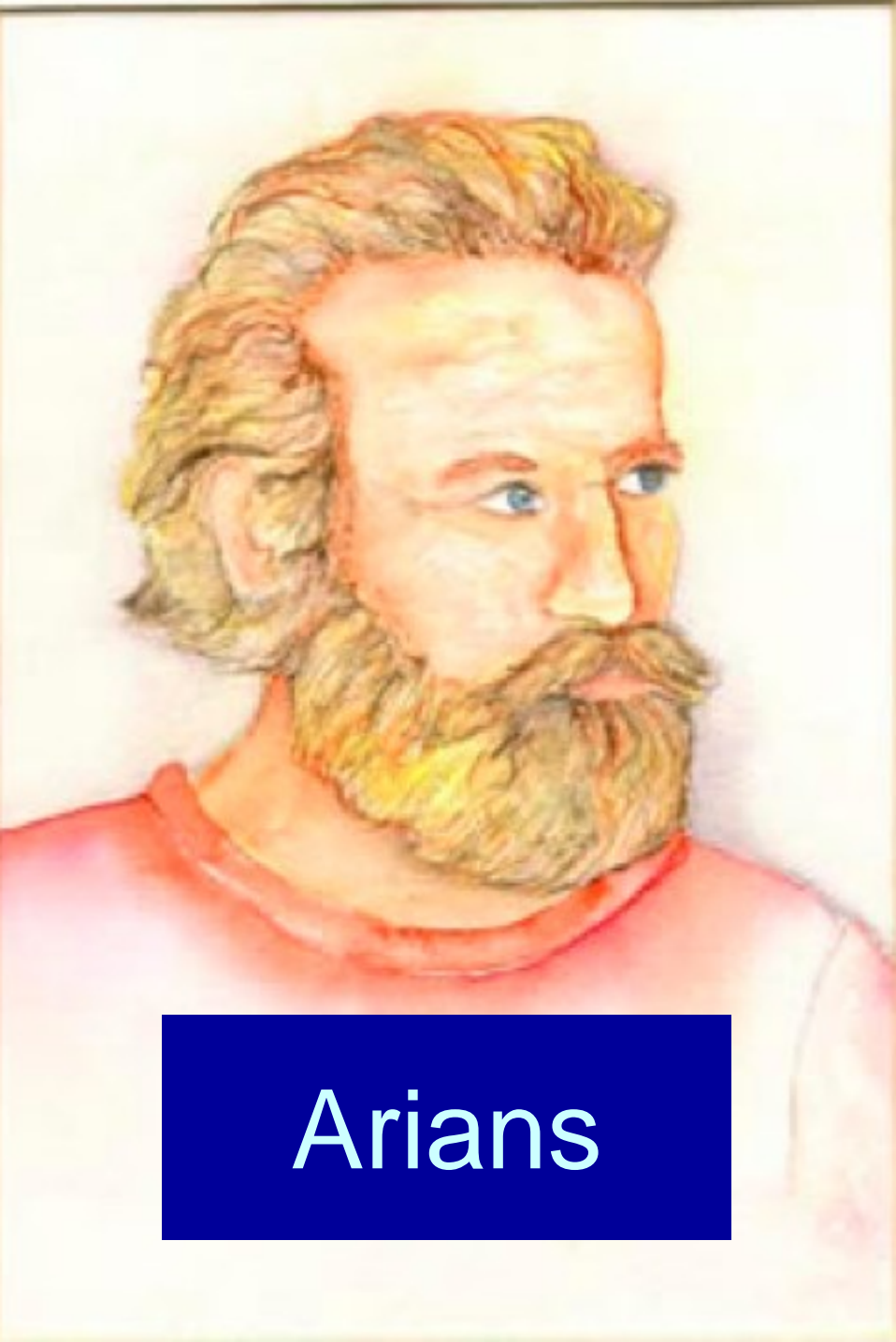


Arians

God

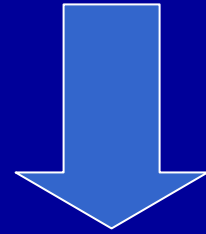


Jesus
(Logos)

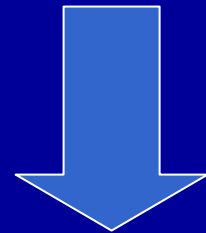


Arians

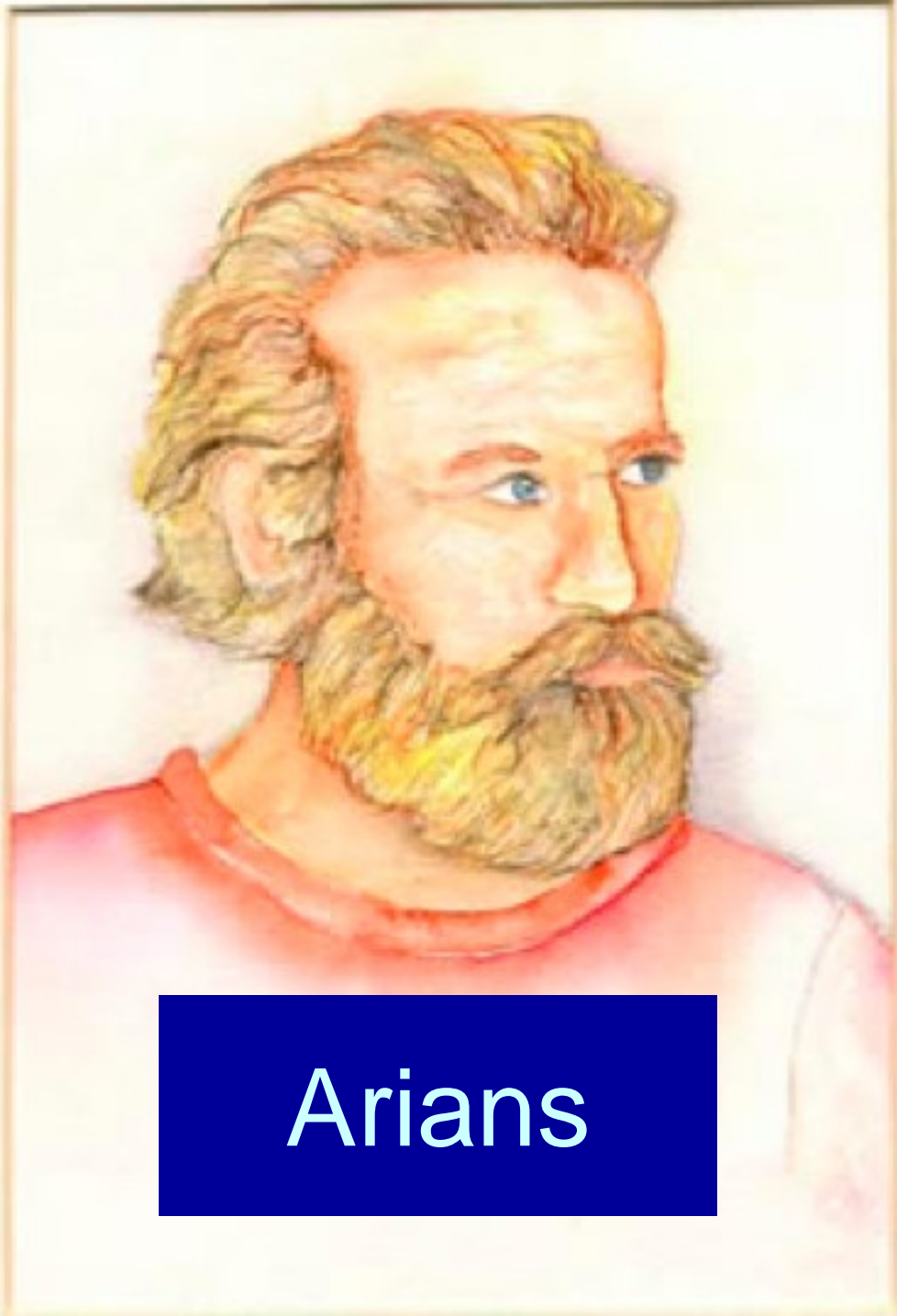
God



Jesus
(Logos)

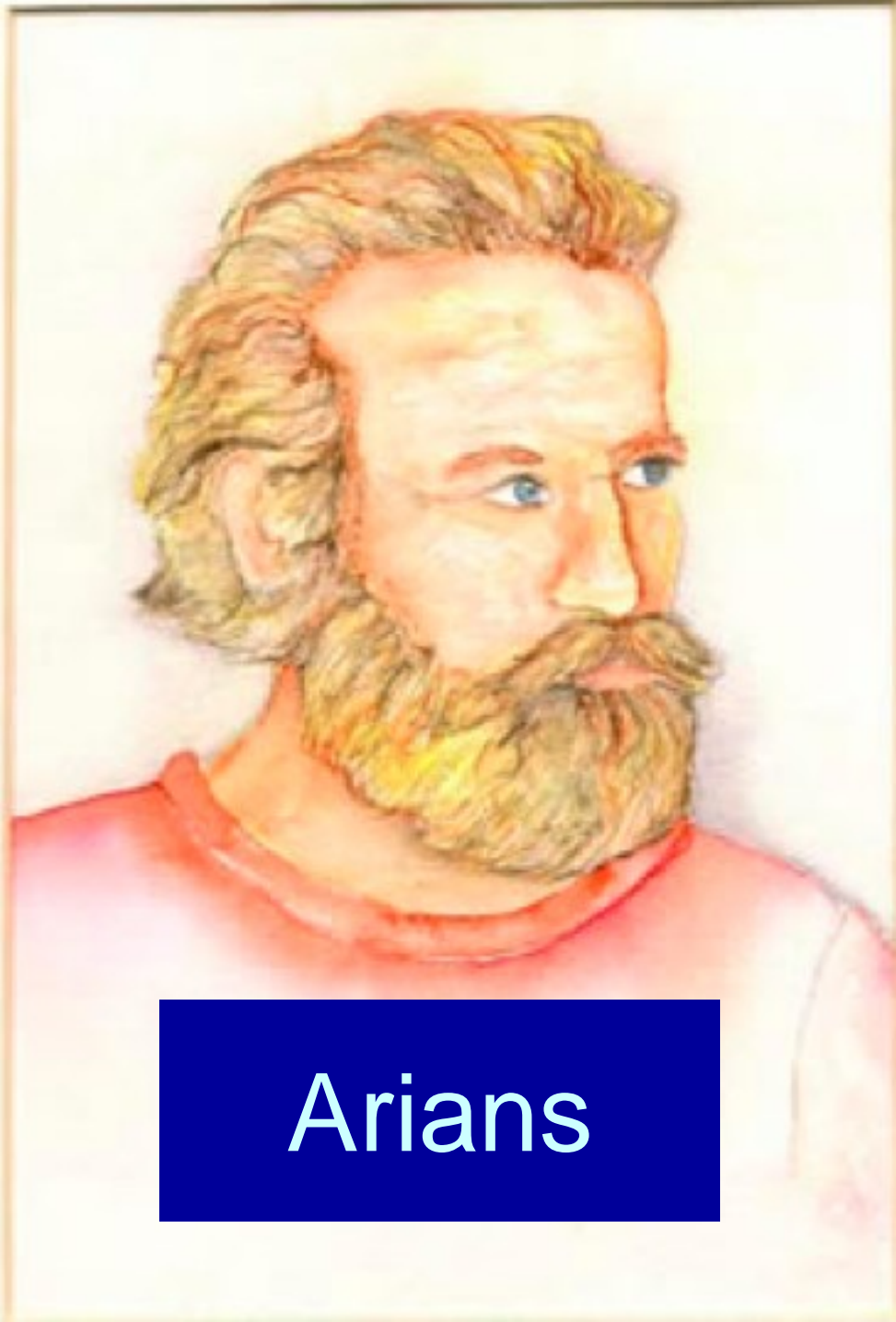


□ World



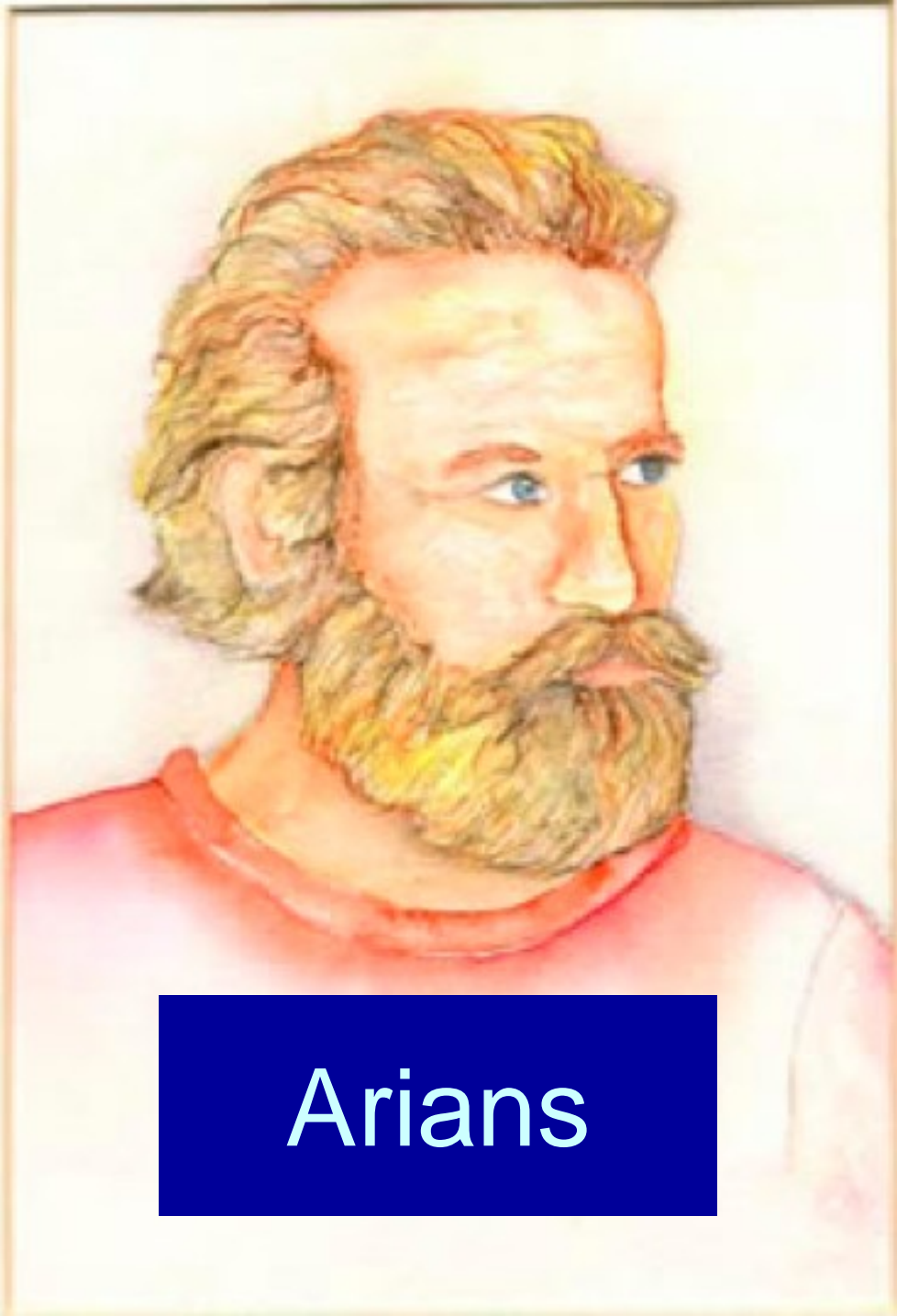
Arians

Jesus is truly
great ...



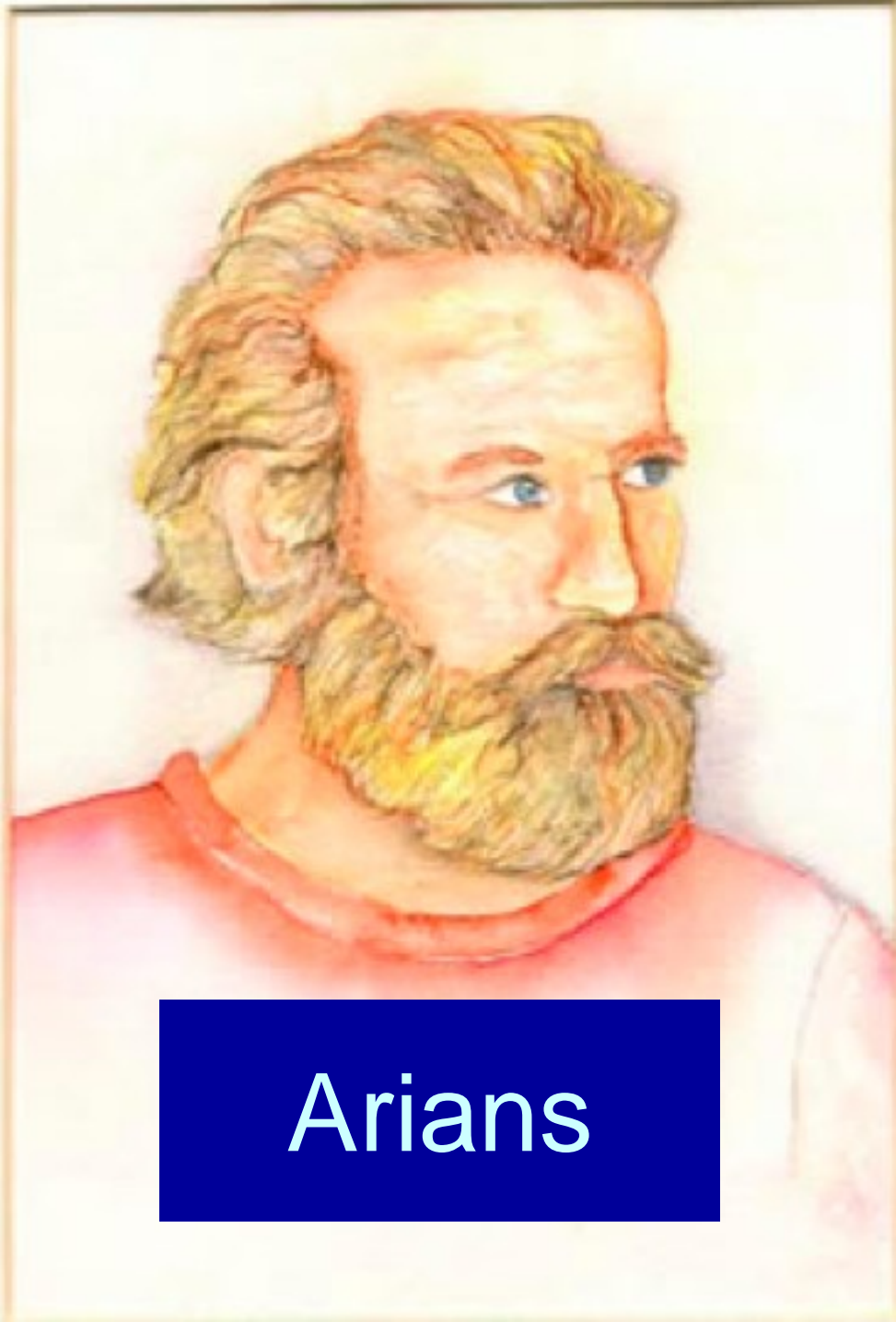
Arians

Jesus is truly
great ... but
lesser than
God



Arians

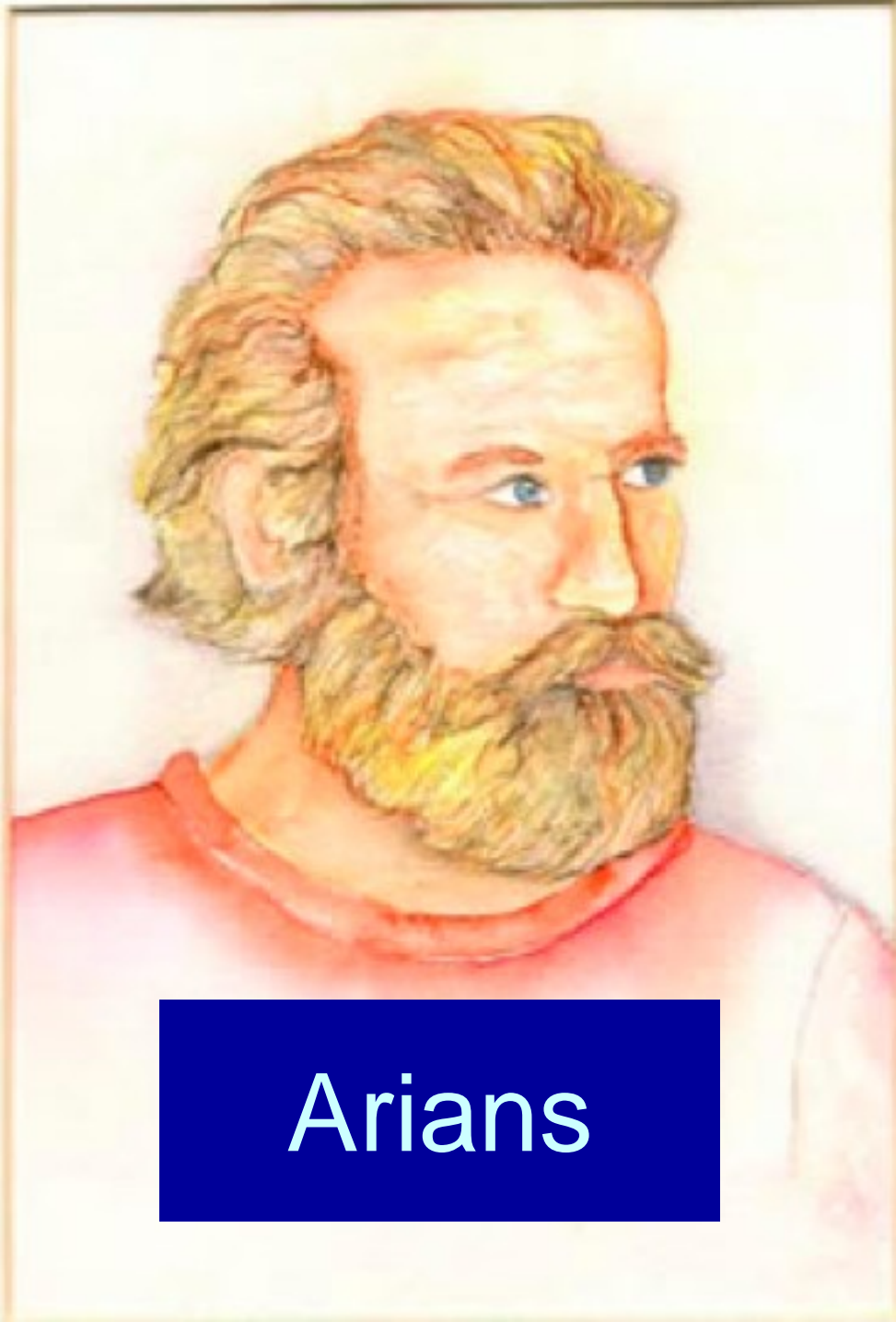
LOGIC:



Arius

LOGIC:

God can't change

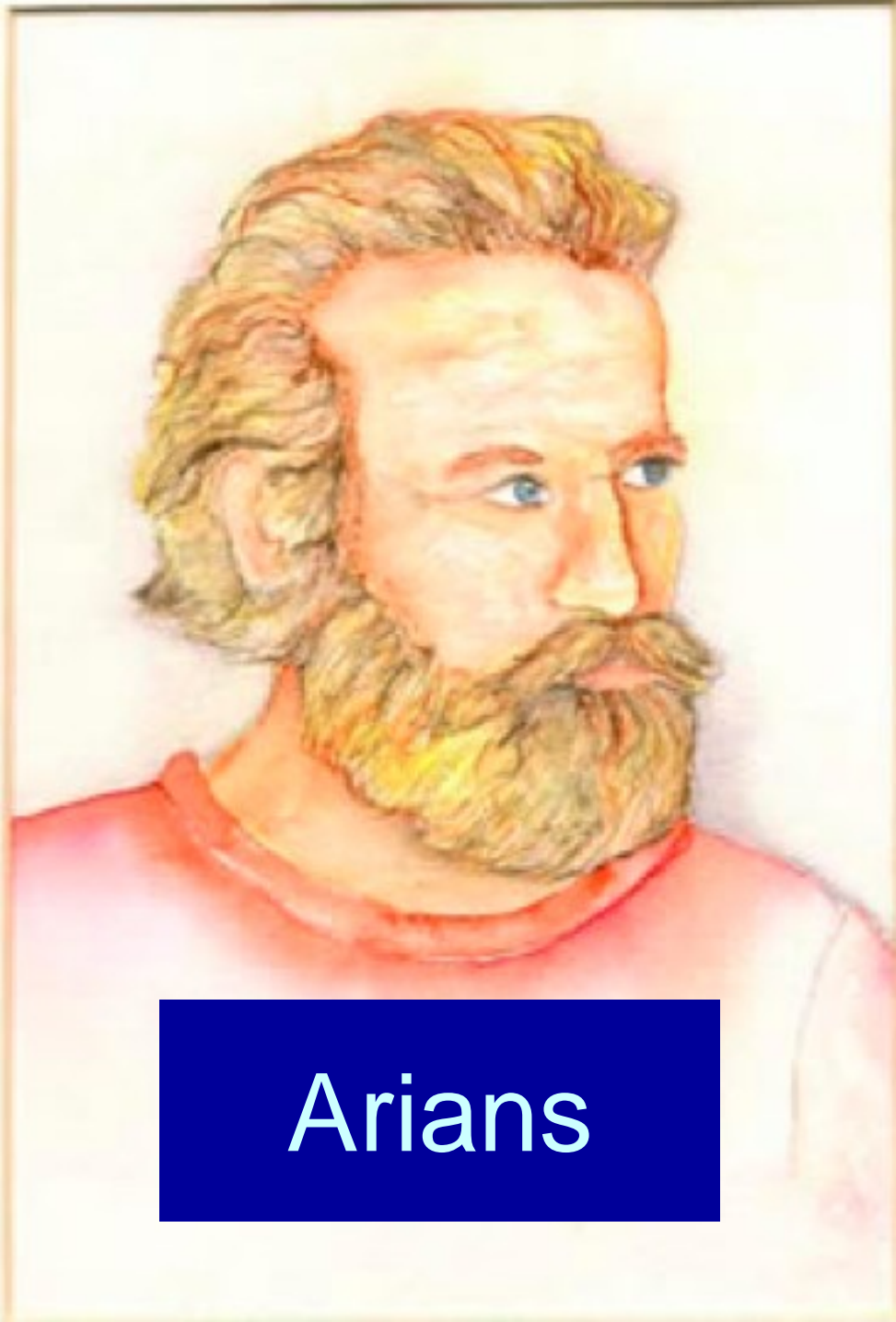


Arians

LOGIC:

God can't change

So how can God
become man?



Arians

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 8

“The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began, when there were no oceans, I was given birth...

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 8

“before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills I was given birth ... I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep ...

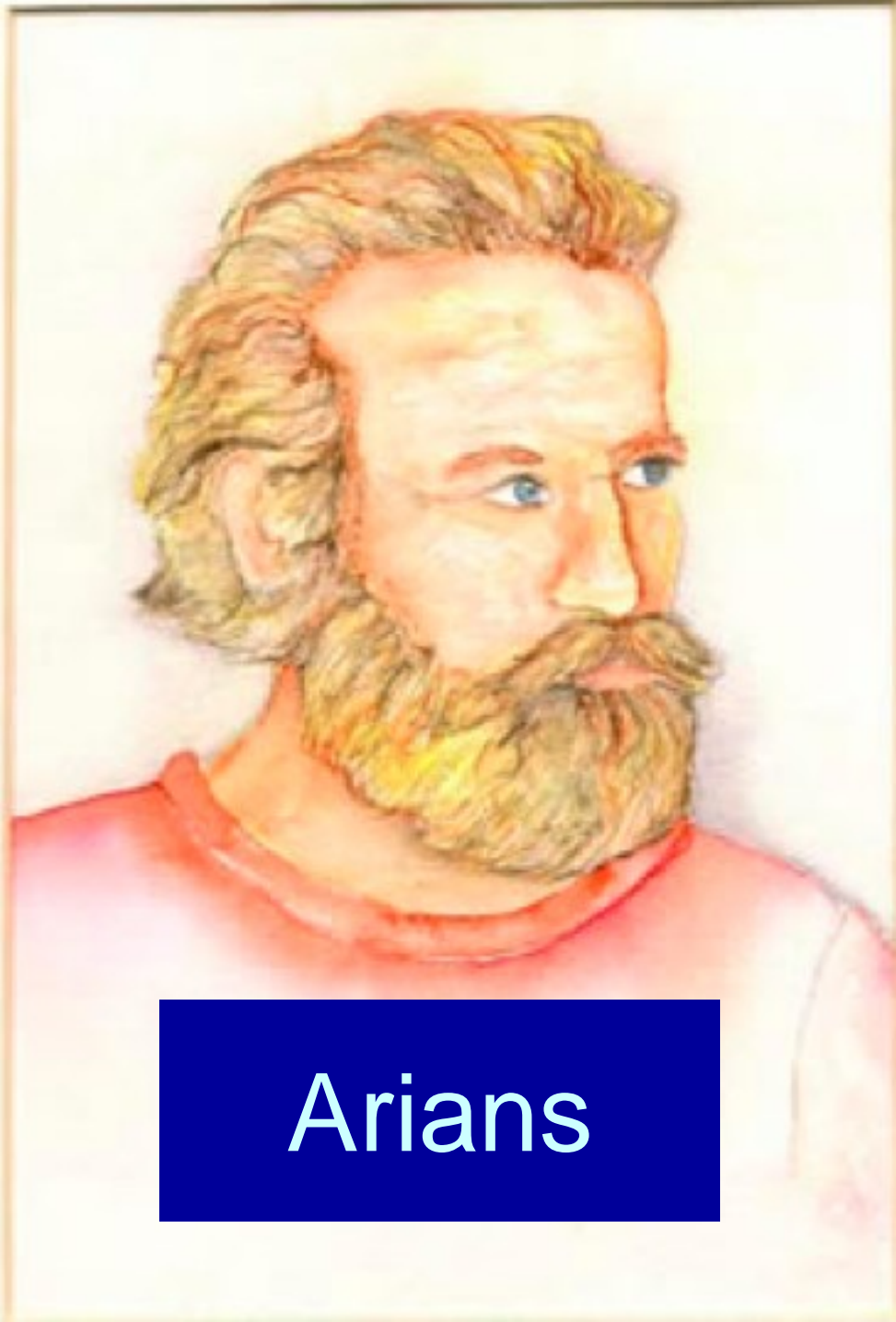
SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 8

“and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, always rejoicing in his presence.”

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 8

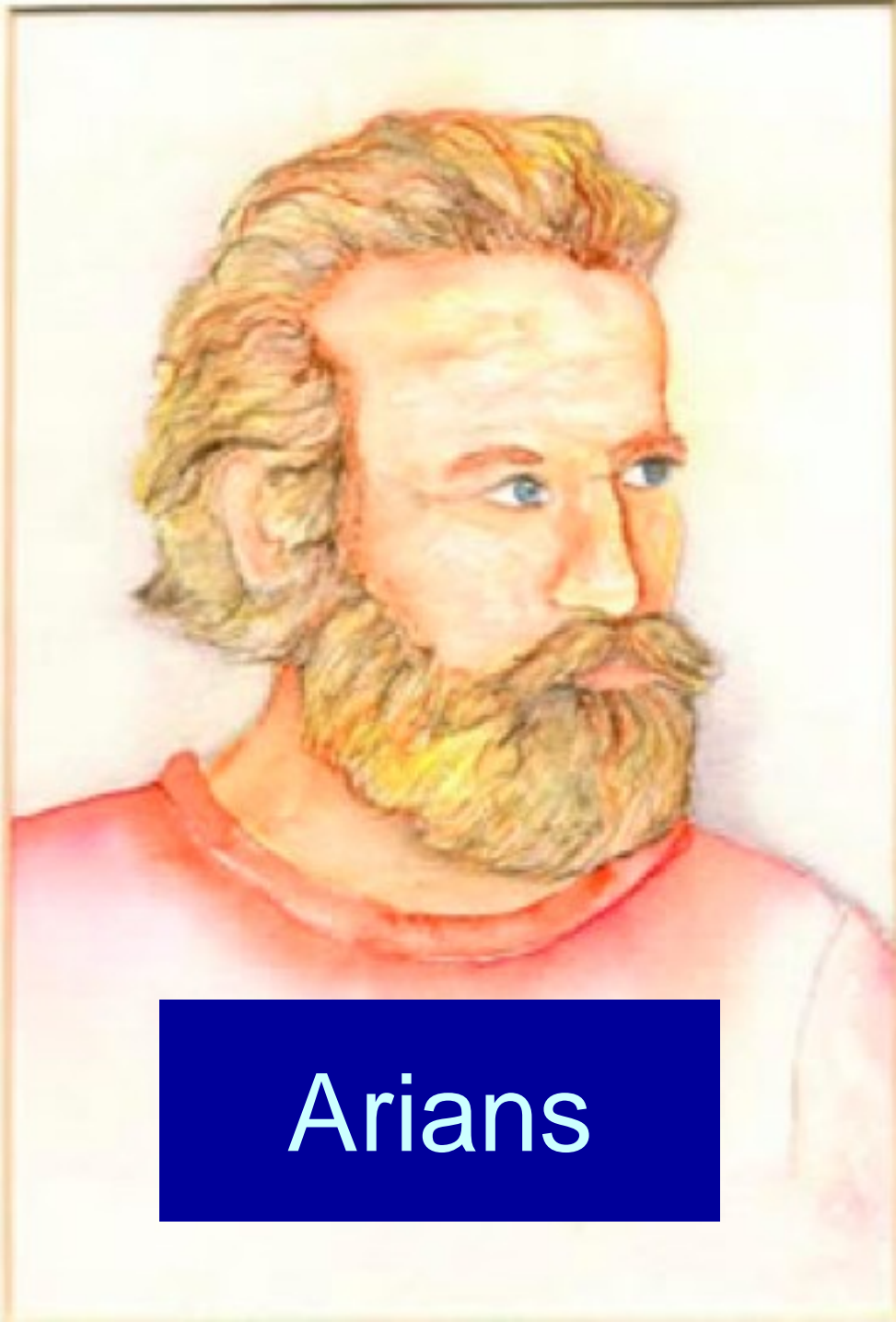


Arius

SCRIPTURE

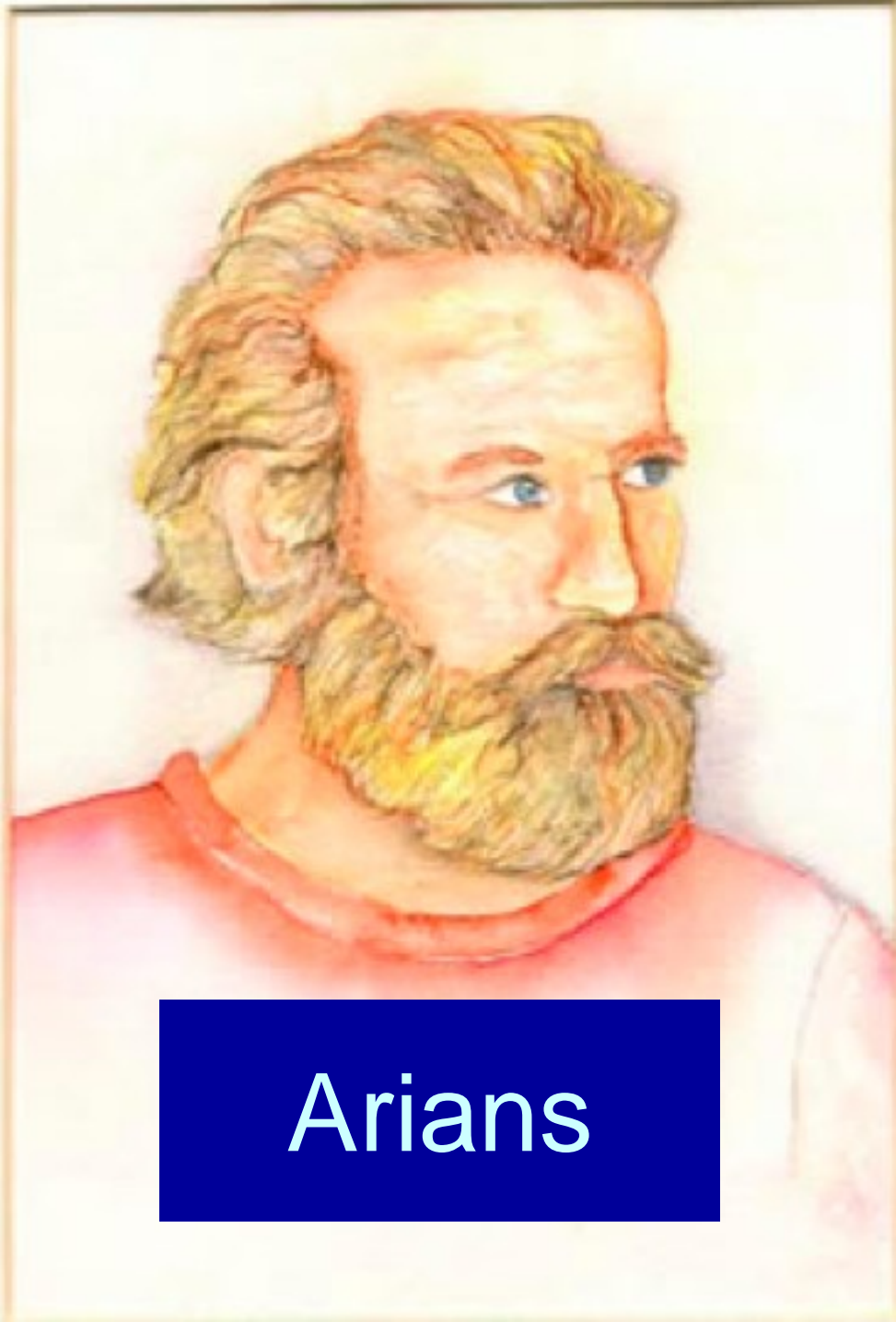
Proverbs 8

John 1



Arians

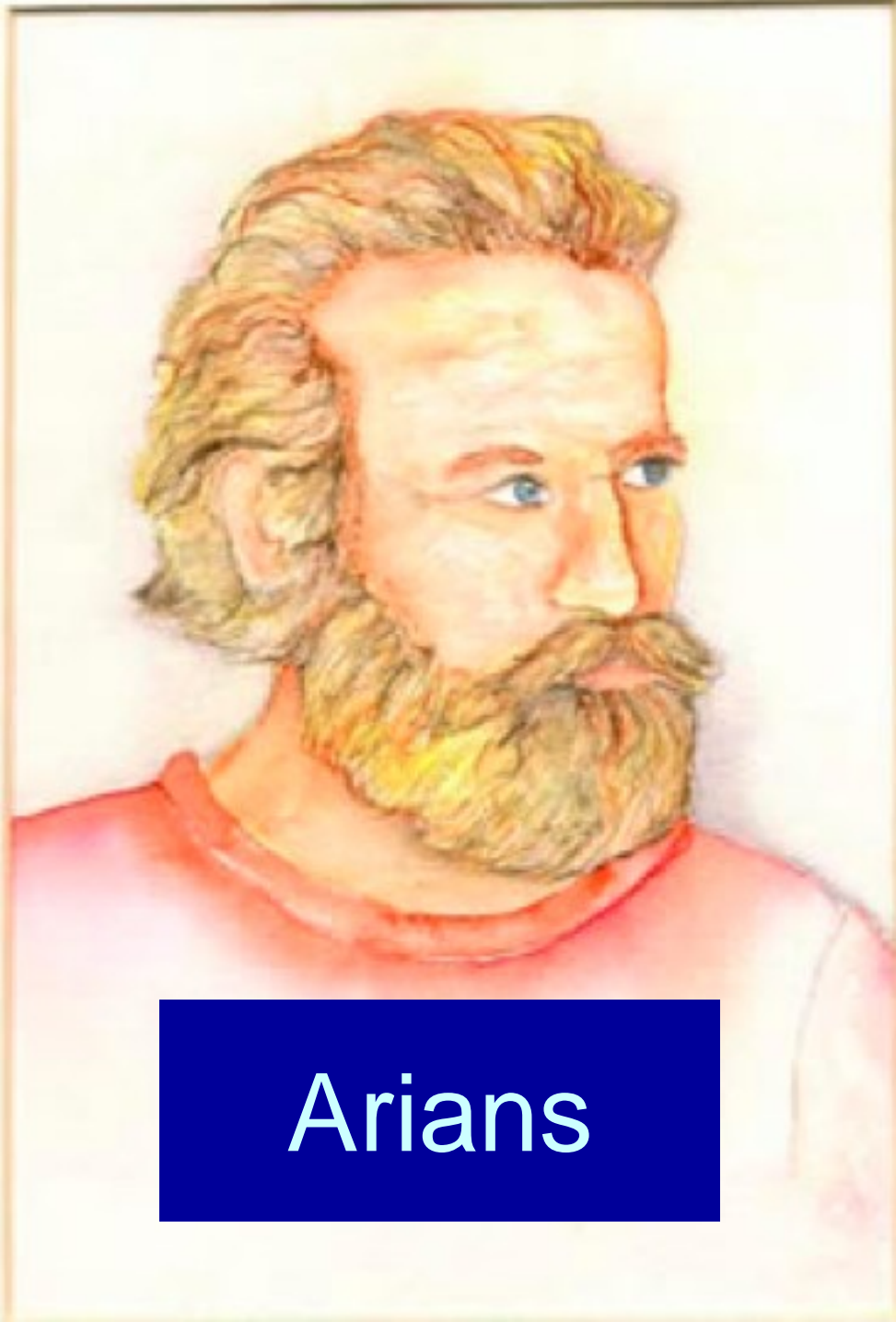
IMPORTANT



Arius

IMPORTANT

Blasphemy



Arians

IMPORTANT

Blasphemy

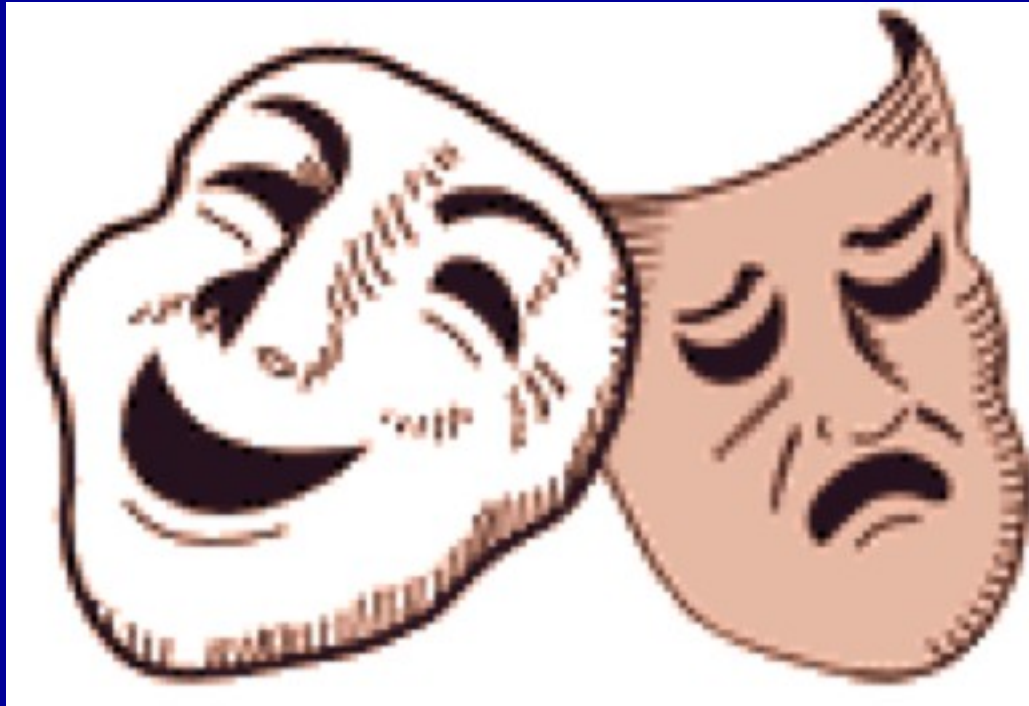
Salvation

Two Different Heresies:

Arians

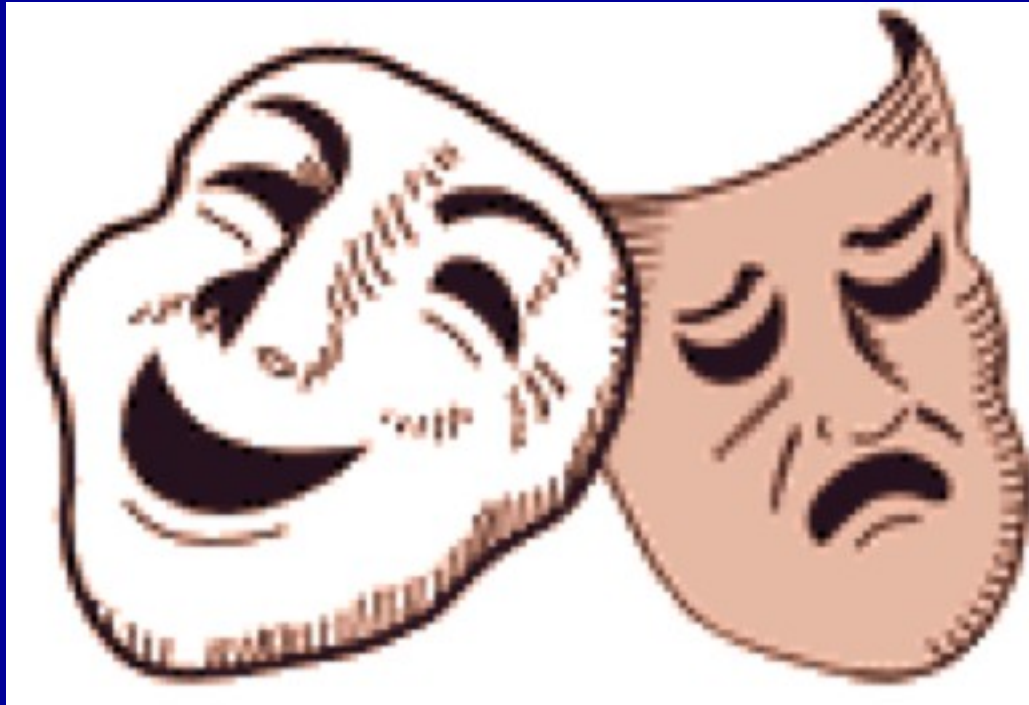
Sabellians

Sabellianism



One God ...

Sabellianism



One God ... Three Roles



Nicea - 325 a.d.

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty ...
and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
begotten from the Father ... God of God ...
begotten not made, of one substance with the
Father...”

Not just a lofty philosophical
argument



Do you have change?



Do you have change?

Let me first explain how
God made Christ





Do you have change?

Let me first explain how
God made Christ

What is the price for
bread?

A pixelated illustration of a busy street scene. In the foreground, several people are walking, including a man in a red and white striped shirt and a woman in a blue dress. In the background, there are buildings with balconies and a large archway. The scene is set in a town with cobblestone streets and a clear blue sky.

Do you have change?

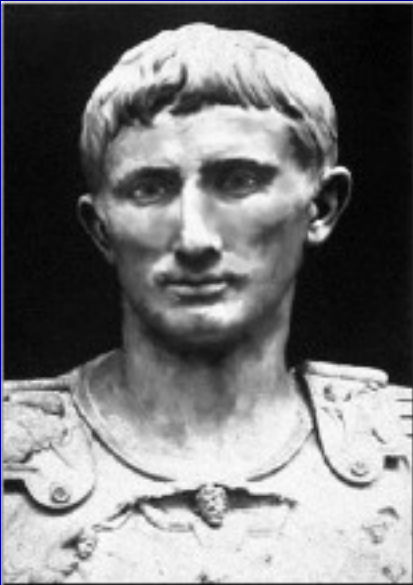
Let me first explain how
God made Christ

What is the price for
bread?

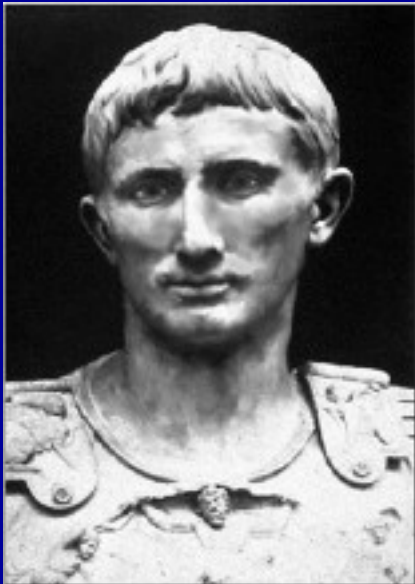
The Father is greater
and the son is lesser

By the death of Athanasius
(373):

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(373):

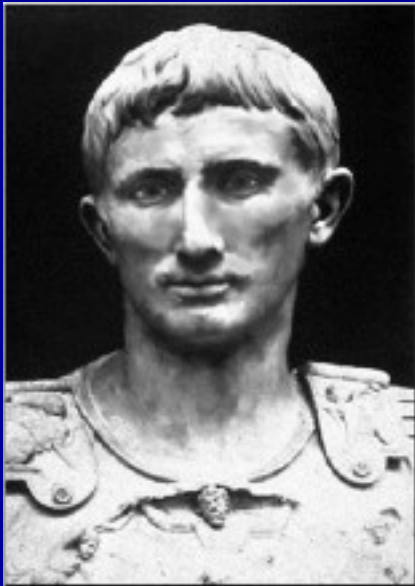


By the death of Athanasius
(373):



Arian
Emperor

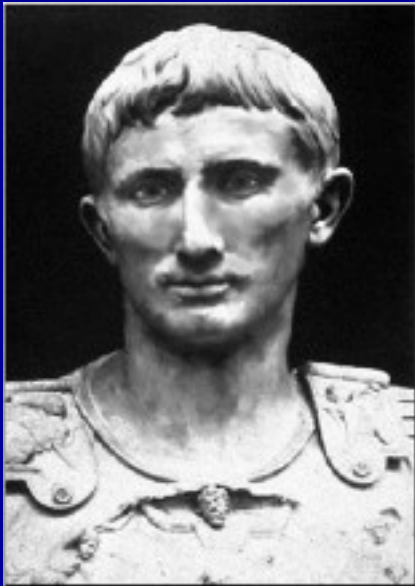
By the death of Athanasius (373):



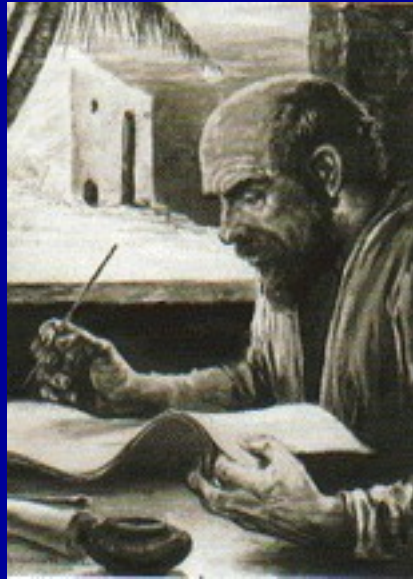
Arian
Emperor



By the death of Athanasius (373):

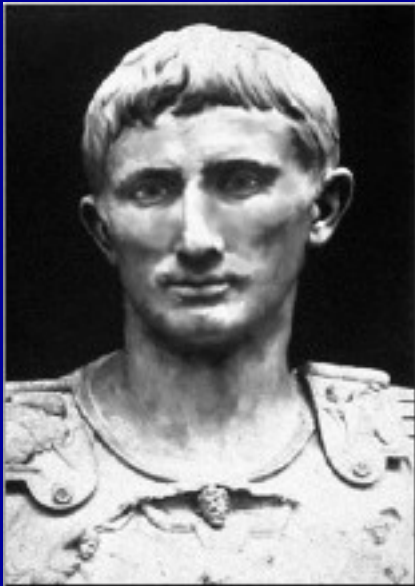


Arian
Emperor



Arian
Bishops

By the death of Athanasius (373):



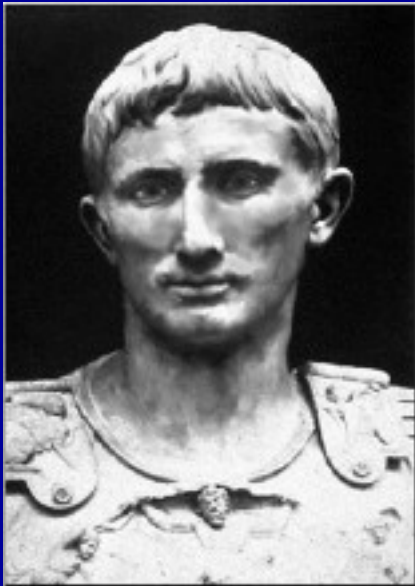
Arian
Emperor



Arian
Bishops

12 Arian
Creeds

By the death of Athanasius (373):



Arian
Emperor



Arian
Bishops

12 Arian
Creeds

By the death of Athanasius
(373):

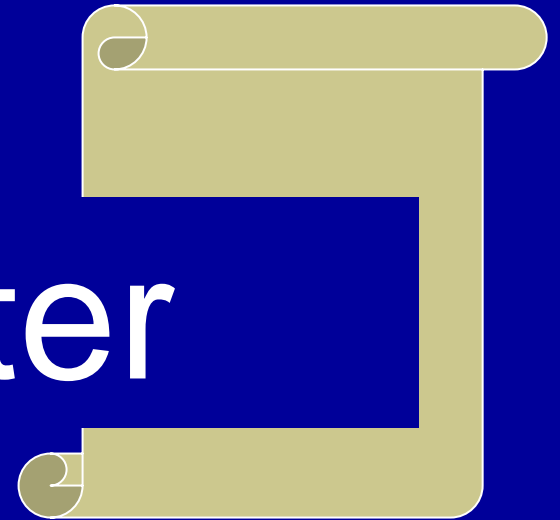


Arian
Emperor



Arian
Bishops

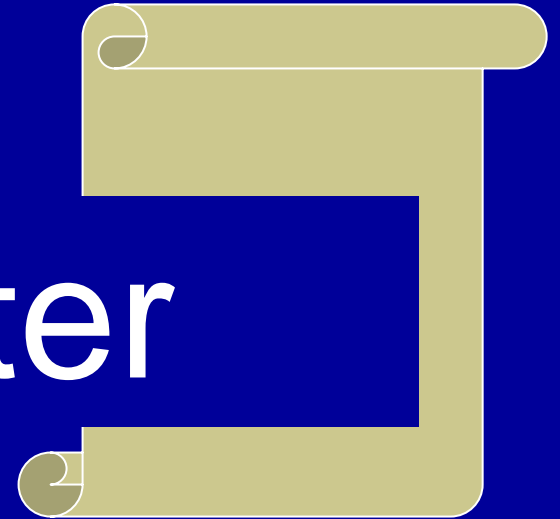
8 years later



By the death of Athanasius
(373):



8 years later



Arianism Wiped Out





Council of Constantinople 381



“From the Council onward, denial of the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity as spelled out in the Nicene Creed has been considered by all major branches of Christianity as heresy and possibly even apostasy.”

How does God get there in 8
short years?

How does God get there in 8
short years?

Enter the Cappadocian
Fathers

How does God get there in 8
short years?



Enter the Cappadocian
Fathers

How does God get there in 8
short years?



Basil

Enter the Cappadocian
Fathers

How does God get there in 8
short years?



Basil

Gregory

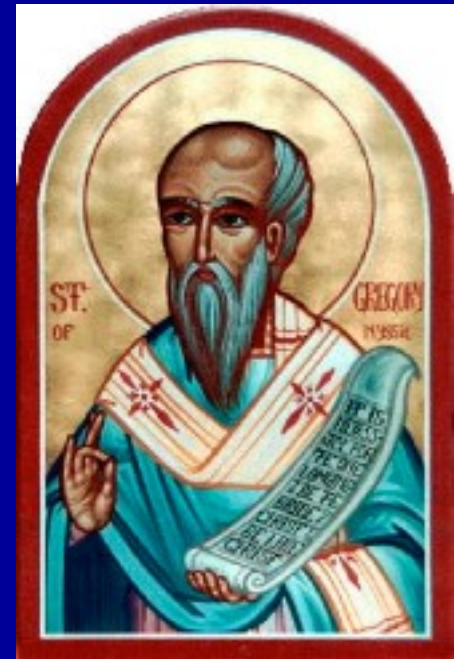
Enter the Cappadocian
Fathers

How does God get there in 8 short years?



Basil

Gregory



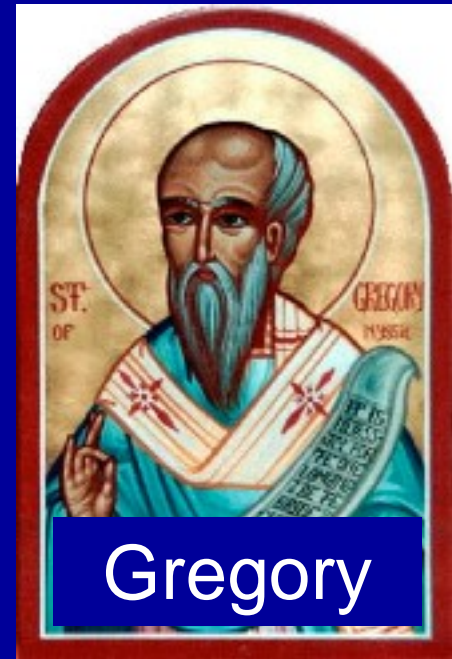
Enter the Cappadocian Fathers

How does God get there in 8 short years?



Basil

Gregory



Gregory

Enter the Cappadocian Fathers



Basil of
Caesarea



Basil of Caesarea

Known for Trinity and Charity



Basil of
Caesarea

God is three persons, but one
substance



“Begotten” like the rays of the sun

Trinity like a rainbow





Basil of
Caesarea



Basil of Caesarea

Don't forget the Holy Spirit



Basil of Caesarea

Don't forget the Holy Spirit

Don't lose the mystery



Gregory of
Nazianzus



Gregory of
Nazianzus

“The Theologian” with great
sermons on the Trinity

How can Jesus join us to
God if Jesus is not God?



Gregory of
Nazianzus

Gregory of Nyssa



Gregory of Nyssa



“Negative Theology”

God is not three different beings, he is one.

Gregory of Nyssa



“Negative Theology”

Jesus and the Holy Spirit
are not lesser beings.

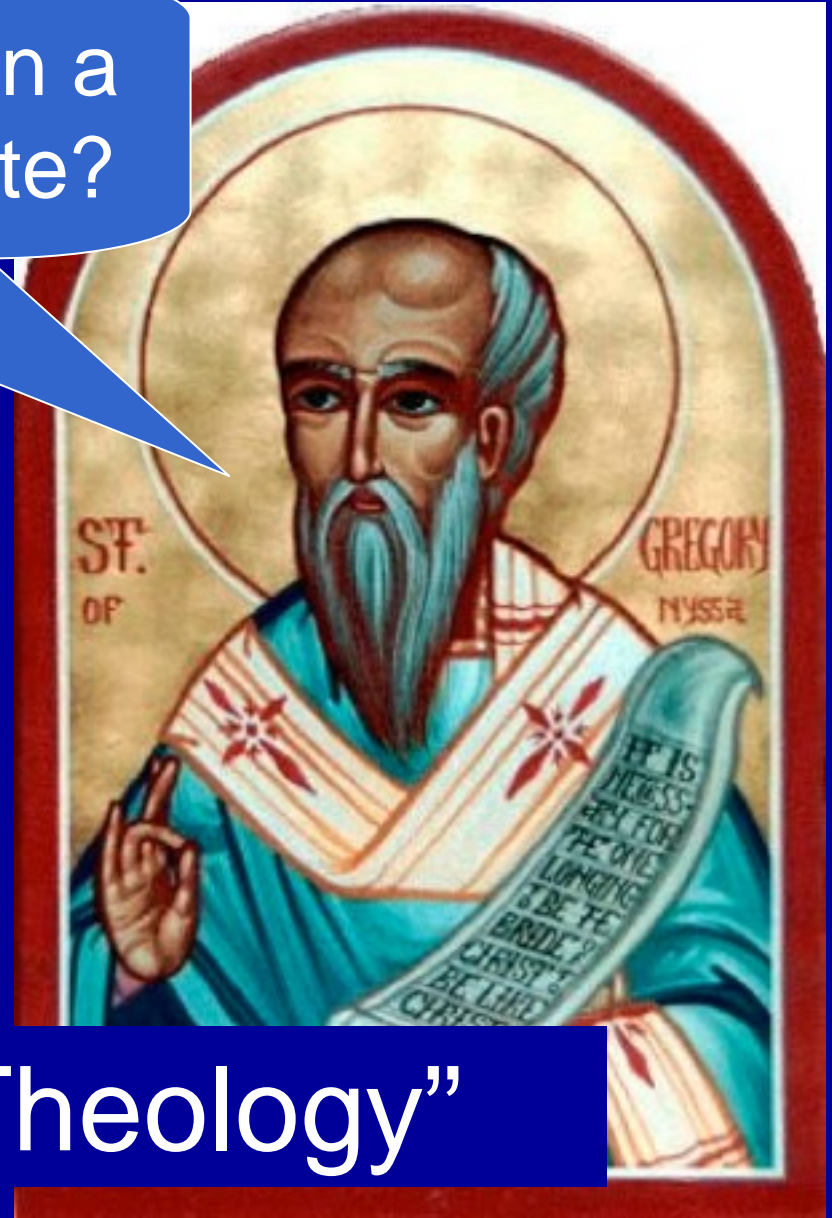
Gregory of
Nyssa



“Negative Theology”

Hold the mystery! How can a finite mind grasp the infinite?

Gregory of Nyssa



“Negative Theology”

Points for Home

- Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Mt. 16:16)

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- “In Christ, the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.” (Col. 2:9)

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- Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Mt. 16:16)
- “In Christ, the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.” (Col. 2:9)
- This is the “mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:2-3)