

CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

Constantine #2 and The Council of Nicea

Lesson 19

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2006 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.



A still from a film showing Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, looking towards a crowd of people. The crowd consists of men in various traditional Middle Eastern head coverings and robes, some looking at Jesus with interest. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with stone walls.

Who do you say that I am?

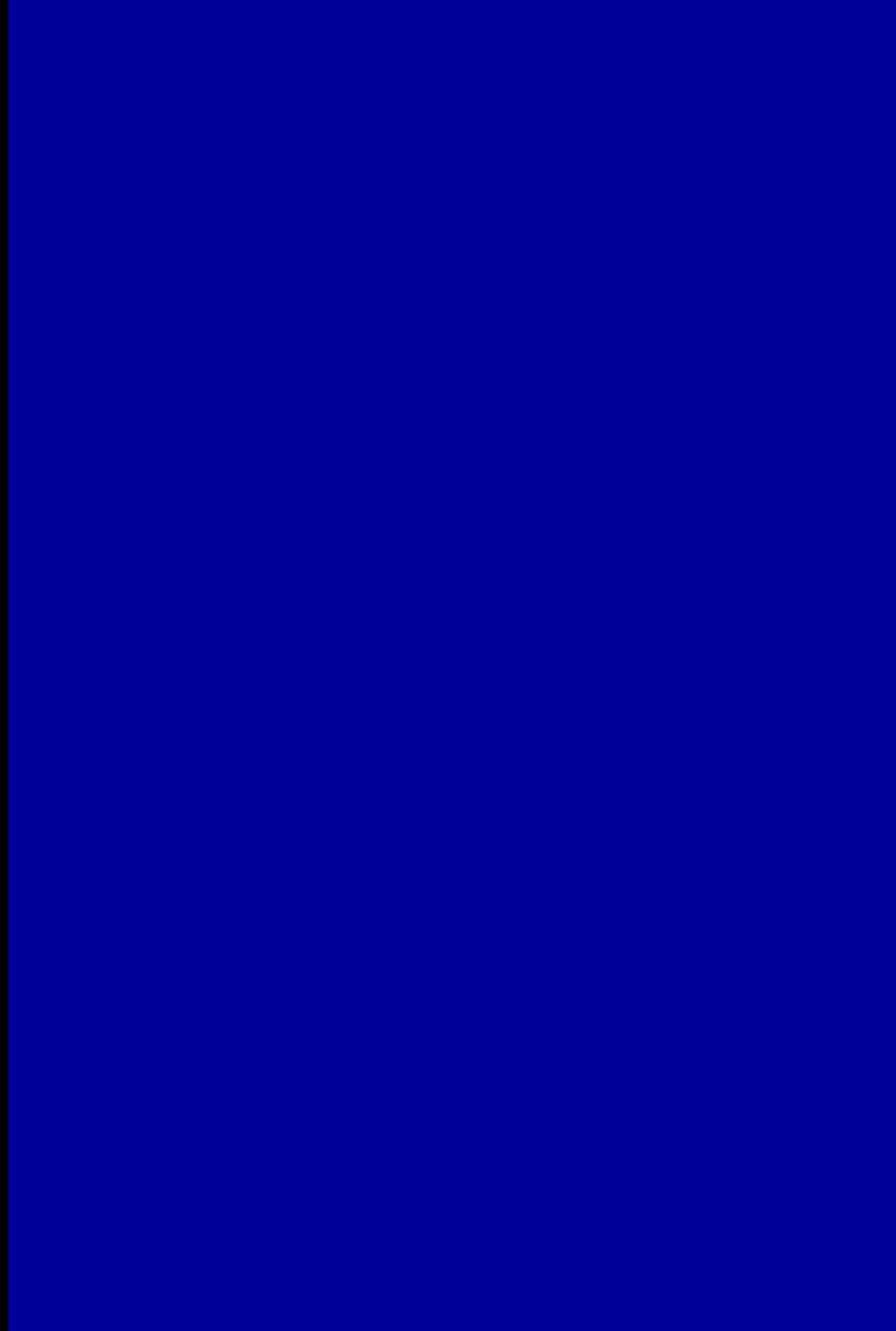
A still from a film showing Jesus on the left, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored robe. He is looking towards a group of men on the right. The men are dressed in traditional Middle Eastern attire, including head coverings and robes. One man in the foreground is wearing a blue and white head covering and has his hand near his face. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and a stone wall.

Who do you say that I am?

**“You are the Christ, the Son of
the Living God”**



“This is eternal
life: that they
may know ...
Jesus Christ”





What does it
mean that
Jesus is the
Son of God?





Jehovah's Witnesses

WATCHTOWER

Official Web Site of Jehovah's Witnesses

"Happy are those conscious
of their spiritual need."—Matthew 5:3



How Should We Pray?

Throughout the world many methods of approaching God are used by different religions. But is there a right and a wrong way to pray?

Article Available in ...

Česky	Polski
Français	Português
Deutsch	Русский
Italiano	Español
日本語	Svenska
한국어	

Additional Features



How to Find a Job and Keep It

In today's highly competitive job market, unemployment is a major problem. What steps can you take to find a job and keep it?



Can We Grow Enough Food?

Without food crops mankind would starve. Science has done much to enhance this vital resource. But has it done more harm than good?



Have you ever wondered . . .

How should a husband treat his wife?

Information in 265 Languages

العربية	Ελληνικά
Braille	हिंदी
汉语(简体)	Norsk
漢語(繁體)	Sign Language
Dansk	
Nederlands	
Suomi	More...

Browse

- ▶ Current Topics
- ▶ Beliefs and Activities
- ▶ God and Your Future
- ▶ Medical Care and Blood
- ▶ Bible Online
- ▶ Publications Available
- ▶ Languages
- ▶ Contact Us
- ▶ Index
- ▶ www.jw-media.org

Search

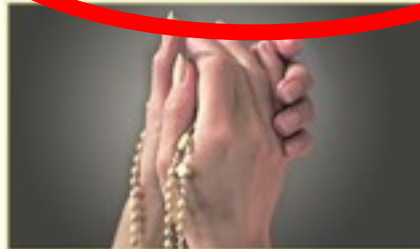
Drug Abuse—There Is a Solution!

Knowing the solution to man's problems has given many the motivation and courage to break free from drug addiction.





"Happy are those conscious
of their spiritual need."—Matthew 5:3



How Should We Pray?

Throughout the world many methods of
approaching God are used by different religions.
But is there a right and a wrong way to pray?

Article Available in ...

Česky	Polski
Français	Português
Deutsch	Русский
Italiano	Español
日本語	Svenska
한국어	

Additional Features



How to Find a Job and Keep It

In today's highly competitive job market,
unemployment is a major problem. What
steps can you take to find a job and
keep it?



Can We Grow Enough Food?

Without food crops mankind would starve.
Science has done much to enhance this
vital resource. But has it done more harm
than good?

Information in 265 Languages

العربية	Ελληνικά
Braille	हिंदी
汉语(简体)	Norsk
漢語(繁體)	Sign Language
Dansk	
Nederlands	
Suomi	More...

Browse

- ▶ Current Topics
- ▶ Beliefs and Activities
- ▶ God and Your Future
- ▶ Kingdom of God
- ▶ Bible Online
- ▶ Publications Available
- ▶ Languages
- ▶ Contact Us
- ▶ Index
- ▶ www.jw-media.org



Have you ever wondered . . .

How should a husband treat his wife?




Drug Abuse—There Is a Solution!

Knowing the solution to man's problems has given many the motivation
and courage to break free from drug addiction.

Search

▶ Advanced Search

Beliefs and Activities




Jehovah's Witnesses—What Do They Believe?
The very existence of the intricately designed wonders in the universe surrounding us reasonably argues that a supremely intelligent and powerful Creator produced it all.




Why Does God Allow Us to Suffer?
Finding a satisfying and truthful answer to this puzzling question is vital for our peace of mind and our relationship with God.



Does the Bible Have a Hidden Code?
Should a hidden code be the basis for believing that the Bible is inspired of God?



Child Molesting—You Can Protect Your Child
In this degenerating world, we must take definite steps to protect our children from sexual molestation.



Jesus' Miracles—History or Myth?
The Bible claims that Jesus' miracles were a manifestation of "the majestic power of God." Would such works be impossible for an almighty God?



2005 Worldwide Report

Magazines

- ▶ How to Solve Problems Peacefully
- ▶ Mankind's Problems Soon to End!
- ▶ Heed the Warning!
- ▶ God Does Answer Prayers

[More](#)

From Our Brochures

- ▶ God's Purpose Soon to Be Realized
- ▶ The God of the Bible
- ▶ Jehovah's Witnesses—Ways They Use to Share the Good News
- ▶ Family Life That Pleases God

Would you welcome a free home Bible study?

[Yes!](#)

Bible Online

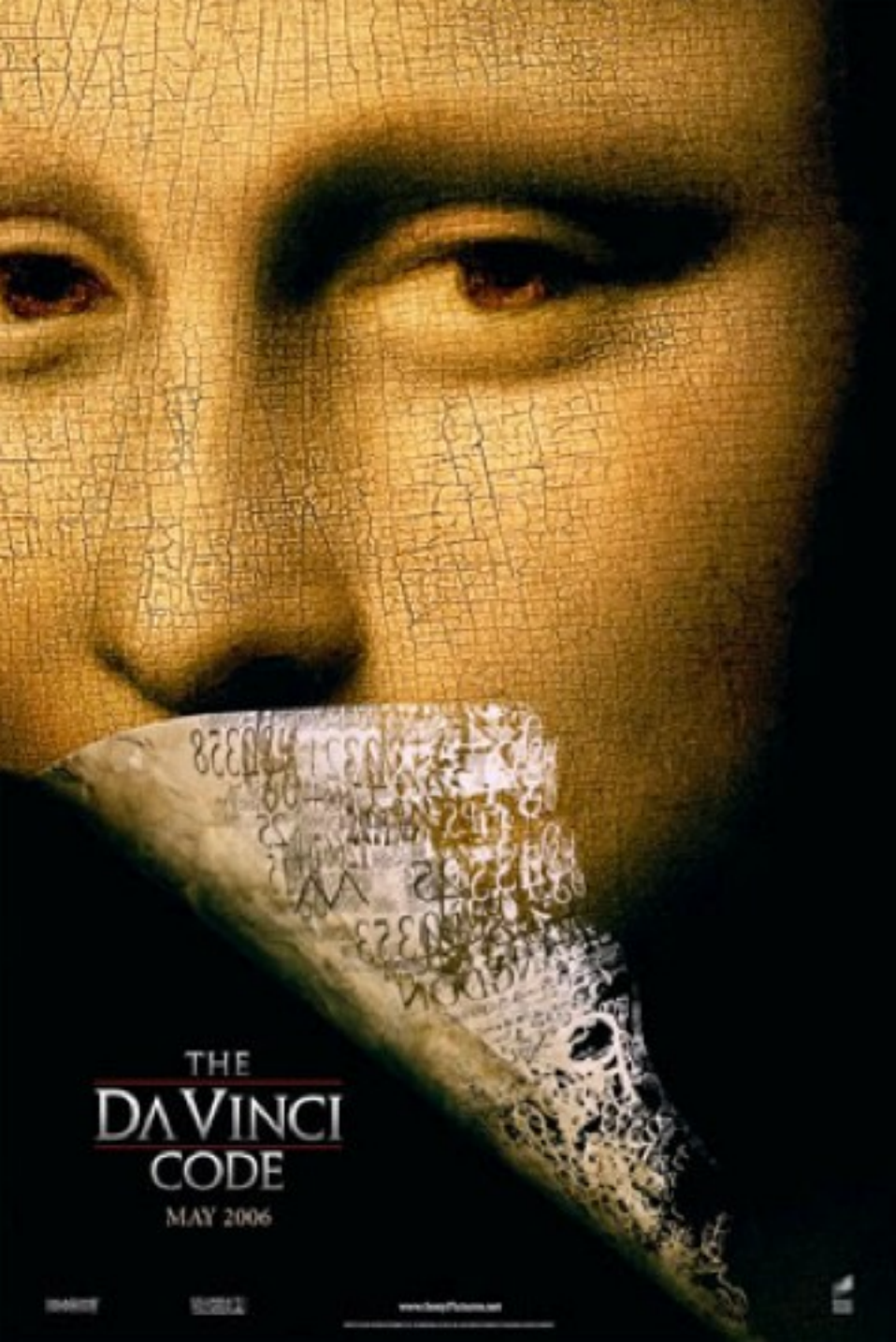


[Read the Bible Online](#)

Col 1:15 - "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all Creation." Father is greater than I am."

- Jehovah's Witnesses Official Web Site
- Table of Contents
 - Who Are They?
 - Their Message
 - Growth
 - What Do They Believe?
 - The Good News
 - to Hear
 - Ways They Use to Share the Good News
 - Practical Ways to Your Community
 - Their Work
 - Work
 - Questions Often Asked by Interested People
 - Our Invitation to You
- Print Page

God's name is Jehovah	Ps. 83:18 ; Isa. 26:4 ; 42:8 , AS; Ex. 6:3
Christ is God's Son and is inferior to Him	Matt. 3:17 ; John 8:42 ; 14:28 ; 20:17 ; 1 Cor. 11:3 ; 15:28
Christ was first of God's creations	Col. 1:15 ; Rev. 3:14
Christ died on a stake, not a cross	Gal. 3:13 ; Acts 5:30
Christ's human life was paid as a ransom for obedient humans	Matt. 20:28 ; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6 ; 1 Pet. 2:24
Christ's one sacrifice was sufficient	Rom. 6:10 ; Heb. 9:25-28
Christ was raised from the dead as an immortal spirit person	1 Pet. 3:18 ; Rom. 6:9 ; Rev. 1:17, 18
Christ's presence is in spirit	John 14:19 ; Matt. 24:3 ; 2 Cor. 5:16 ; Ps. 110:1, 2
We are now in the 'time of the end'	Matt. 24:3-14 ; 2 Tim. 3:1-5 ; Luke 17:26-30
Kingdom under Christ will rule earth in righteousness and peace	Isa. 9:6, 7 ; 11:1-5 ; Dan. 7:13, 14 ; Matt. 6:10
Kingdom will bring ideal living conditions to earth	Ps. 72:1-4 ; Rev. 7:9, 10 , 13-17 ; 21:3, 4
Earth will never be destroyed or depopulated	Eccl. 1:4 ; Isa. 45:18 ; Ps. 78:69



THE
DA VINCI
CODE
MAY 2006

Before the
Council of Nicea,
“Jesus was
viewed by his
followers as a
mortal prophet ...
a great and
powerful man,
but a man
nonetheless.”

Church History Literacy

Council of Nicea

(Constantine Part 2)

Reorganizing the Empire

Jr. Caesar
Constantius



Western Empire



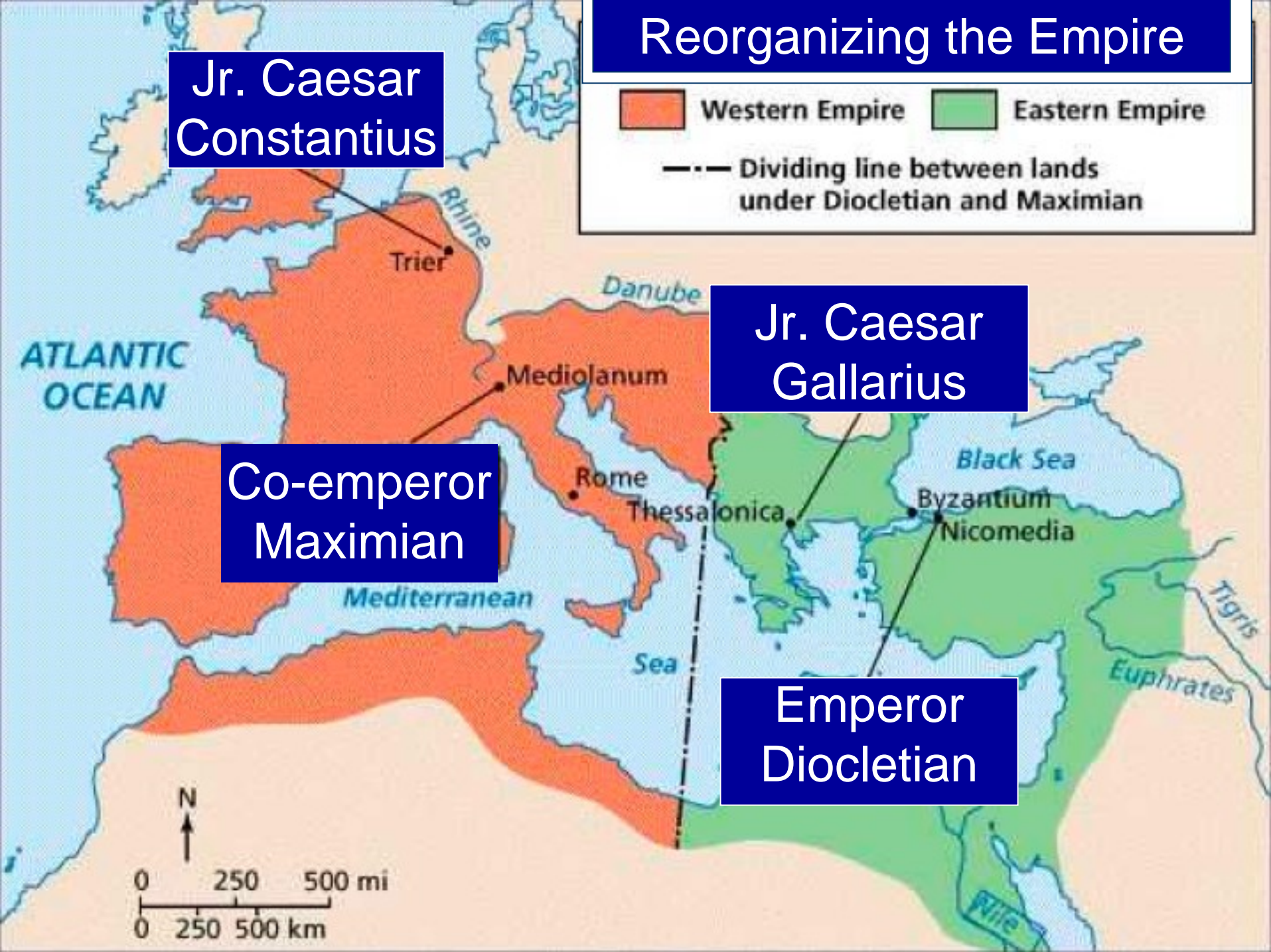
Eastern Empire

--- Dividing line between lands
under Diocletian and Maximian

Jr. Caesar
Gallarius

Co-emperor
Maximian

Emperor
Diocletian



Reorganizing the Empire

Jr. Caesar
Constantius



Western Empire



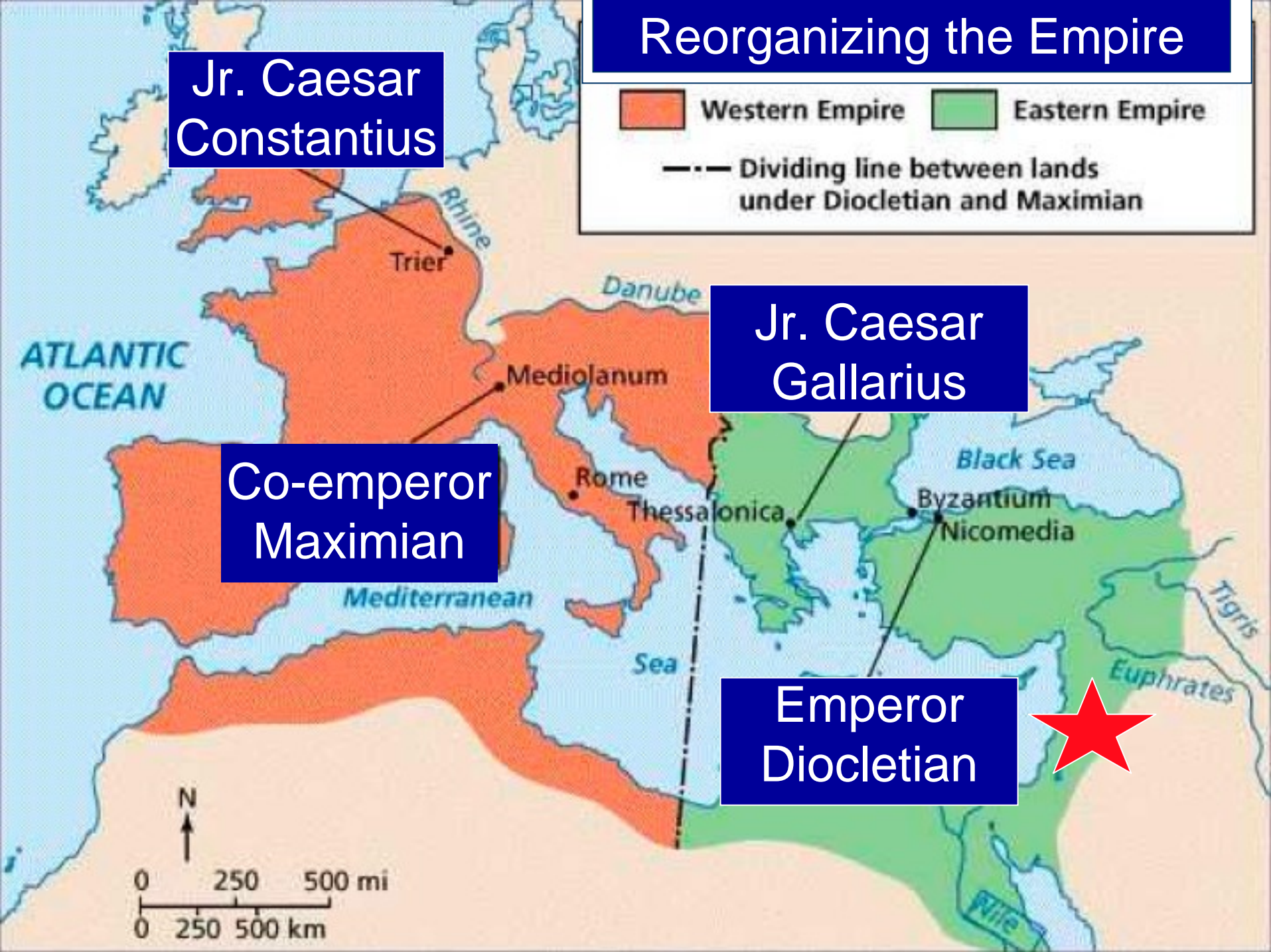
Eastern Empire

--- Dividing line between lands
under Diocletian and Maximian

Jr. Caesar
Gallarius

Co-emperor
Maximian

Emperor
Diocletian



Reorganizing the Empire

Jr. Caesar
Constantius



Western Empire



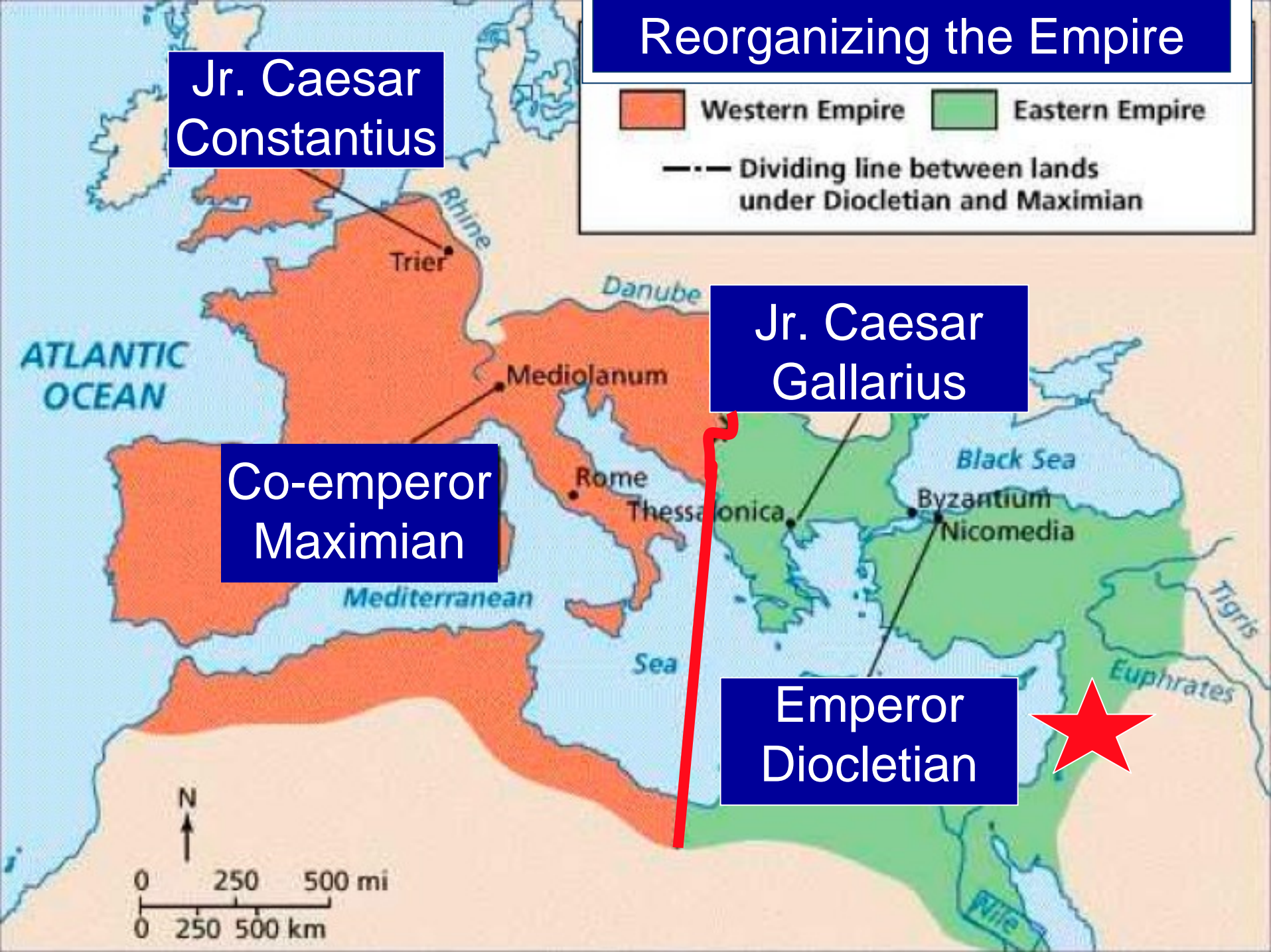
Eastern Empire

--- Dividing line between lands
under Diocletian and Maximian

Jr. Caesar
Gallarius

Co-emperor
Maximian

Emperor
Diocletian



Reorganizing the Empire

Jr. Caesar
Constantius



Western Empire



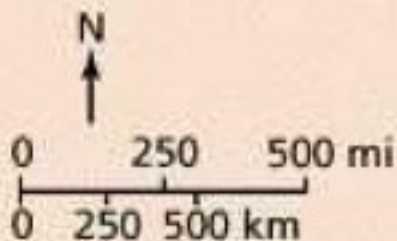
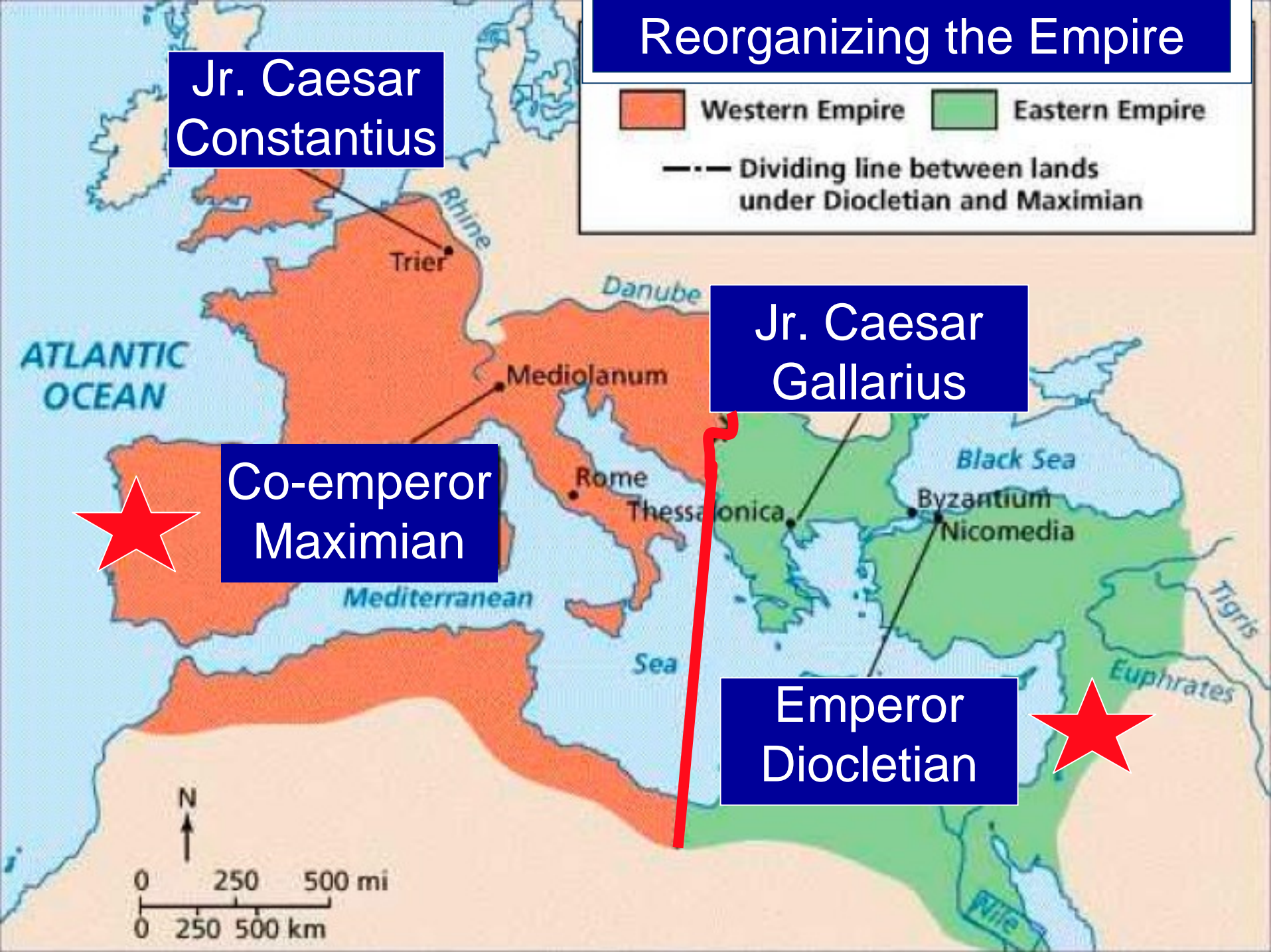
Eastern Empire

--- Dividing line between lands
under Diocletian and Maximian

Jr. Caesar
Gallarius

Co-emperor
Maximian

Emperor
Diocletian



Reorganizing the Empire

Jr. Caesar
Constantius



Western Empire



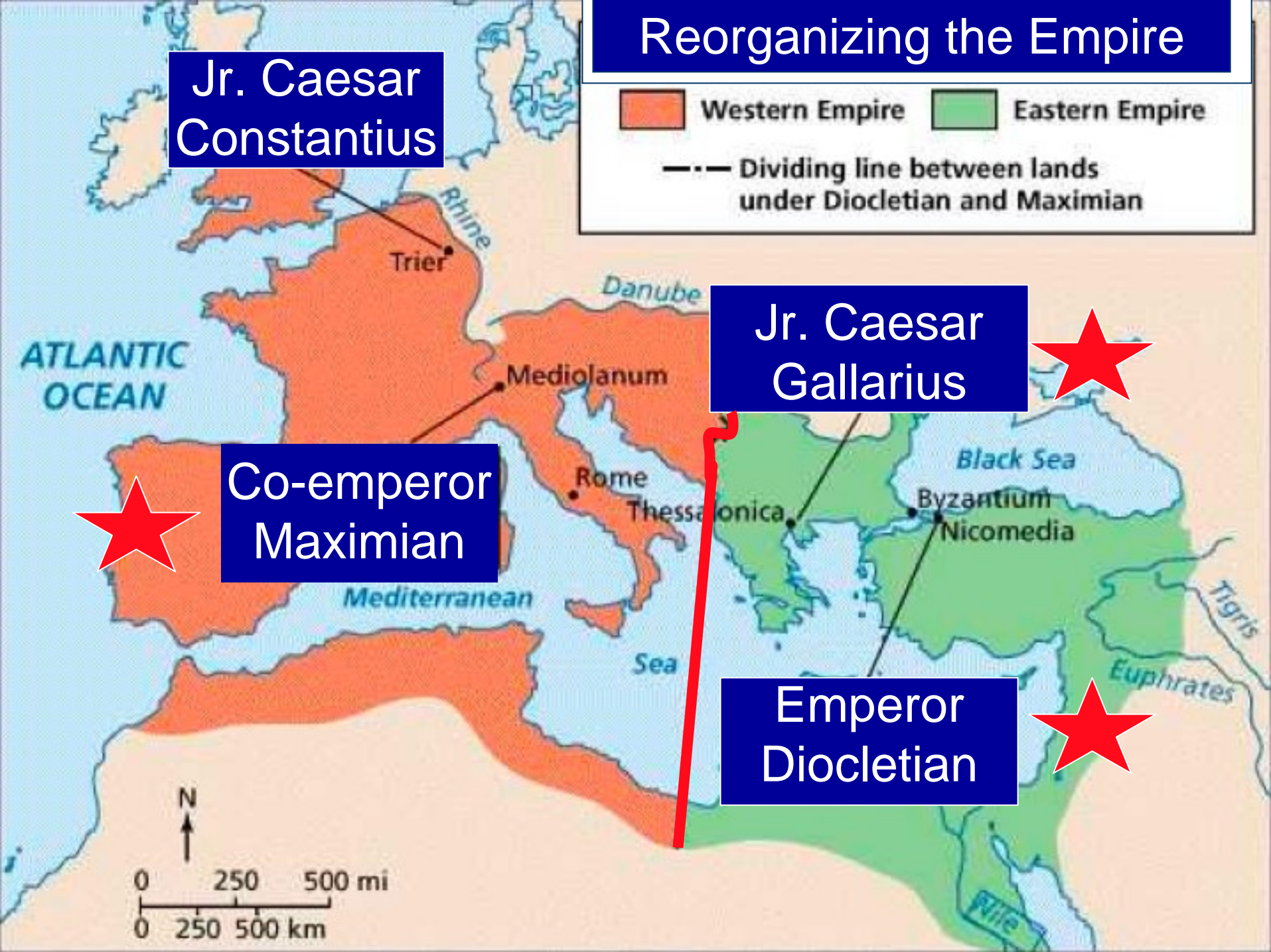
Eastern Empire

--- Dividing line between lands
under Diocletian and Maximian

Jr. Caesar
Gallarius

Co-emperor
Maximian

Emperor
Diocletian



Reorganizing the Empire



Western Empire



Eastern Empire

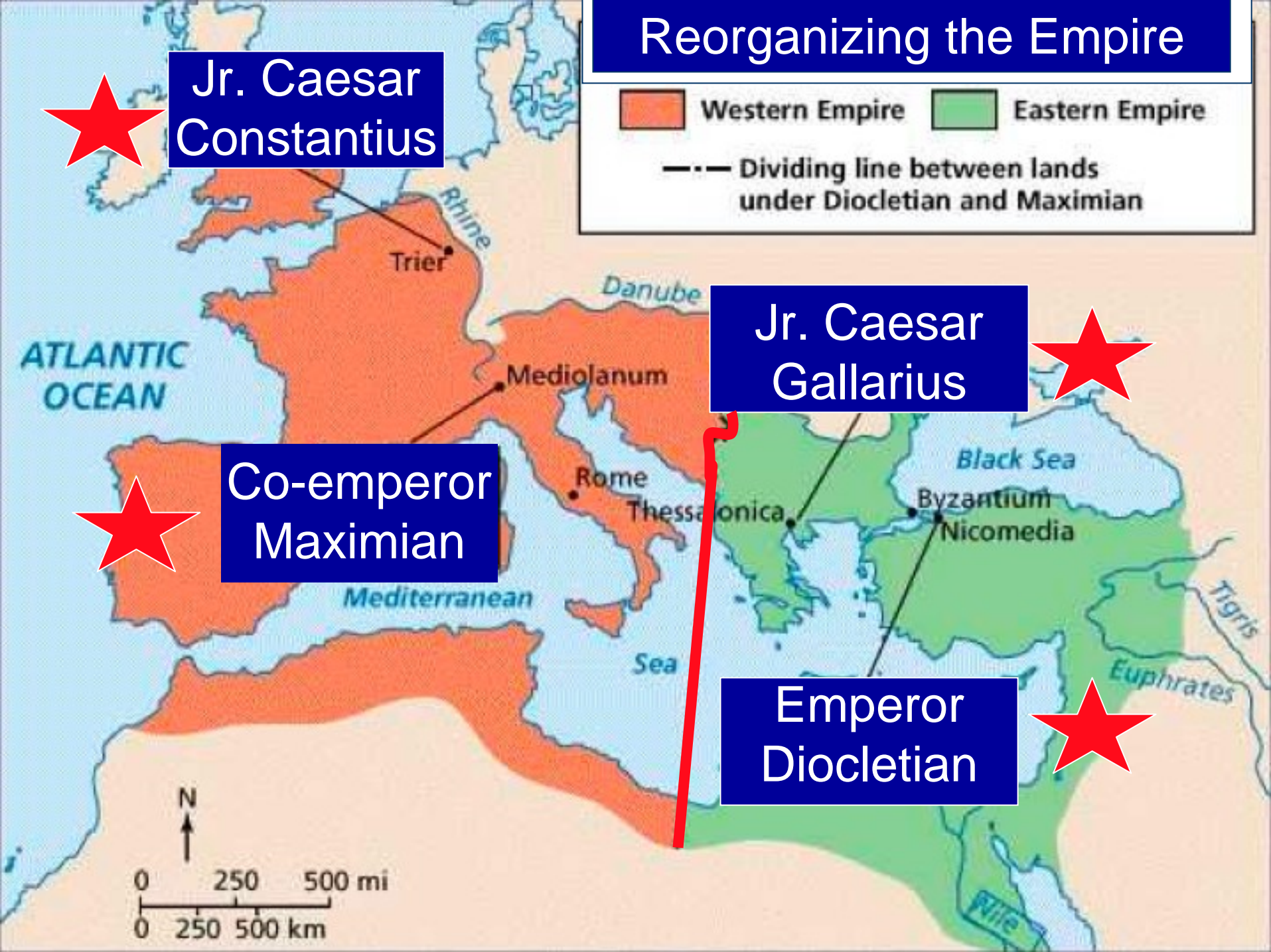
--- Dividing line between lands
under Diocletian and Maximian

Jr. Caesar
Constantius

Jr. Caesar
Gallarius

Co-emperor
Maximian

Emperor
Diocletian



IBERIA

DIOCESE OF
BRITANNIA

330 AD

Romania

under Constantine I

DIOCESE
OF GAUL

Saxons
Franks Lombards

Burgundians
Thuringians
Alemanni Vandals
Marcomanni Quadi

Ostrogoths

DIOCESE

PREFECTURE OF GAUL
OF VIENNE

DIOCESE
OF ITALY

DIOCESE

OF VANDALS

Gepids

Visigoths

Alans

PANNONIA

DIOCESE
OF ROMA

DIOCESE
OF DACIA

DIOCESE
OF THRACIA

Constantinople
founded, 330

COLCHIS

DIOCESE
OF IBERIA

PREFECTURE
OF ITALY

PREFECTURE
OF ILLYRICUM

DIOCESE
OF MACEDONIA

DIOCESE
OF ASIA

PREFECTURE
OF THE EAST

DIOCESE OF
THE EAST

DIOCESE
OF AFRICA

DIOCESE OF
AEGYPTUS

ARABIA

ROMAN FRONTIER

PREFECTURE BOUNDRIES

DIOCESE BOUNDARIES

DEPENDENCIES OF ROME

IBERIA

DIOCESE OF
BRITANNIA

330 AD

Romania

under Constantine I

DIOCESE
OF GAUL

Saxons
Franks Lombards

Burgundians
Thuringians

Alemanni Vandals
Marcomanni Rugians
Quadi

Ostrogoths

DIOCESE

PREFECTURE OF GAUL
OF VIENNE

DIOCESE
OF ITALY

DIOCESE

OF VANDALS

Gepids

Visigoths

Alans

PANNONIA

DIOCESE
OF ROMA

DIOCESE
OF DACIA

DIOCESE
OF THRACIA

Constantinople
founded, 330

COLCHIS

DIOCESE
OF IBERIA

PREFECTURE
OF ITALY

PREFECTURE
OF ILLYRICUM

DIOCESE
OF MACEDONIA

DIOCESE
OF ASIA

PREFECTURE
OF THE EAST

DIOCESE OF
THE EAST

DIOCESE
OF AFRICA

DIOCESE OF
AEGYPTUS

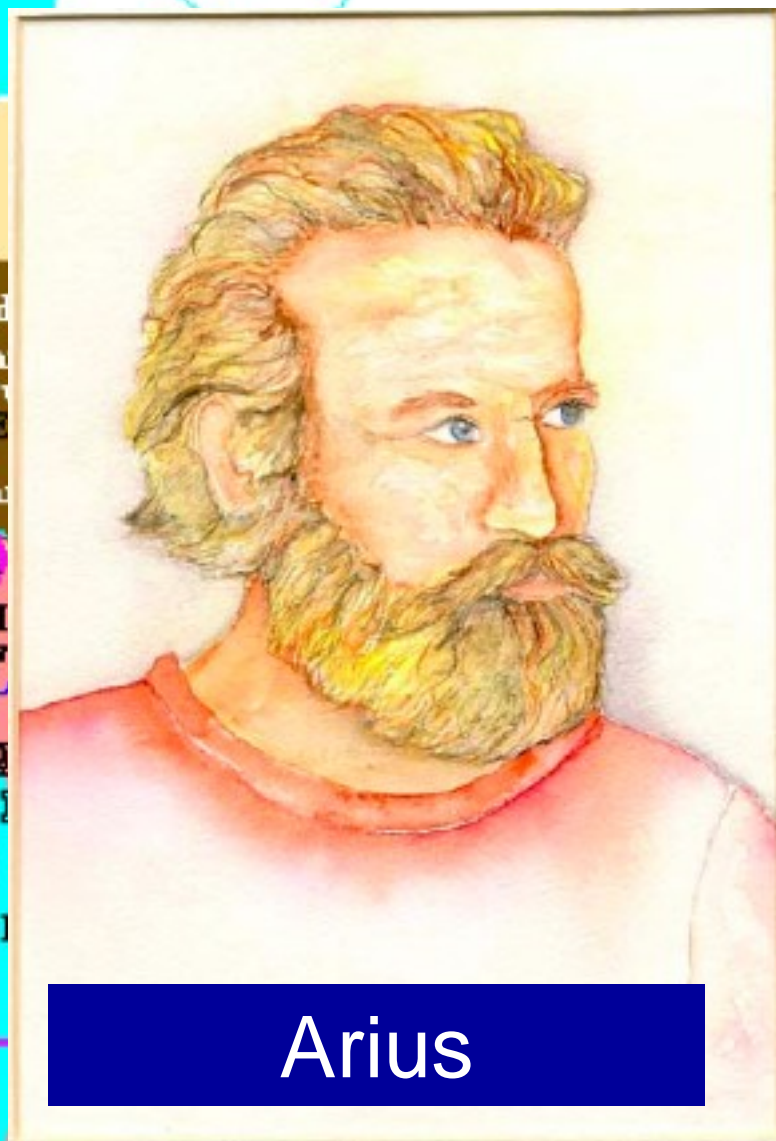
ARABIA

ROMAN FRONTIER

PREFECTURE BOUNDRIES

DIOCESE BOUNDARIES

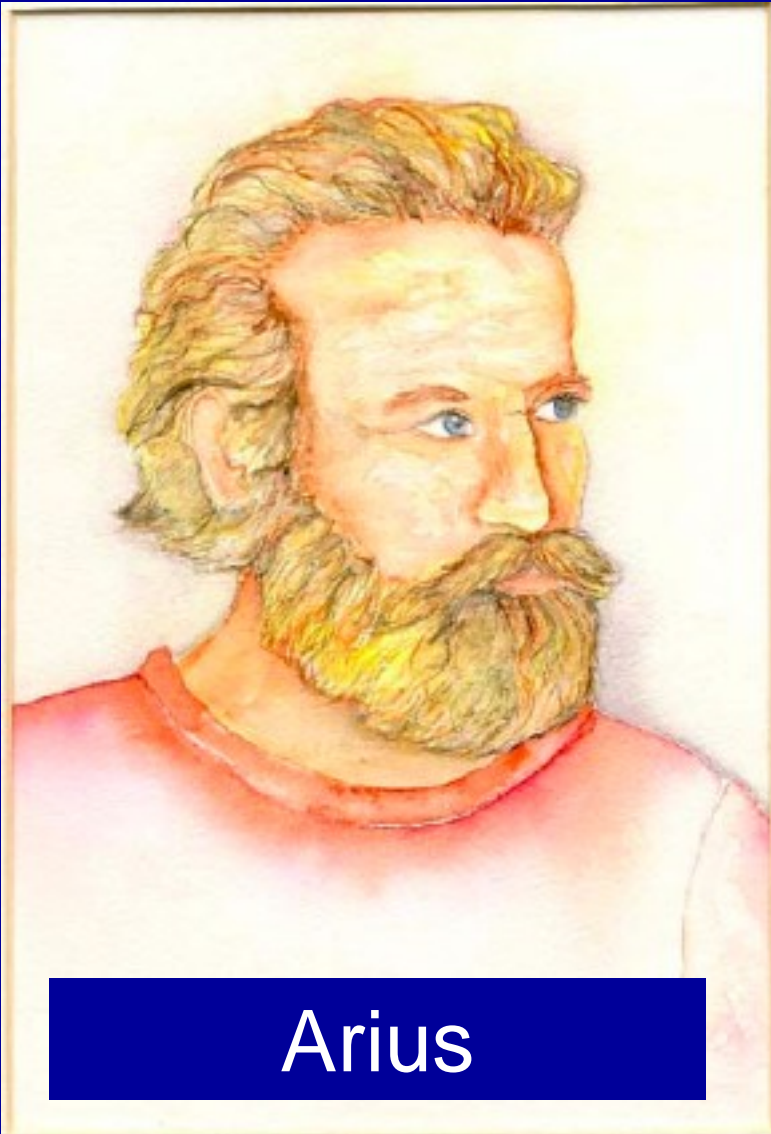
DEPENDENCIES OF ROME



Arius

Arius taught:

- Jesus was not fully God
- Jesus was created by God



Arius

Arius launched a full out
campaign!

Arius launched a full out campaign!



Arius launched a full out campaign!



Consider the dilemma

Consider the dilemma

If Jesus is not
God, then God
has not united
with humanity
and we cannot
be saved. --
Alexander

Consider the dilemma

If Jesus is not
God, then God
has not united
with humanity
and we cannot
be saved. --
Alexander

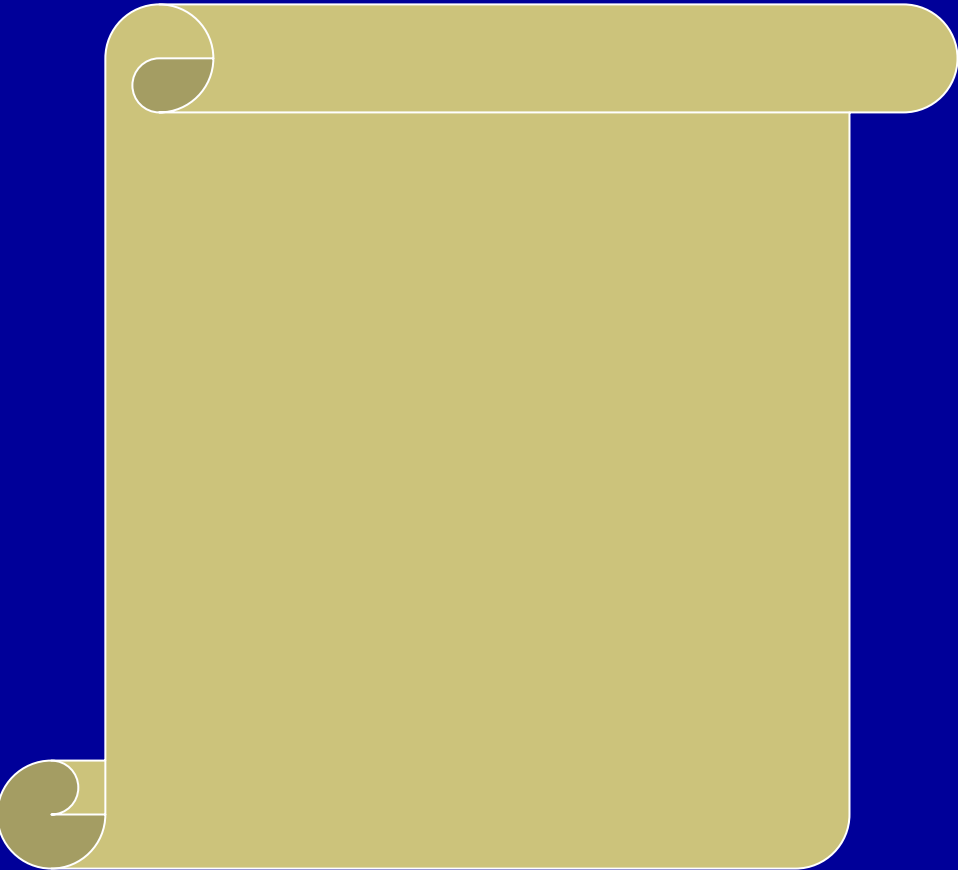
OR

Consider the dilemma

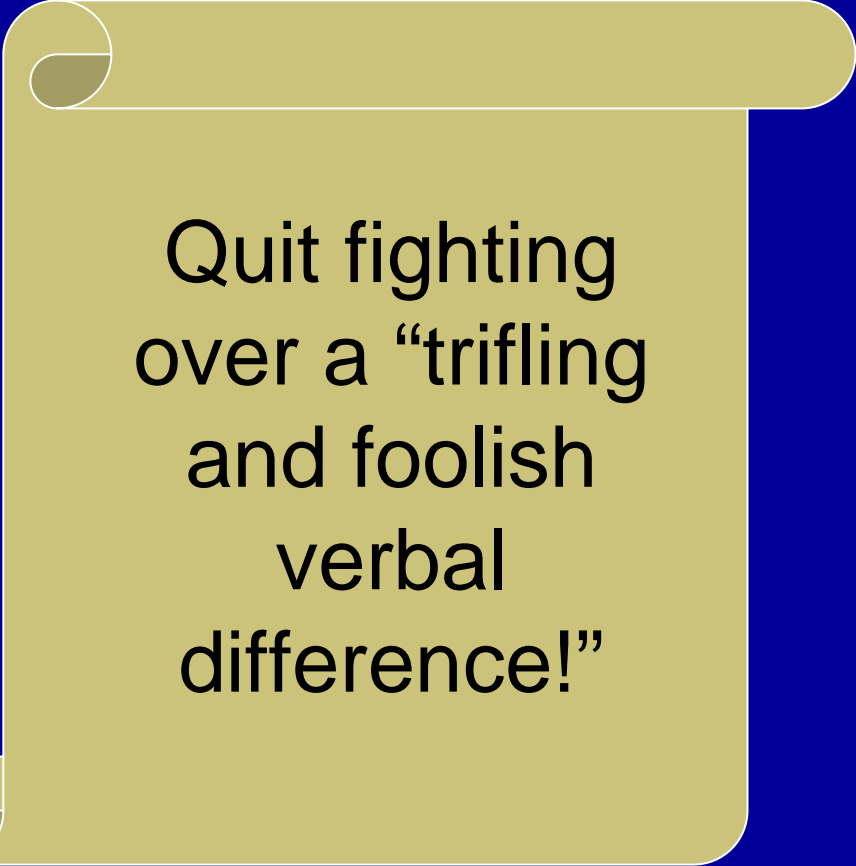
If Jesus is not
God, then God
has not united
with humanity
and we cannot
be saved. --
Alexander

OR

If Jesus is God,
then he is not
truly human and
we have no
salvation (no
victory we could
emulate) - Arius



Constantine
first tries a
letter



Quit fighting
over a “trifling
and foolish
verbal
difference!”

Constantine
first tries a
letter

Plan B: Constantine the Mediator!






318
Bishops

The events

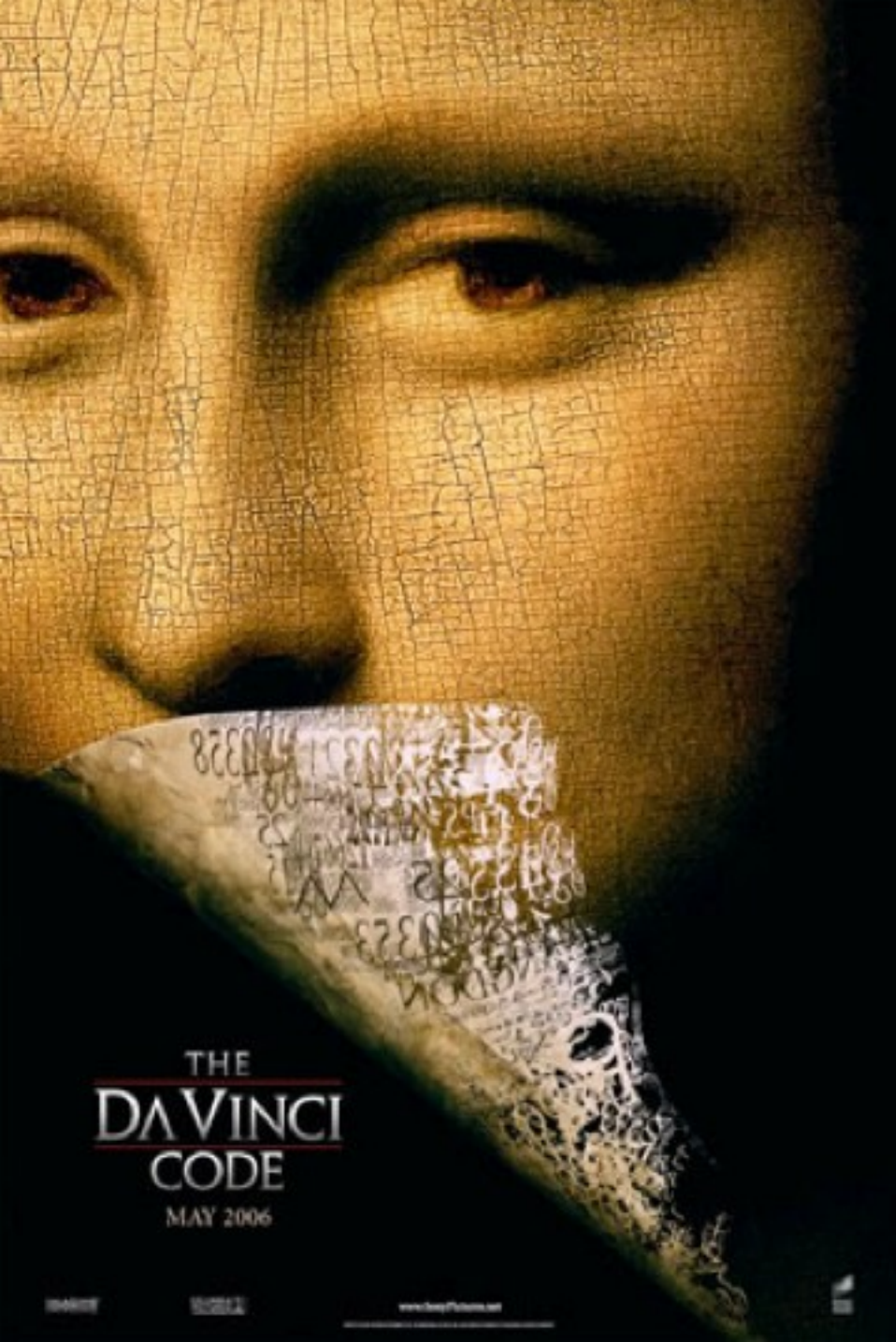
28 Arians



318
Bishops

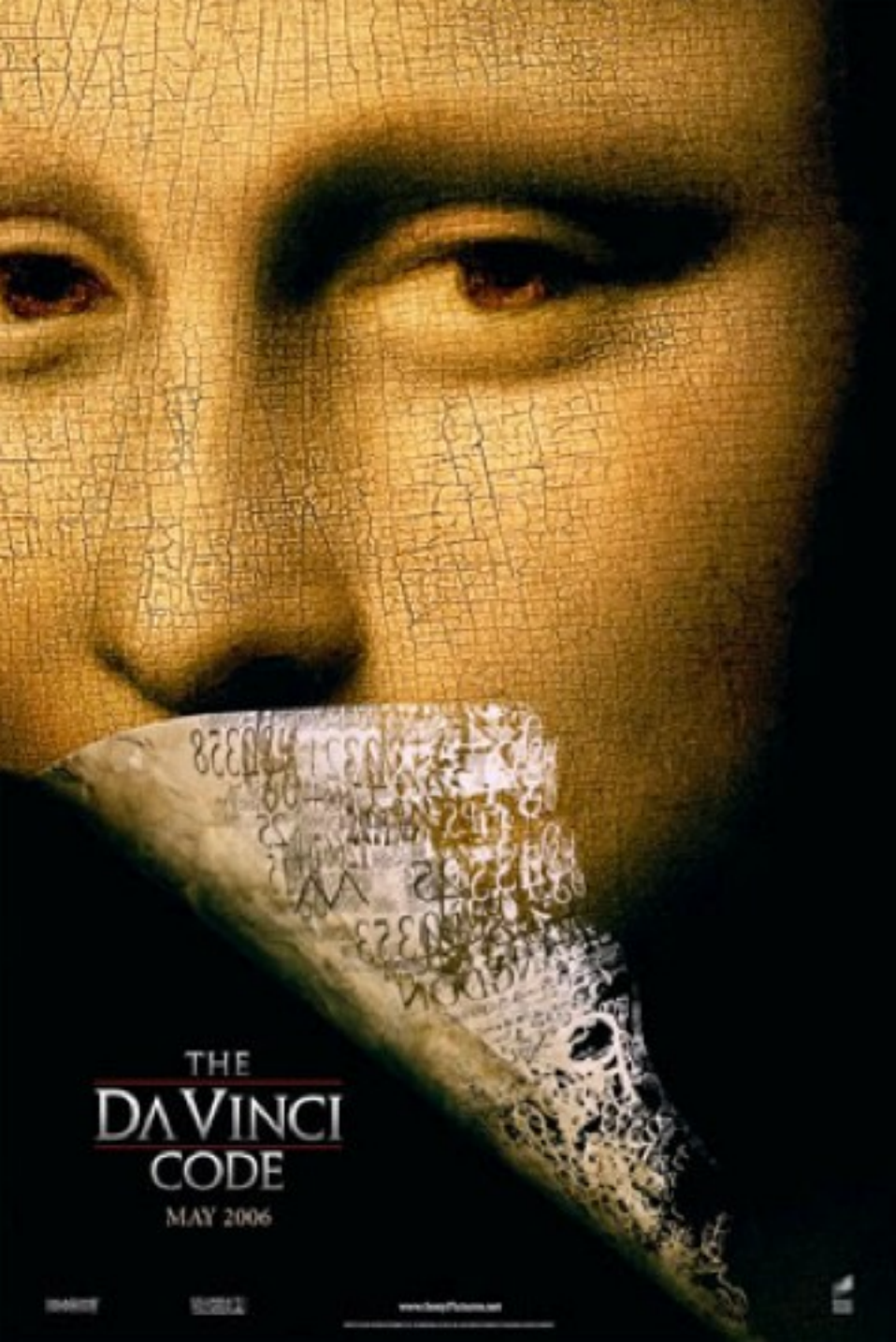
The Result?

28 Arians



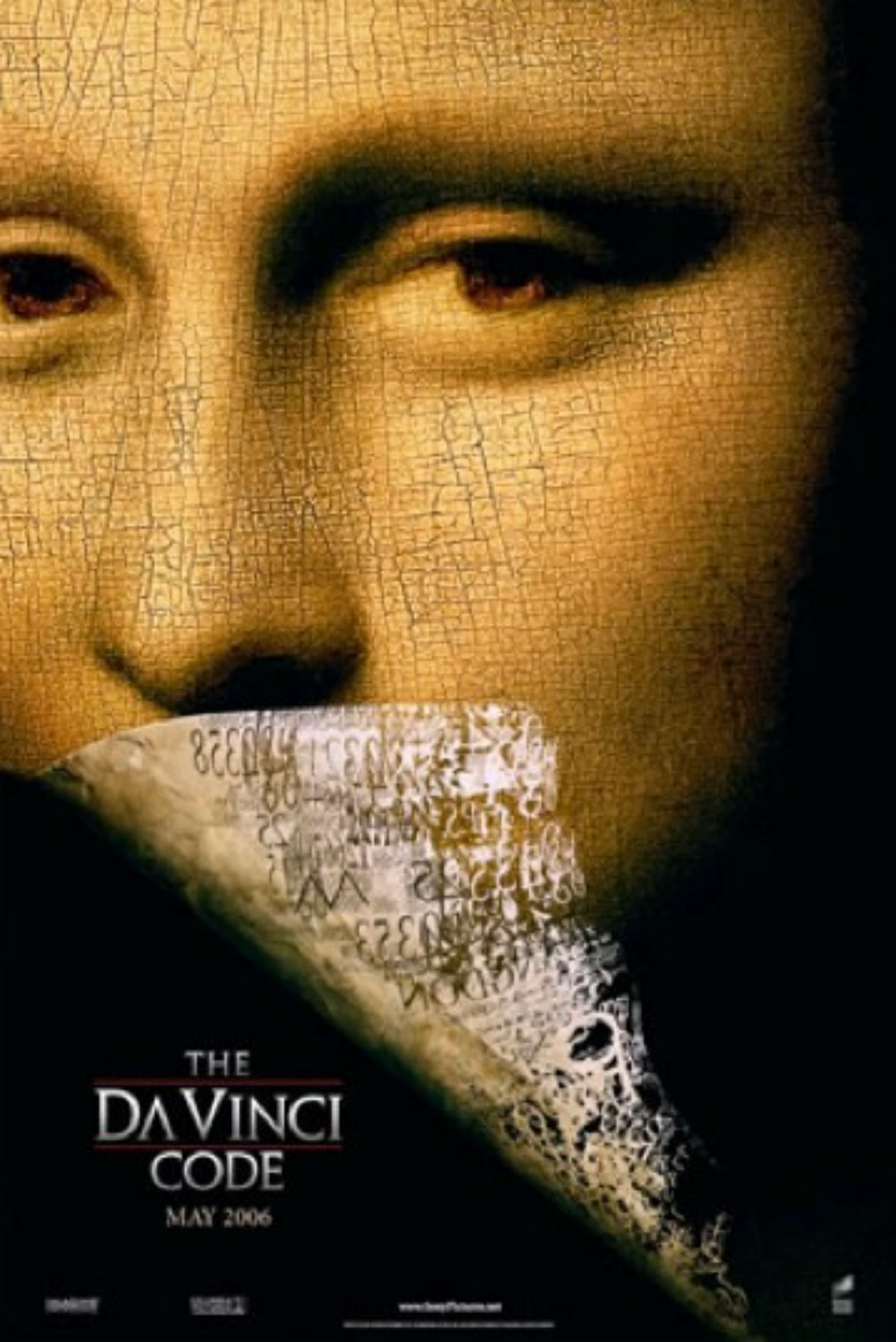
THE
DA VINCI
CODE
MAY 2006

Before the
Council of Nicea,
“Jesus was
viewed by his
followers as a
mortal prophet ...
a great and
powerful man,
but a man
nonetheless.”



THE
DA VINCI
CODE
MAY 2006

Before the
Council of Nicaea,
Jesus was
viewed by his
followers as a
mortal prophet
with a great
powerful m
nonetheless."

A close-up, high-contrast image of a man's face, likely Leonardo da Vinci, with a parchment scroll partially covering his mouth. The scroll has some faint, illegible markings. The background is a solid blue color.

Council of Nicea
decided which
books would be
the New
Testament

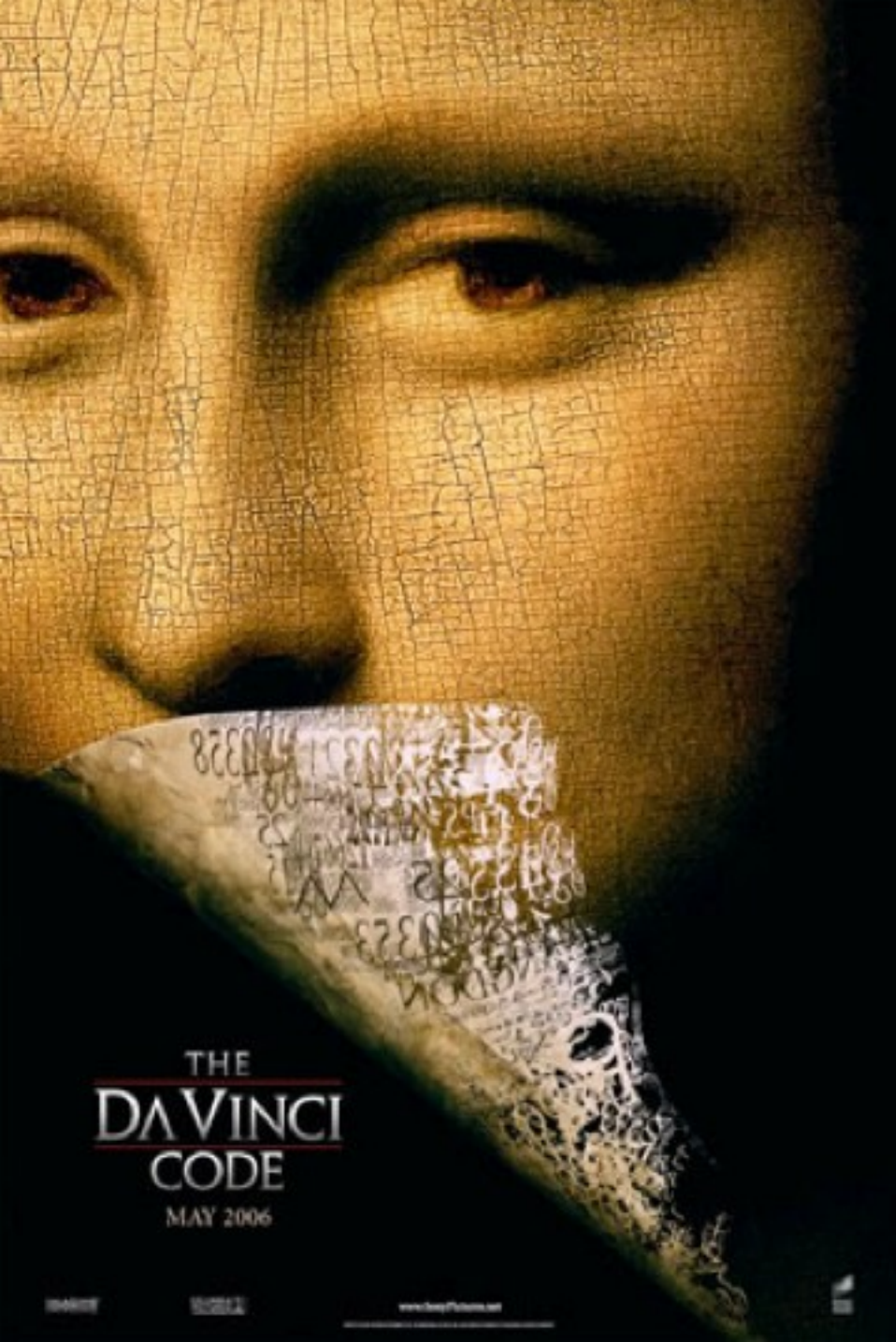
THE
DA VINCI
CODE
MAY 2006

WARNER

HOME

www.dvincicode.com





Council of Nicæa
decided which
books would be
the New
Testament

They adopted the Nicene
Creed

They adopted the Nicene Creed

“We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible:

They adopted the Nicene Creed

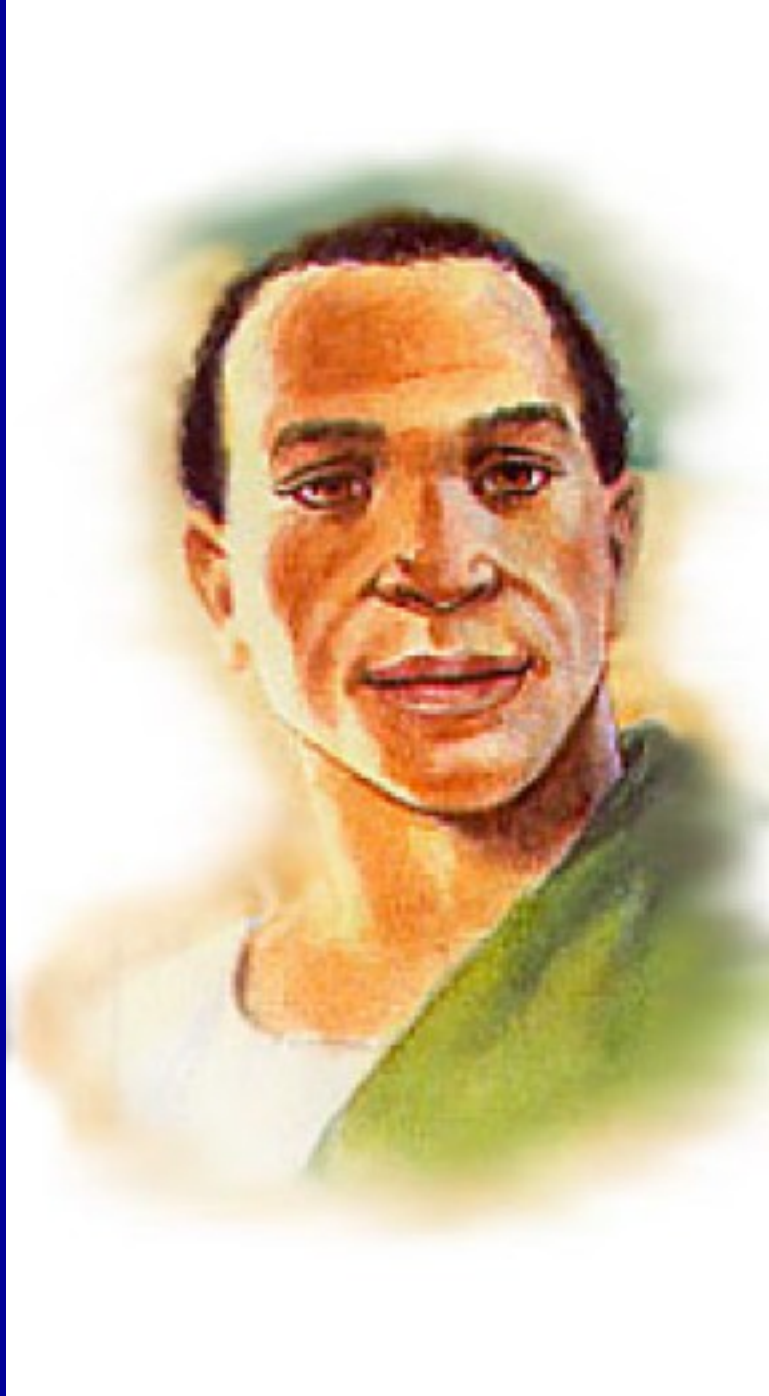
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, that is, of the substance of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of the same substance with the Father, through whom all things were made both in

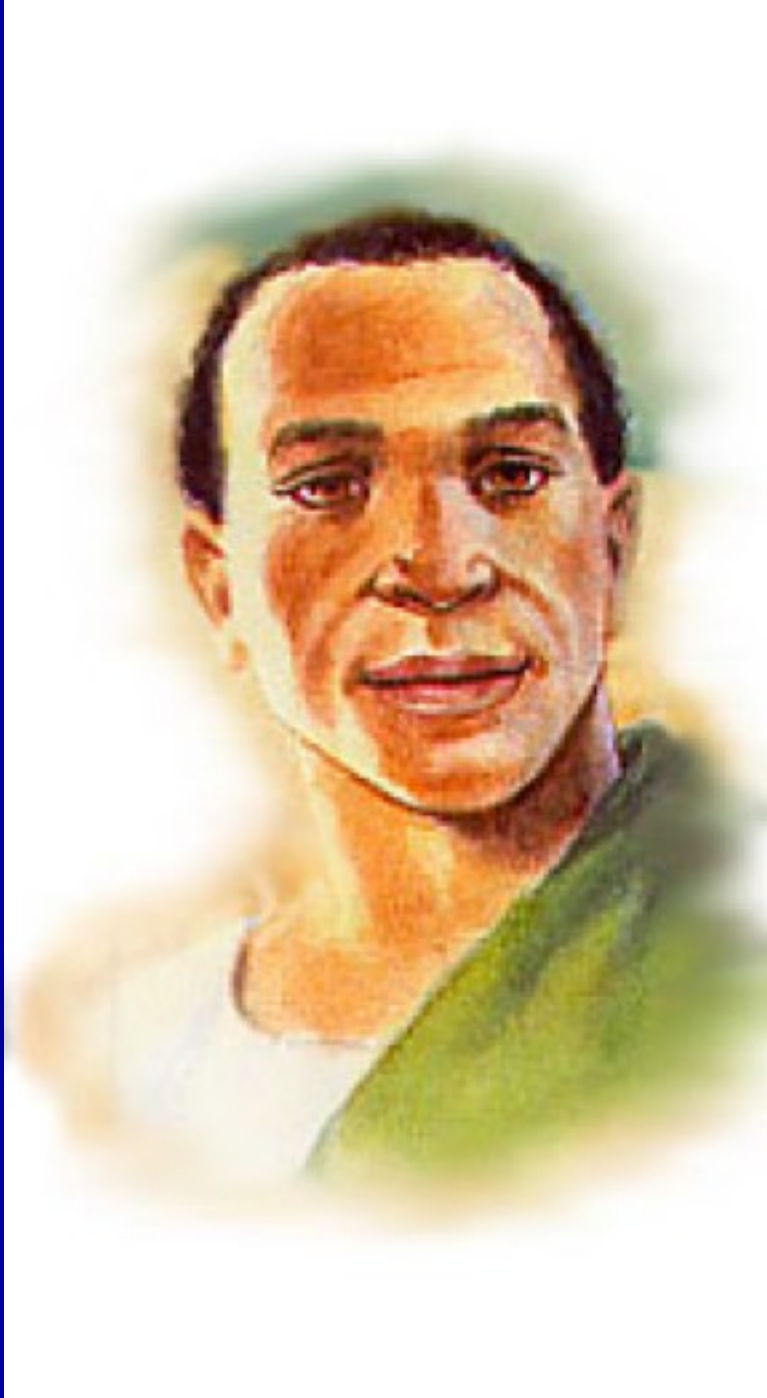
They adopted the Nicene Creed

heaven and on earth; who for us men and our salvation descended, was incarnate, and was made man, suffered and rose again the third day, ascended into heaven and cometh to judge the living and the dead. And in the Holy Spirit.

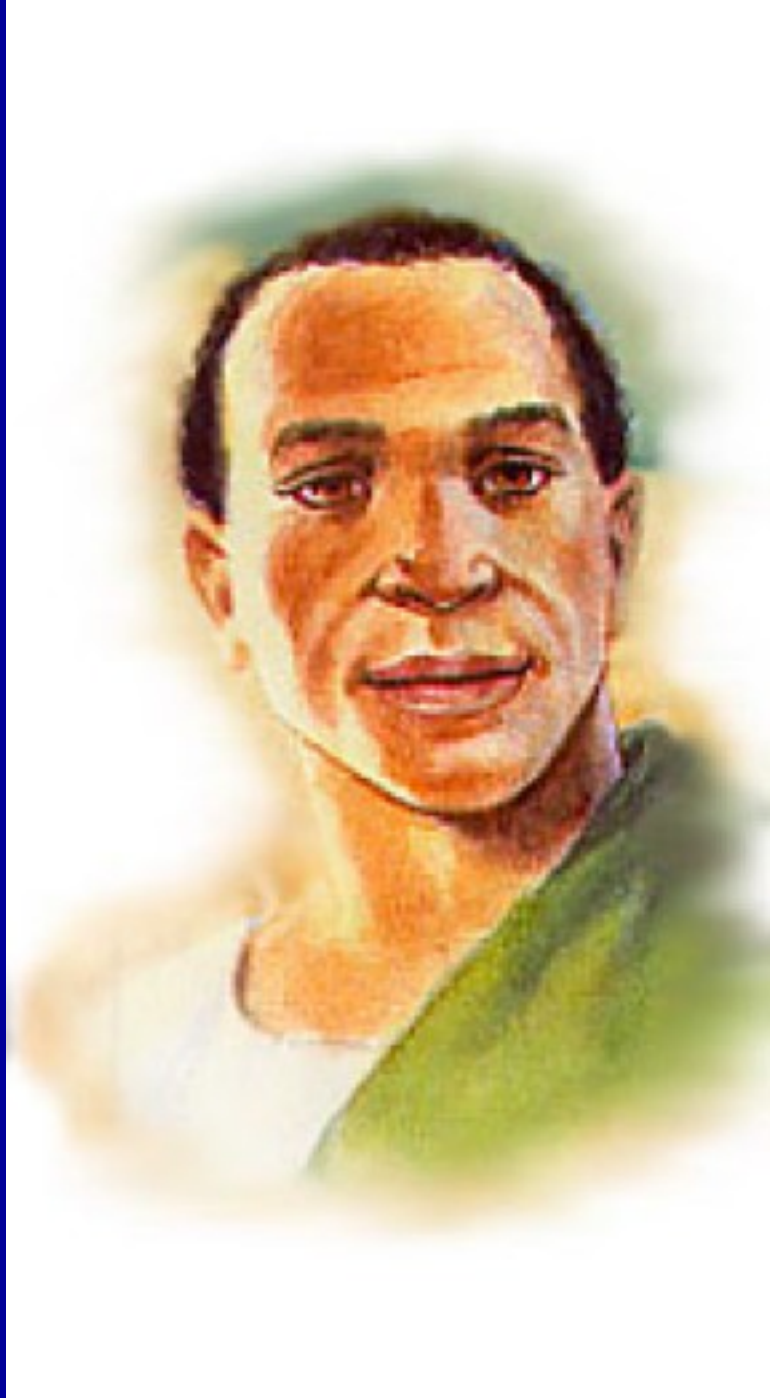
They adopted the Nicene Creed

Those who say: There was a time when he was not, and He was not before He was begotten; and that he was made out of nothing; or who maintain that He is of another hypostatsis or another substance, or that the Son of God is created, or mutable, or subject to change, the Catholic Church anathematizes.”





This was
nothing “new”



“All are of One, by unity of substance ... the unity into a Trinity ... the Father , the Son, and the Holy Spirit: three, however, not in condition, but in degree; not in substance, but in form; not in power, but in aspect; yet of one substance, and of one condition, and of one power.”



Why does Jesus say, “The
Father is greater?”

Points for Home

1. Church history is relevant today!

Points for Home

1. Church history is relevant today!
2. We can't know God fully, but we can know him truly.

Points for Home

1. Church history is relevant today!
2. We can't know God fully, but we can know him truly.
3. Remember God emptied himself.