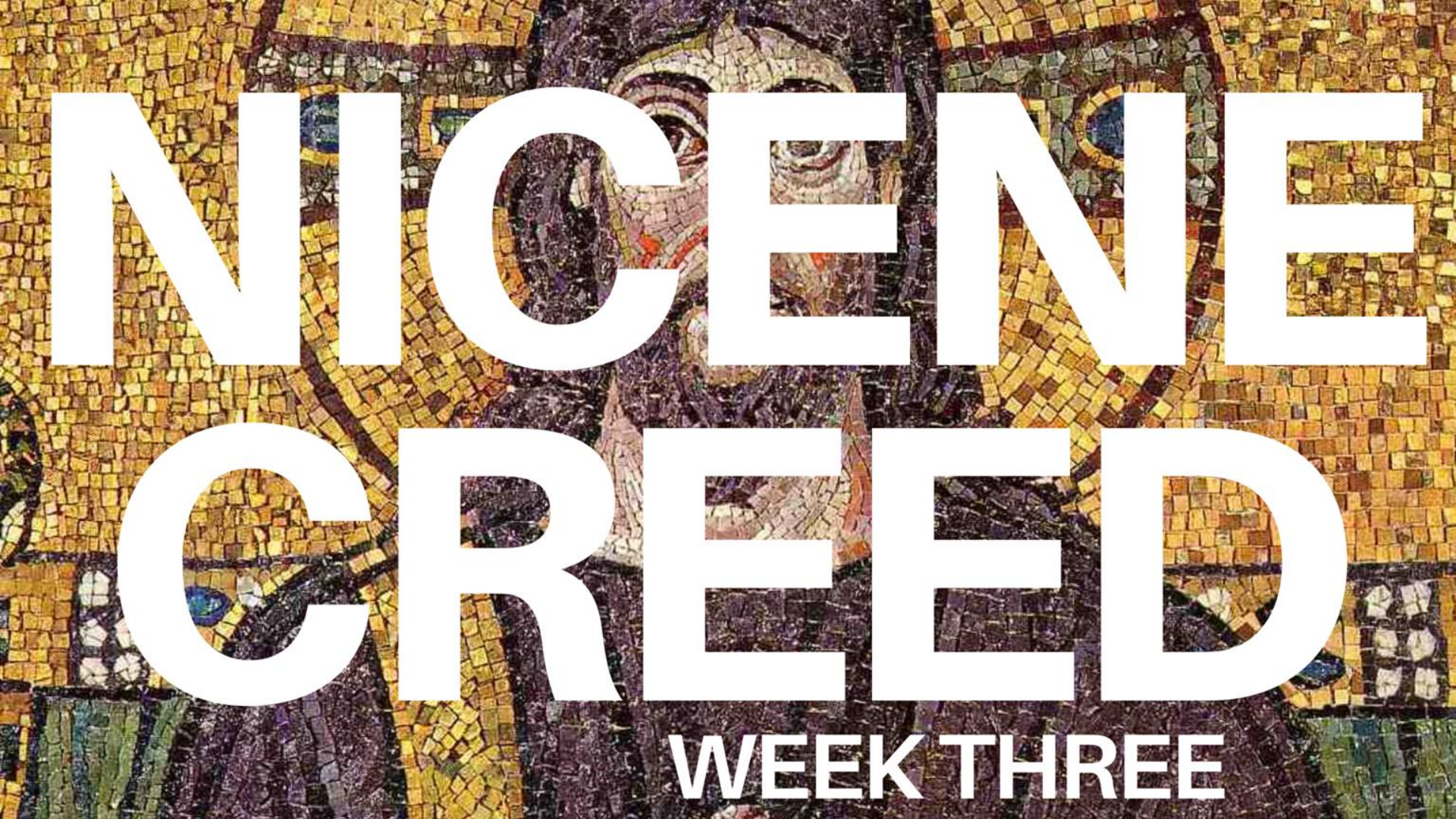


A detailed mosaic background featuring several faces, including a prominent one in the upper center with a halo, rendered in a style reminiscent of Byzantine or medieval art. The mosaic is composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of gold, brown, and purple.

NICENE CREED

WEEK THREE

Share a story of mistaken identity.

(Wrong name, wrong person, getting
details wrong about another person, etc.)

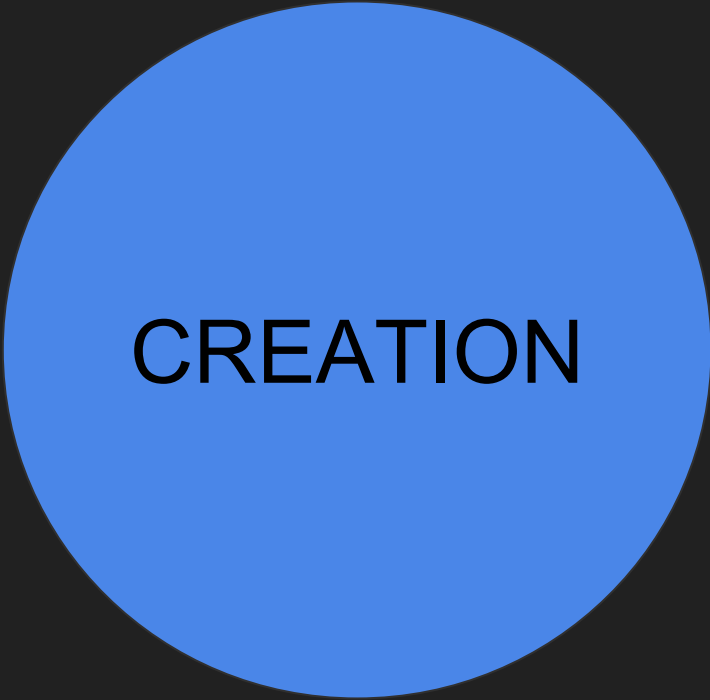
Let's Read the Creed

Recap

- Week 1: “We believe”
- Week 2: “In one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth”
 - God created it *all*
 - We are creatures
 - Because we know this, it makes our confession different from any non-Christian account of creation



GOD



CREATION

Reading

- Today: Mark Noll, *Turning Points*, “Nicaea and Doctrine”
- Next time: C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, “The Invasion”

Outline Today

1. Work through the Creed (pretty quickly)
2. Arius
3. Being Nicene

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made”

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ”

- What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord”?
 - κύριος / “Kurios”
 - κύριος = person in charge
 - κύριος = YHWH

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ”

- What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord”?

“It means that he has redeemed and released me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all misfortune. Before this I had no lord or king, but was captive under the power of the devil. I was condemned to death and entangled in sin and blindness.”

- Martin Luther, *The Large Catechism*, The Second Article

“the only-begotten Son of God”

- Read “begetting” as the first part of the Son’s story
- μονογενής / “monogenes”
 - Often used to describe an only-child
 - Luke 8:42, “for he had an *only* daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.”
 - John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his *only* Son,”

“begotten of his Father before all worlds”

Question: How do you understand this clause?

- It's time-oriented, “Before all *the ages*”
- Before time itself! It never started; it always was.
 - “The relationship of the Father and Son is more foundational to this universe than time!”
 - The thing at the basis of reality is the love of a father and his son!

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made”

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“God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,”

- God from God
 - Nature
- God from God
 - Relationship
- God from God
 - Source

*Adapted from Gavin Ortlund [Video](#)

“begotten, not made,”

- Simple mathematical terms:
 - Begotten $\neq$ made
- Made = creation
- Begotten = the nature of the relationship between Father and Son
 - Begetting something “makes” something of the same nature

“being of one substance with the Father;”

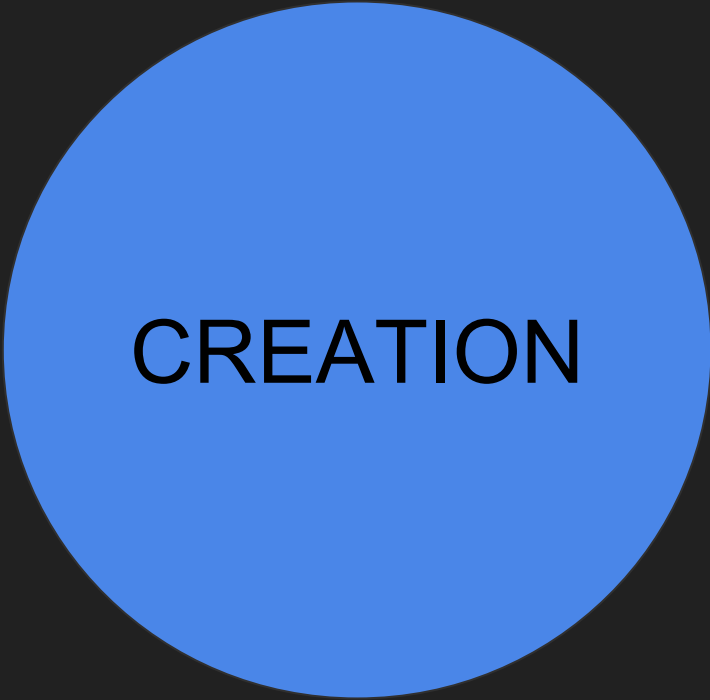
- THE Nicene-Arian distinction
- “Homooisious”
 - “Same being” or “same substance”
 - No, not Biblical language
 - Philosophy
 - Substance = the heart of the thing
 - Yes, it is Biblical theology

“by whom all things were made”

- God the Son is not an intermediary
- Look at the graph...



GOD



CREATION

Time to talk about Arius

- You who read, what did Arius think and teach?
- “Homoiousios”
 - “In a similar substance”
 - “Homooousios” was a term used by heretics!

Time to talk about Arius

- Arian Bible verses
- John 1:14, 17-18
 - Arius claimed John was making a distinction *in time*
 - John was making a distinction in *begottenness*
- John 10:30
 - There are verses that emphasize the unity of the persons *and* there are verses that emphasize the uniqueness of the persons

Being Nicene: What's at Stake?

- Who do you worship? Better get it right...
- What happened in the manger?
- What happened at Jesus' baptism?
- What happened on the cross?

Being Nicene: What's at Stake?

- There is a temptation to shrink Jesus
 - “Great teacher”
 - “Prophet”
 - “Homoiousios”
- Jesus is God!