

6. The Arians

Arius (A.D. 280-336) was a presbyter (elder) of the Church at Alexandria in Egypt, and a pupil of Lucian of Antioch (who carried on the legacy of Paul of Samosata). Arius, noting that Origen made the son of God essentially subordinate to the Father, asserted that the Son of God must either be God or be a creature, and that there was no third entity (*tertium quid*). Favoring God's unity, he declared that the Son was not divine in any sense, but was "a creation from nonbeing (κτίσμα ἐξ οὐκ ὄντων) and that "there was once when he was not" (ἦν πότε ὅτε οὐκ ἦν). Thus Arius viewed the Son as the first and very highest of all creatures, who was also the Word, the Logos. In the incarnation the Son entered a human body, and took the place of the human spirit. By this construction, Arius denied both the true deity and the true humanity of Christ. However, Arius did say that, in view of Christ's final glory, he may be called God, even though he is not.

