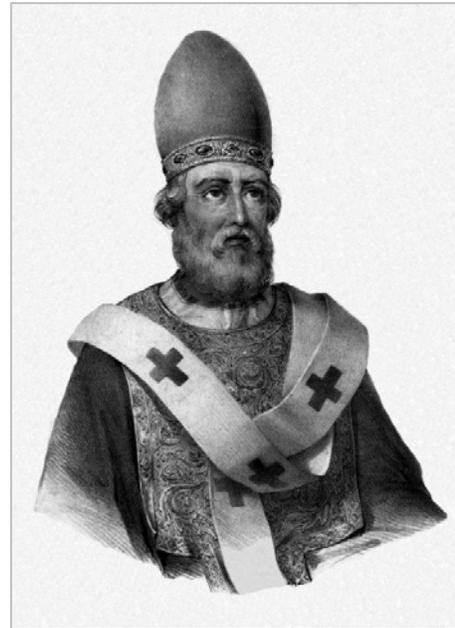


#773 Constantine the Great and Woodrow Wilson, II – The rule of Julian the Apostate and then the re-establishment of the spirit of Constantine leads to the Council of Laodicea, part 2

Jovian and Valentinian. Jovian, who was *not* a descendant of Constantius Chlorus or Constantine, replaced Julian the Apostate as emperor of the Roman Empire. **However, Jovian would reign in the spirit of Constantine. Under Jovian, Christianity was established as the state religion, and the labarum of Constantine again became the standard of the army.** Jovian only lived eight months after he began his reign (he died on February 17, 364), and was replaced by Valentinian, who also professed the Nicene Creed. Valentinian named his brother Valens, also a Christian, co-Augustus.

As ruler of the eastern part of the empire, Valens worked to solve the theological problems that arose during Julian’s non-Christian reign. **During this turbulent time, in 364 A.D., clerics assembled at the Council of Laodicea.**

[Note: Valentinian ruled the western empire from February 26, 364, to November 17, 375. Valens ruled the eastern empire from March 28, 364, to August 9, 378.]



Pope Damasus I was pope from 366 to 384. Born circa 305, his life coincided with the rise of Constantine the Great and the reunion and redivision of the Western and Eastern Roman Empire as well as what is sometimes known as the *Constantine shift* associated with the widespread legitimization of Christianity and the later adoption of Christianity as the religion of the Roman state.



Roman coin featuring Valens



(left) Aqueduct of Valens in Istanbul (old Constantinople), capital of the Eastern Roman Empire

Key Understanding: *Re-establishing the spirit of Constantine.* Theological problems that arose during Julian’s non-Christian reign stimulated the Council of Laodicea. The point is that the end of the Constantinian era under the pagan Julian and the re-establishment of the empire by Jovian under the *spirit* of Constantine are associated directly with the Council of Laodicea, adding to “the Father’s throne” links between the Laodicean church of Revelation 3 and the rise of Constantine in Revelation 6:2.

In the next Unsealing, we will start toward the Council of Laodicea.

For now, here are the key verses:

Revelation 3:21 (KJV) TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH [through the *Cross*] WILL I GRANT TO SIT WITH ME IN MY THRONE, EVEN AS I ALSO OVERCAME, AND AM SET DOWN WITH MY FATHER IN HIS THRONE.

Revelation 6:2 (KJV) And I saw, and behold A WHITE HORSE; and HE [Constantine the Great] THAT SAT ON HIM HAD A BOW; and A CROWN [of his father's (Constantius's) throne] WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM [at York]; and HE WENT FORTH CONQUERING, AND TO CONQUER. [Constantine sat on his earthly father's throne through the *Sword*. He conquered the entire Roman Empire and reigned on the earth in the name of the Heavenly Father.]

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