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HCH101
Athanasius of
Alexandria

My third week bio sketch will be on Athanasius of Alexandria. Also known as St Anthony, Athanasius the Confessor or Anothny the Great. "His parents died and left him to be taken care of by his sister at a young age." Athanasius was born in Alexandria, Egypt, during the latter part of the 3rd century. He is best known as the Bishop of Alexandria from 328 AD until his death in 373 AD, and he played a central role in the Arian controversy, which centered on the nature of Christ's divinity.

Throughout his life he faced opposition and faced five exiles. Even though these discouraging moments took place in his life he stood firm and defending the faith. His is known for his notable work on the incarnation and helped shaped the New Testament canon. He played a major role in defending the Nicene creed. He was present at the counsel of Nicea called by the Emperor Constantine in 325AD, here they discussed the doctrine of the trinity and especially the nature of the Son of Man.

He was and is known as a prolific writer. Some of his famous writings were on *the incarnation* which may be his most famous work, in which he defends the belief that Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human. "In this treatise, he articulates the necessity of the Incarnation for humanity's salvation." *Letters to Serapion*, in these letters, Athanasius further elaborates on the nature of the Holy Spirit, defending the Spirit's divinity against Arian claims that denied the Spirit's full deity. *History of the Arians*, this work was critical against Arianism and its spread, detailing the theological and political controversies surrounding Arianism and its opponents. *Apology Against the Arians in this defense*, Athanasius outlines the orthodox Christian position against the Arian heresy and defends the Nicene Creed."

Here are some of the reasons Athanasius was exiled for. This was one of the most interesting facts about him to me. (Being it was five times) One of the main was being accused of threatening to interfere with the grain supply from Egypt, and without any formal trail Constantine exiled him. He was exiled again when Arianism gained the upper hand in the area. He was also accused of treason and murder by his opponents. We can look up to him and his unwavering faith and commitment to truth.

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Em.m.wikipedia.org Athanasius of Alexandria

H.A. Drake, Grabs.library.duke.edu, Athanasius first exile (Santa Barbra California)1986