

## Church Fathers / Episode 7 / Basil of Caesarea

Video	Audio
	<p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p> <p>Hello and Welcome to this edition of Wisdom of the Fathers.</p>
Att. Picture of the Church (1).	The Catholic faith is one of rich intellectual tradition ... stretching all the way back to the time of Christ.
Att. Picture of the Ascension (2).	When Christ ascended into Heaven ... He left us a church that was in its infancy ... in its self-understanding.
Att. Picture of the Bible (3).	This infancy created a NEED within in the church for individuals to RISE UP ... think about ... pray over ... and meditate upon what God was revealing.
Att. Picture of Church Fathers (4).	The answer to this NEED was the Church Fathers ... certain individuals who were intellectual giants ... gifted with the ability to either break down an article of faith into its simplest form or develop it further.
Att. Picture of Catholics in the Pews (5).	They did this so we ordinary Catholics could understand the fullness of what Jesus was trying to purport to us in sacred scripture and apostolic tradition ... also known as the Deposit of Faith.
Att. Picture of Basil of Caesarea (6).	<p>In this seventh episode of Wisdom of the Fathers we're going to talk about St. Basil of Caesarea ... an initial Church Father.</p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p> <p>Now ... before we delve into an exhaustive treatment of his life ... let's step back and shine a light on the magnitude of this man.</p> <p>St. Basil was a model diocesan bishop.</p>



<p>Att. Picture of Turkey (10).</p>	<p>St. Basil the Elder ... was a famous rhetor. His mother ... St. Emmelia ... was a homemaker. He was born in the central part of modern day Turkey.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Gregory of Nazianzus (11).</p>	<p>Shortly after St. Basil was born ... his family moved to a town near Neocaesarea. There his father and grandmother educated him.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Constantinople (12).</p>	<p>In the course of his studies ... he met St. Gregory of Nazianzus ... who would become a lifetime friend.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Athens (13).</p>	<p>Together ... Basil and Gregory went on to study in Constantinople. After they completed their studies ... they moved to Athens. At 26 ... Basil left Athens to practice law and teach rhetoric. A year later ... St. Basil's life changed when he encountered Eustathius of Sebaste ... a charismatic bishop and ascetic. As a result of this newfound relationship ... Basil abandoned his legal and teaching profession and devoted his life to God.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Basil (14).</p>	<p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Palestine, Egypt, Syria, and Mesopotamia (15)(16)(17)(18).</p>	<p>After his conversion ... St. Basil received baptism. He then left for Palestine ... then Egypt ... then Syria ... finally settling in Mesopotamia to study ascetics and monasticism. Once his studies were completed ... he turned his attention to the communal religious life and founded a monastic settlement on his family's estate at Annesi in Pontus.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of ordination (19).</p>	<p>At 32 ... St. Meletius of Antioch as bishop ordained Basil a deacon. In 365 ... he was ordained a presbyter. Basil and Gregory Nazianzus spent the next few years combating the Arian heresy. During this time ... the two friends entered a period of close fraternal</p>

Att. Picture of Basil (20) and Gregory (21).

cooperation as they participated in a great rhetorical contest of the Caesarean church. The two contested with a number of Arian theologians who were formidably well-versed in rhetoric.

In the subsequent public debates ... Gregory and Basil emerged triumphant. This success confirmed for both Gregory and Basil that their futures lie in administration of the Church. Basil next took on the functional administration of the Diocese of Caesarea. At 40 ... Basil was chosen to succeed the Bishop of Caesarea and was consequently consecrated bishop on June 14, 370.

<<CAM 1>>

Att. Picture of Basil (21).

St. Basil the Great died on January 1, 379. He was said to be hot-blooded and somewhat imperious. Basil was also generous and sympathetic. He gave away his personal family inheritance to benefit the poor of his diocese. His works show that he actively worked to reform thieves and prostitutes. They also show him encouraging his clergy not to be tempted by wealth or swayed by the comparatively easy life of a priest ... and that he personally took care in selecting worthy candidates for holy orders.

Basil also did not shy away from criticizing public officials who failed in their duty of administering justice. Furthermore ... he built a large complex just outside Caesarea ... called the Basiliad ..., which included a poor house ... hospice ... and hospital ... which was regarded at the time as one of the great wonders of the ancient world.

Now that we have an understanding of who St. Basil of Caesarea was ... let's take

	<p>a look at what he had to say about the creation of the world and atheism.</p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Granite Background (for all quotes); change color of background for each quote.</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Basil of Caesarea on the World and Atheism</h2> <p><i>“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”</i> Deceived by their inherent <a href="#">atheism</a> it appeared to them that nothing governed or ruled the <a href="#">universe</a>, and that was all was given up to chance. To guard us against this <a href="#">error</a> the writer on the creation, from the very first words, enlightens our understanding with the name of <a href="#">God</a>; <i>“In the beginning God created.”</i> What a <a href="#">glorious</a> order!</p> <p>If then the world has a beginning, and if it has been created, enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was the Creator: or rather, in the <a href="#">fear</a> that <a href="#">human</a> reasonings may make you wander from the <a href="#">truth</a>, <a href="#">Moses</a> has anticipated enquiry by engraving in our hearts, as a seal and a safeguard, the awful name of God: <i>“In the beginning God created”</i>— It is He, beneficent Nature, Goodness without measure, a worthy object of <a href="#">love</a> for all beings endowed with reason, the beauty the most to be desired, the origin of all that exists, the source of life, intellectual light, impenetrable wisdom, it is He who <i>“in the beginning created heaven and earth.”</i></p> <p>One day, doubtless, their terrible condemnation will be the greater for all this worldly wisdom, since, seeing so clearly into vain sciences, they have willfully shut their eyes to the <a href="#">knowledge</a> of the <a href="#">truth</a> ... these men, I say, have</p>

	<p>discovered all except one thing: the fact that God is the Creator of the <a href="#">universe</a>, and the just Judge who rewards all the actions of life according to their merit.</p>
<p>Att. Russell on screen; no pictures or animations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p> <p>Well ... that's all for this episode! Thank you for tuning in to Wisdom of the Fathers!</p> <p>AND make sure to catch us next time ... where we discuss our next Church Father ... Barnabas and what he had to say about the way of light and the way of darkness.</p> <p>I'm Russell Voris. God Bless!</p>