



# Anomoeanism

In 4th-century Christianity, the **Anomoeans**<sup>[1]</sup> /ˌænəˈmiːənz/, and known also as **Heterousians** /ˌhɛtərəˈjuːzənz/, **Aetians** /eɪˈiːʃənz/, or **Eunomians** /juːˈnoʊmiənz/, were a sect that held to a form of Arianism, that Jesus Christ was not of the same nature (consubstantial) as God the Father nor was of like nature (homoiousian), as maintained by the semi-Arians.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Overview

The word *anomoean* comes from Greek ἀ(v)- (*an-*) 'not' and ὅμοιος (*omoios*) 'similar', thus 'different; dissimilar'. In the 4th century, during the reign of Constantius II, this was the name by which the followers of Aëtius and Eunomius were described. The term *heterousian* derives from Greek ἕτεροούσιος, *heteroúsios* 'differing in substance' from ἕτερος, *héteros* 'another' and οὐσία, *ousía* 'substance, being'.

The semi-Arians condemned the Anomoeans in the Council of Seleucia, and the Anomoeans condemned the semi-Arians in their turn in the Councils of Constantinople and Antioch; erasing the word ὅμοιος (*omoios*) from the formula of Rimini and that of Constantinople and protesting that the Word had not only a different substance but also a will different from that of the Father. From that, they were to be called ἀνόμοιοι (*anomoioi*).

In the 5th century, the Anomoean presbyter Philostorgius wrote an Anomoean church history.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Notable Anomoeans

- Aëtius, who founded the Anomoean tradition, later bishop (361–?).<sup>[4][5]</sup>
- Theodulus, bishop of Chaeretapa (?–c. 363) and Palestine (c. 363–c. 379).<sup>[6][7]</sup>
- Eunomius, bishop of Cyzicus (360–361) and exiled bishop (361–c. 393).<sup>[5][8]</sup>
- Paemenius, bishop of Constantinople, (c. 363, at the same time as Eudoxius of Antioch).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Candidus (Bishop of Lydia), (c. 363–?).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Arrianus, bishop of Ionia, (c. 363–?).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Florentius, bishop of Constantinople, (c. 363–?, at the same time as Eudoxius of Antioch).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Thallus, bishop of Lesbos, (c. 363–?, at the same time as Eudoxius of Antioch).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Euphronius, bishop of Galatia, the Black Sea and Cappadocia, (c. 363–?).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Julian, bishop of Cilicia, (c. 363–?).<sup>[9]</sup>



Eunomius of Cyzicus, from the Nuremberg Chronicle

- Serras, Stephen, and Heliodorus, bishops of Egypt, (c. 363–?).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Philostorgius, historian.

## Notable opponents of Anomoeanism

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- Basil of Caesarea, bishop of Caesarea, and author of *Against Eunomius*.
- Gregory of Nazianzus, archbishop of Constantinople, prolific writer and orator. *The First Theological Oration. A Preliminary Discourse Against the Eunomians*. (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf207.iii.xiii.html>)
- Gregory of Nyssa, bishop of the Cappadocian town of Nyssa and brother to Basil of Caesaria. *Against Eunomius* (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf205.viii.i.iii.i.html>) (12 books) and *Answer to Eunomius' Second Book* (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf205.viii.i.ii.html>).

## See also

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- Archbishop Nectarius of Constantinople
- Homoeans, in contrast to the Anomoeans
- Arianism
- Arian controversy

## Notes

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1. also spelled "**Anomeans**"
2. Encyclopædia Britannica: "Anomoean" (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/26596/Anomoean>)
3. Philostorgius, *Church History*.
4. Philostorgius, in Photius, *Epitome of the Ecclesiastical History of Philostorgius*, book 7, chapter 6.
5. Socrates Scholasticus, *Church History*, book 2, chapter 35.
6. Philostorgius, in Photius, *Epitome of the Ecclesiastical History of Philostorgius*, book 8, chapter 2 and book 9, chapter 18.
7. Socrates Scholasticus, *Church History*, book 2, chapter 40.
8. Philostorgius, in Photius, *Epitome of the Ecclesiastical History of Philostorgius*, book 5, chapter 3 and book 6, chapters 1–3.
9. Philostorgius, in Photius, *Epitome of the Ecclesiastical History of Philostorgius*, book 8, chapter 2.

## References

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- First edition Encyclopædia Britannica [issued 1768-1771]
- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Chambers, Ephraim, ed. (1728). *Cyclopædia, or an Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences* (1st ed.). James and John Knapton, et al.  {{cite encyclopedia}}: Missing or empty |title= (help)



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