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*How Ulfilas became an Arian Bishop?
Contribution to the Christian
Prosopography of the
Dioecesis Thraciarum*

The life of the Gothic bishop Ulfilas is quite well attested in several sources (first of all Philostorgius, Socrates Scholasticus, Sozomenus, Theodoretus, Auxentius of Durostorum and Jordanes) and in its basic features are known to us. For this reason, this paper will not deal with the bishop's life, but will rather try to shed light on the circumstances in which Ulfilas became an Arian bishop and a follower of the Homoian doctrine. These events will be analyzed through the historical importance taken by Ulfilas, not only among the Tervingi or as their bishop, but also as an agent of the Empire, in the context of the initial development of the Constantinopolitan Patriarchate. Special attention will be paid to the following events: Constantius' invitation of Ulfilas to Constantinople and his consecration as a bishop by Eusebius of Nicomedia in 341, the settlement of the new bishop and his followers around the city of Nicopolis ad Istrum in 348, his participation at a council of Constantinople in 360 and his third presence in the city in 381, while the council which was going to consecrate the Nicene doctrine as the official faith of the Empire was organized.