

he not abandoned Christianity and become a pagan and a persecutor of the Christians. He labored to restore the old worship, thus sacrificing to his hatred and passion all political interests.

Valentinian, now Emperor, kept the West to himself and gave the East to his brother, Valens. Valentinian who was just, wise, and thoroughly Christian in his life successfully defended the West against the invasions of the barbarians, but in the East, Valens was conquered and killed by the Goths.

The barbarians made alarming headway, but Theodosius the Great, at first master of the East only but later of the West, prevented the downfall of the whole Empire by his victories over the Visigoths.

Theodosius proscribed Arianism and abolished all traces of pagan ceremonies in Rome. Still, history reproaches him with an act of cruelty inexcusable in a Christian

prince—the massacre of Thessalonica. After a riot in which the governor and several of his officers had been killed, Theodosius, yielding to an impulse of blind fury, gave the city over to the soldiers and within three hours, 7,000 persons were massacred.



Theodosius before Ambrose.