

Thalassius Senator in Konstantinople, Praefectus Praetorio per Illyricum, Archbishop of Caesareea of Kapadokia and Fighter at the 4th Ecumenical Synod in Chalcedon

**Fr. PhD Senior Lecturer MARIN COJOC,
University of Craiova,
marin.cojoc@yahoo.com**

Abstract

Thalassius was born in Caesareea of Kapadokia, was raised and educated in this city, as his precursor of the chair of Caesareea Capadociei, the archbishop Firmius writes. As a young man he embraced the military career and reached the title of *comes rei private* or *comes rei privatarum* as it shows in a law from 22nd of February 430, in the time of byzantine emperor Theodossius the second. After occupying this military position for 9 years, the authorities of Constantinople promoted him in 439 to the title of Praefectus Praetorio per Illyricum. Thalassius was in Constantinople in 439 when there were rumours that he would be chosen as Praefectus Praetorio of The East, when the patriarch of Constantinople, Proclus (434-447), elected and ordained him archbishop of the chair of Caesareea of Kapadokia in the vacant position of his precursor, archbishop Firmius. Thalassius was present at the Latrocinium council of Ephesus in 449. He also took part in the Council of Chalcedon in 451. The testimony of Pope Leon the Great he was still alive in 453 and is supposed to have died in 458. During the sessions of the fourth ecumenical synod, Council of Chalcedon, Thalassius was present and joined to the „Tomos” of Leon and kept the side of Anatolius of Constantinople besides other hierarchs such as: Maximus of Antioch, Stephen of Ephesus and other bishops from Thracia, Asia Minor and Syria. The illyrians, leaded by Anastasius of Thessalonice were also present. During the discussions of the 4th Ecumenical Synod in Chalcedon in the VII session (VIII in the greek version) of the acts of the council, Thalassius is cited on the 9th place, after the Anatolian patriarch of Constantinople. During the final decisions of the council, Thalassius became the defender of the decisions of orthodox faith, although at first he had restorts regarding the

immediate enactment of the 28th canon. Thalassius alongside Juvenal of Jerusalem followed the orthodox current and contributed decisively to the decisions of the fourth Ecumenical Synod in Chalcedon.