



Figure 130. The reconstruction of the medieval procedure for the dating of the First Oecumenical Council

simplicity of the calculations (involving a single arithmetic operation). Probably, the chronologists of the 15–17th centuries confined themselves to this method (where it was possible) and conducted no further investigations. Perhaps, had they been more attentive, we would now have a different chronology.

3.2. Matthew Vlastar's equinoxes and modern chronological tradition. We have already mentioned that the "Collection of the Church Fathers' Rules" of Matthew Vlastar contains an inaccurate theory of the spring equinox; Vlastar assumes that the equinox shifts at the rate of 1 day per 300 years, while the true rate of the shift amounts to 1 day per approximately 128 years (in the Julian calendar). Besides, Vlastar also uses a wrong date for the contemporary equinox: March 18 instead of March 12 (the spring equinox in the beginning of the 14th century fell on March 12).

But the chronology in Vlastar's book is based on the dates of equinoxes alone. Vlastar often does not cite direct dates but only gives the date of the spring equinox contemporary to the event and gives separately a table of spring equinoxes in years since Adam (since the creation of the world). Here is his table:

- 4156 (1351 B.C.) — March 27, Alexandrite noon;
- 4456 (1051 B.C.) — March 26;
- 4756 (751 B.C.) — March 25;
- 5056 (451 B.C.) — March 23 (in fact the equinox fell at the time on March 24);
- 5656 (148 A.D.) — March 22 (true: March 21);
- 5956 (448 A.D.) — March 21 (true: March 19);
- 6256 (748 A.D.) — March 20 (true: March 17);
- 6556 (1048 A.D.) — March 19 (true: March 14);
- 6856 (1348 A.D.) — March 18 (true: March 12).