

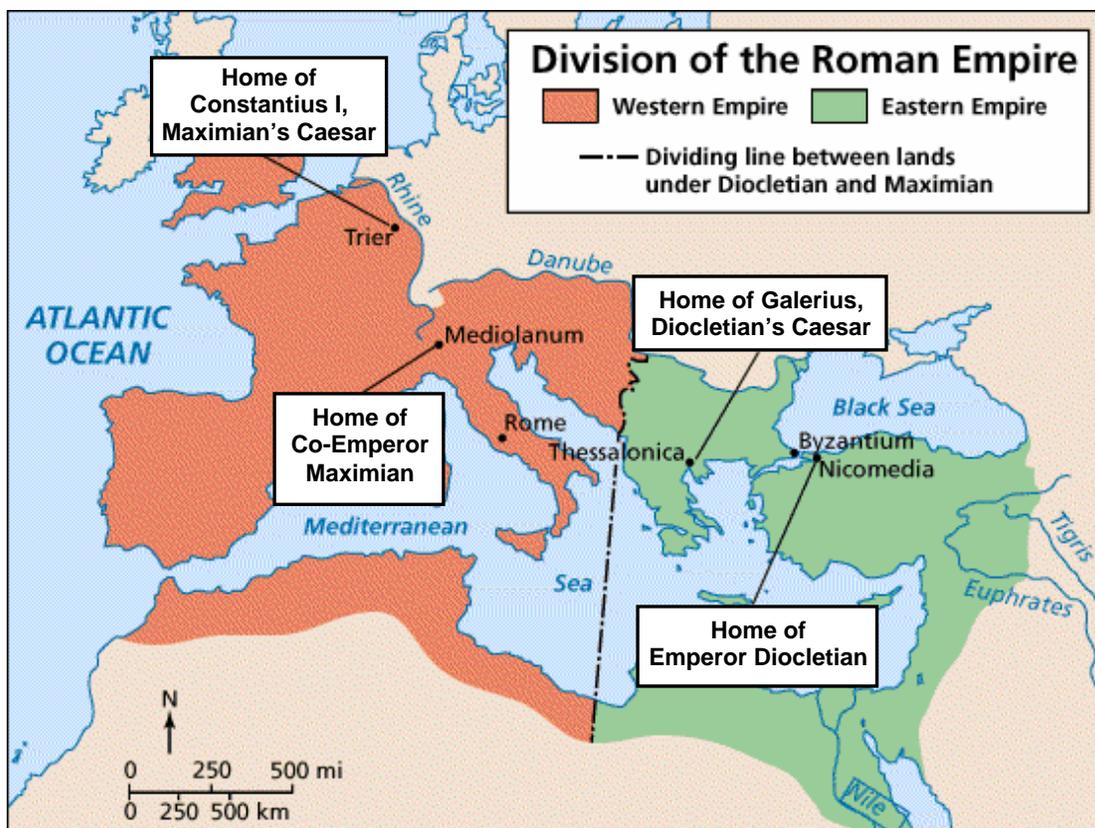
#38 The Legs of Iron – Diocletian’s Split, part 1, Diocletian Splits the Roman Empire

We are now focusing entirely on the *Legs of Iron* of the Roman Empire. After we learn about the *Legs of Iron*, we will concentrate in the future on the Feet and Toes.

Daniel 2:40 (KJV) And THE FOURTH KINGDOM SHALL BE STRONG AS IRON [the Legs of Iron Roman Empire]: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Key Understanding: Diocletian’s Split. Diocletian’s Split [note: this is our term], which began the dividing of the Roman Empire into East and West, and which would finally become official in 395 A.D., was to begin the fulfillment of prophecy of the two Legs of Iron of Daniel 2:40.

The understanding of the (two) Legs of Iron of Rome primarily shows the eventual *official* Split of the Roman Empire, into East and West, beginning in 395 A.D. However, a Split of the Roman Empire *for administrative purposes* occurred roughly 100 years earlier through the decision of the renowned **Roman Emperor Diocletian**, who ruled from 284-305 A.D.



Before the *official* split of the Roman Empire in 395 A.D., Roman Emperor Diocletian split the empire approximately 100 years earlier.

Diocletian's Split. Diocletian decided that the burdens of the huge empire were far too weighty for the shoulders of a single man. In the summer of 285, Diocletian therefore promoted another general – Maximian – to the position of a vice-emperor, and a year later to full imperial equality with the title of Augustus. Under the plan, **Diocletian would be responsible for the Eastern Provinces**, establishing Nicomedia (modern day Izmit, Turkey, a name which you may have heard of because a disastrous earthquake struck there on August 17, 1999) as the chief city in the Eastern Roman Empire, while **Maximian would rule over the West.** [This was shortly before the time of Constantine, who in 330 A.D. would soon be establishing the overall capital of the Roman Empire in the east, in a city rebuilt and renamed after him, Constantinople.]



Maximian would rule over the West.



Diocletian would rule over the East.

Then, a few years later, in 293 A.D., a second dividing occurred, with the East being divided into two parts (prefectures), and the West being divided into two parts, again for the purposes of administrative rule. So now there would be the rule of four emperors for a period of time.

The men ruling respectively the two newly divided parts of the East would be the **Augustus Diocletian**, with his subordinate named **Galerius**, who was given the title of **Caesar**.

The men ruling the two newly divided parts of the West would be the **Augustus Maximian**, with his subordinate **Caesar, Constantius**. [Constantius was Constantine's father.]

The Caesars were rulers over one-half of the territory in the West and East respectively, and were to subordinate to the higher authority of their Augustus. Augustus Diocletian claimed to exercise a paramount control.

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