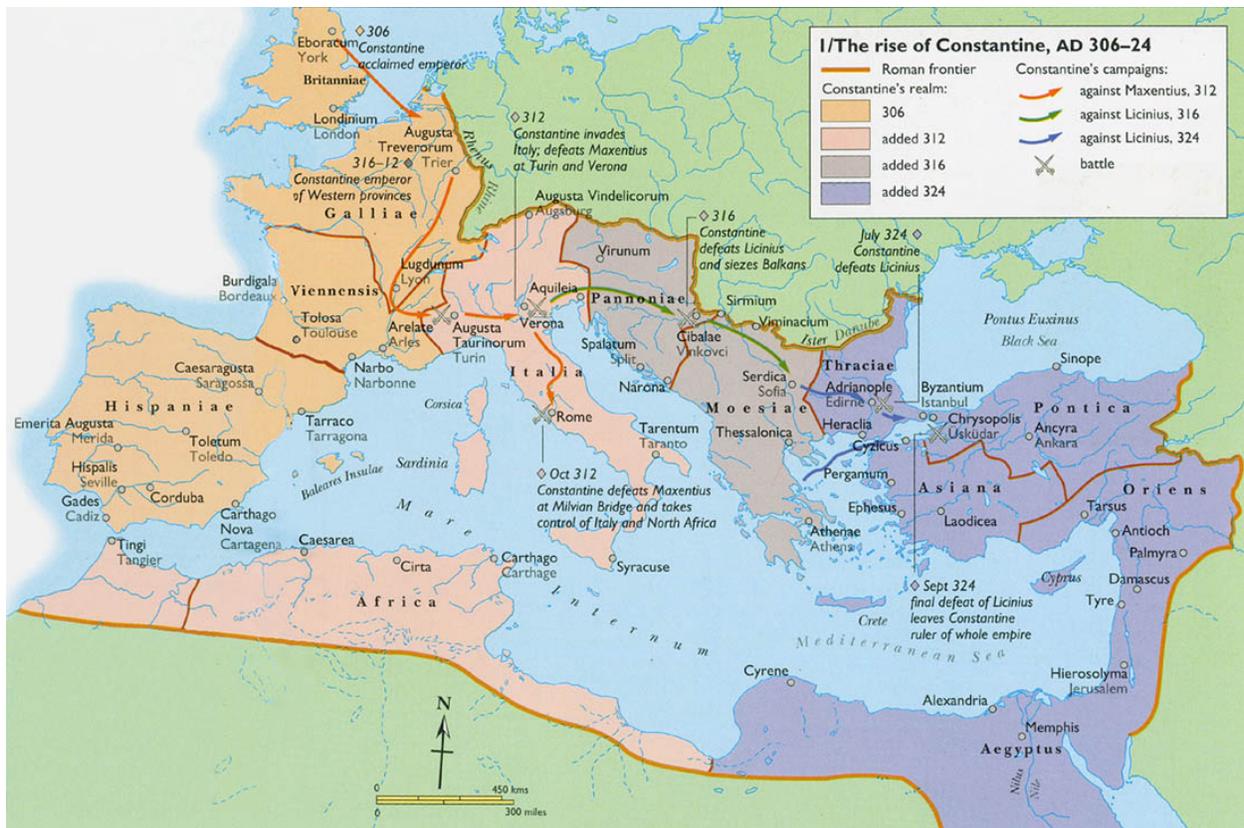


#41 The Legs of Iron – The Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire

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.

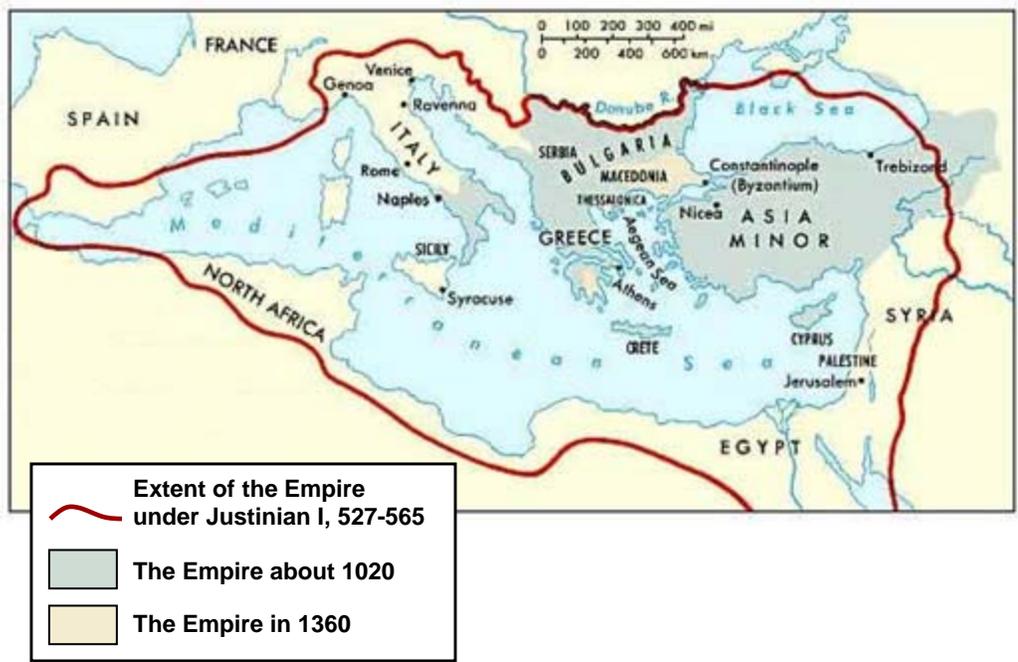
Key Understanding: *The Eastern Roman Empire is one of the legs of Rome. The Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire is reflected through one of the Legs of Iron of the Roman Empire of Daniel 2:40.*

The Byzantine Empire was a continuation of the Roman Empire. It is also known as the *Eastern Roman Empire* because it ruled what had been and remained the eastern part of the Roman Empire. In 306 A.D. Constantine the Great, the son of Constantius, became emperor of the Western Roman Empire. He became emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire in 324 A.D., and thus the Roman Empire became united under Constantine [but would divide again, *officially and permanently*]. Constantine would make his capital the city of Byzantium in 330 A.D., renaming it Constantinople. [The Byzantine Empire gets its name from the city of Byzantium, which can be seen on the map below. Magnify the map to 200% to see it more clearly.]



Some historians say that the Byzantine Empire was birthed with Constantine and the founding of Constantinople. Others claim it began in 395 A.D. with the *official and permanent* split of the Roman Empire after the death of Emperor Theodosius. The Western section of the empire was soon taken over by Germanic invaders. The Western Roman Empire collapsed in 476 A.D.,

although the Eastern Roman Empire would soon thereafter, but not permanently, rule over portions of the Western Roman Empire again. [The Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian, who ruled from 527 A.D. to 565 A.D., was determined to bring back the grandeur of the Roman Empire by regaining territory in the West, and he was successful. However, others who followed him were not successful in holding his territorial regains.]



The Byzantine Empire seems like a mass of confusion. The people of the Byzantine Empire called themselves *Romans*, because the Roman Empire had been ruling for so long. *Roman customs* flourished in the empire. **However, the Eastern Roman Empire was the territory of the great ancient Greek civilization that flourished in Greece and along the coasts of modern day Turkey just before the rise of the Roman Empire. So, their culture was Greek,** though their rule was considered Roman.

Finally, after Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, *the Byzantine Empire continually remained a Christian Empire*, with its Christianity eventually splitting from the Roman Catholic Church of the West, and developing into what is known as the Greek Orthodox Church. The Byzantine Empire would survive for a millennium, ending in 1453 A.D. when the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople.

Here is **#41–Doc 1**, maps of the size of the **Byzantine Empire** at various points in time over a millennium. The captions underneath are quite informative.

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