

#42 The Legs of Iron – Constantine the Great

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: Constantine the Great. Constantine the Great can be said to be the originator of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, reflected as one of the Legs of Iron of the Roman Empire of Daniel 2:40, for he Christianized what would become the Eastern Roman (Byzantine and Greek Orthodox) Empire. It is important for the true Christian to understand that Constantine the Great's victorious warring militarily under the sign of the cross, and joining of the Church with the Roman Empire, actually placed him in the position of an Antichrist figure, though the Greek Orthodox Church would consider him a Christ figure. Constantine the Great is Antichrist in spirit because the joining of Church with State destroys the true meaning of the true gospel of Jesus Christ, whose kingdom was/is not of this world, and whose doctrines were/are heavenly kingdom doctrines.

[Note: While opinions differ on whether the Byzantine Empire should date from Constantine establishing Constantinople as the capital of the Roman Empire in 330 A.D., or from the *official and permanent* Division of the Roman Empire in 395 A.D., it is entirely clear that *if one appropriately considers the religious aspect* of the Byzantine Empire, meaning that it was actually a religious/political Greek Orthodox/Byzantine Empire, then the beginnings have to be considered to have sprung from Constantine.]

Below is a part of the entry from *World Book Encyclopedia* on Constantine. Note the predominance of Christianity in association with Constantine:

Constantine the Great was the first emperor of Rome to become a Christian. He is also known as Constantine I. He was born about A.D. 275 and died in 337. During his reign, Christians regained freedom of worship, and the Christian church became legal. The Eastern Orthodox Churches [Greek, Russian, Serbian, etc.] regard Constantine as a saint. He rebuilt Byzantium (now Istanbul, Turkey), renamed it Constantinople, and made it his capital. He shifted the Roman Empire's strength from Rome to the eastern



Illustration of the Conversion of Emperor Constantine by Ewing Galloway

The story was that a sign appeared to the Roman Emperor Constantine as a light in the noon-day sky. At the same time, he heard the words, *In Hoc Signo Vinces* (In this sign you shall conquer). He took this as a sign from God and decided the shape drawn by the light should be an emblem for his military. This emblem became known as the *labarum* (*below*).



provinces and thus laid the foundation of the Byzantine Empire.

Constantine made many gifts to the Christian Church, including huge estates which he gave to the church in Rome. He built the first great Christian cathedral, the Lateran Basilica in Rome. He built other famous churches in and near Rome, and in Constantinople, and in Jerusalem.

Here is **#42–Doc 1**, the story on the decisive **Battle of Milvian Bridge**, where Constantine is said to have received his miraculous vision of battling under the sign of the cross. Leading up to this, Constantine’s father, Constantius, who had become emperor of the far western provinces in 305 A.D., died in 306 A.D. His army proclaimed Constantine, his son, as successor. Soon the system started by Diocletian of shared rule between two senior emperors (Augusti) and two junior emperors (Caesars) broke down completely. Seven claimants struggled for power over the vast Roman Empire. As a part of all of this, Constantine attacked Maxentius, his major rival in the west. Constantine, a pagan at the time, later told of how a vision before the battle had promised him victory if he fought under the sign of the cross.



*The Final Battle at Milvian
Bridge in 312 AD
by Pat Nicolle*

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