

## #44 The Legs of Iron – The *Religious Threads* of the Legs of Iron created the Holy Roman Empire and the Russian (Orthodox) Empire

*Daniel 2:40 (KJV) And THE FOURTH KINGDOM SHALL BE STRONG AS IRON [the Legs of Iron Roman Empire, extending through the Western Roman Empire, which ended in 476 A.D., and the Eastern Roman Empire, which ended in 1453 A.D.]: 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 Point:** *The religious threads of the Legs of Iron created the Holy Roman Empire and the Russian (Orthodox) Empire. While the respective political governmental powers of the Western Roman Empire and Eastern Roman Empire met their demise in 476 A.D. and 1453 A.D. respectively, religious threads in the empires did not meet their end. The religious threads of the Roman Catholic Church and Greek Orthodox Church were soon adopted as Christian Empire extensions of the ‘old’ Western Roman Empire and the ‘old’ Eastern Roman Empire. In essence, as history moved along, there became a Christian Roman (Catholic) Empire of the West, and a second Christian Roman (Greek Orthodox) Empire of the East.*

### The Christian Roman Empire of the West – The Holy Roman Empire

The Western Roman Empire, which ended in 476 A.D., had as its successor the Roman Catholic so-called Holy Roman Empire, beginning in 800 A.D. with Charlemagne.

The extension of the departed Western Roman Empire, which would then continue (inherit) the historical and prophetic ‘Legs of Iron’ role of the departed Western Roman Empire, was birthed in 800 A.D., through the crowning on Christmas Day of Charlemagne, the most famous ruler of the Middle Ages, by Roman Catholic Pope Leo III. Charlemagne was proclaimed Emperor of the Romans, many historians claiming that this empire was the birth of what later would become known as the **Holy Roman Empire**, in essence meaning a Holy Roman *Catholic* Empire. The Holy Roman Empire would thrive and dominate Europe religiously and politically for the next 1000 years.

The coronation of Charlemagne, Christmas Day, 800 A.D.



Here is **#44–Doc 1**, a map that shows the extent of Charlemagne’s Empire, which is claimed by many historians to be the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire. [Note: The *political* seat of the

empire for the next 1000 years would generally be located in Germany and Austria, so the *political* seat moved north, while the *religious* seat, the Papacy, remained in Italy.]

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What we will concentrate on first, however, is the Christian Roman Empire of the *East* that replaced the Byzantine Empire in the continuation of one of the legs of the ‘Legs of Iron.’ Let’s introduce it.

### **The (second) Christian Roman Empire of the *East* – The Russian Empire**

The extension of the departed Eastern Roman Byzantine Empire (Eastern Greek Orthodox in faith), which continued (inherited) the historical and prophetic ‘Legs of Iron’ role of Daniel 2:40, became the **Russian Empire**, protector of the Russian Orthodox Church, which had as its direct roots the Greek Orthodox Church of the Byzantine Empire.

**Key Understanding:** *The Russian Tsars inherited the political/military torch for the Eastern Orthodox faith. After the fall of the Byzantine Empire at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in 1453 A.D., the Greek Orthodox Church, with its chief patriarch at Constantinople/Istanbul, had no more political/military power of its own on behalf of the Eastern Orthodox faith. The Russian Tsars inherited the political/military torch for the Eastern Orthodox faith in general, and considered themselves the protectors of the true faith of Jesus Christ, meaning the Russian Orthodox faith, and protectors of the true church of Jesus Christ, meaning the Russian Orthodox Church.*



**In fact, the Russians referred to Moscow, after the fall of Constantinople (the Second Rome), as the Third Rome.** That comes next in our understanding.

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