

#46 The Legs of Iron – The First and Last Emperors of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire

At this point in time, let's just look at the big picture of the First and Last Emperors of the Eastern Roman, or Byzantine, Empire. Here is **#46–Doc 1**, which shows the massive list of Byzantine Emperors over the course of a millennium. At this time, we are discussing only the first and last, to see the role of the Byzantine Empire in Daniel 2:40. **Our primary purpose is to summarize the roles of Constantine I, the Great, and Constantine XI, as concerns the establishment and demise of the Eastern Roman Christian (Greek Orthodox Byzantine) Empire.**

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Constantine I, the First Emperor of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. Constantine the Great not only was the First Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, but it was his decisions, not another's, that established the Roman Empire as a so-called Christian Empire [though this is scripturally impossible].



Constantine XI, the Last Emperor of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. Constantine XI died on May 29, 1453, defending Constantinople. He discarded his royal clothes during the battle when he knew his end was near, and so he was buried in a mass grave.

Constantine XI, the last Byzantine Emperor at the battlements, dawn of the 29th May of 1453 by Iannis Nikou

Key Understanding: *The role of the family of the last Byzantine Emperor in establishing Moscow as the seat of the new Rome. Constantine XI also posthumously played a role in the establishment of the Russian Empire as a continuation of the defeated Byzantine Empire, through his Byzantine niece Sophia's marriage in 1472 to Ivan III, the Great, the Grand Duke of Moscow, who was "gathering the Russian lands" into a Russian Empire under the control of Moscow.*

Ivan III Vasilevich (January 22, 1440 – October 27, 1505), also known as Ivan the Great, was a grand duke of Muscovy (Moscow) who first adopted a more pretentious title of the "grand duke of all the Russias." Sometimes referred to as the "gatherer of the Russian lands," he quadrupled the territory of his state, claimed Moscow to be the Third Rome, built the Moscow Kremlin, and laid foundations for the Russian autocracy. He was the longest-reigning Russian ruler ever.

*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. **The Leg of Iron of the Eastern Roman Empire was further extended to include the life of the Russian 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.**

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