

#48 The Legs of Iron – Holy Russia; Vladimir I Baptizes Kiev

*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.*

Below is **#48–Doc 1**, which includes a map showing the proximity of what was called Kievan Rus (this was in the 11th century) to the Byzantine Empire. [Click on the map in the **Original Source of #48–Doc 1** to enlarge it once the page opens.]

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Key Understanding: *When Russia became holy.* Russia was to become known as “Holy Russia” because of its conversion to the Orthodox faith, and it began with Vladimir I of Kiev. The specific event that signified the acceptance of the Greek Orthodox faith was a mass simultaneous baptism in the Dnieper River of all of the people of Kiev.

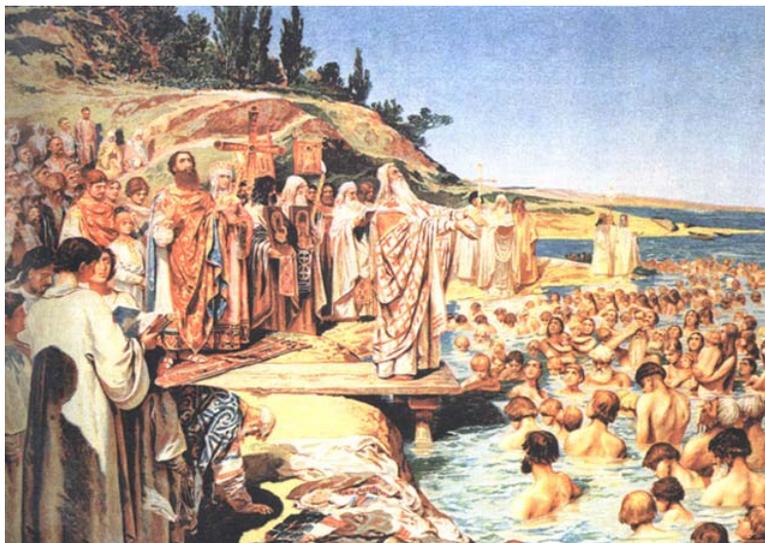
The baptism of the people of Kiev in the Dnieper River.

Vladimir sent heralds throughout the city ordering everyone to come the next morning to the Dnieper to be baptized.

Vladimir’s order included: ‘If anyone does not come, let him consider himself my foe.’ This was enough and the entire population of Kiev showed up at the Dnieper at the break of day.

Vladimir was there, and Anna, and chaplains and clerical reinforcements from the Byzantine Empire. Three times a bishop asked the people if they

renounced Satan. They said ‘Yes’. Have you united yourselves to Christ? They said ‘Yes’. After this oath of allegiance the clergy turned toward the Dnieper River and blessed its waters. They dipped the fingers of their right hands into the water and traced the sign of the cross over it. The entire river was now holy, and the people could enter. The younger remained closer to the bank. The older waded further out.



The Baptism of Kievans, a painting by Klavdiy Lebedev

Looking toward the east, they immersed themselves three times, once in the name of the Father, once in the name of the Son, and once in the name of the Holy Spirit. They then clambered back to shore, shivering in the autumn air, but feeling that a new life had begun for them. Vladimir is said to have lifted his eyes to heaven and extended his arms over the people praying, “O God,

who hast created heaven, earth, sea and all that is in them! Look down upon these thy new men, and cause them to know Thee who are the true God, even as other Christian nations do . . .”
Russia had become “Holy Russia”.

The *above* content was condensed from *Vladimir the Russian Viking*, by Vladimir Volkoff, © 1984, pages 230-242.



St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Kiev, Ukraine, built in the 19th century to commemorate the 900th anniversary of Prince Vladimir I baptizing the Kievans in the Dnieper River and making Christianity Russia's official state religion.

Here is **#48–Doc 2** to simply show that there has been a book written with the title *The Third Rome: Holy Russia, Tsarism, and Orthodoxy*.

[Click here](#) for **#48–Doc 2**

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<< [Previous](#)

[Main Page and List of Unsealing Summaries](#)

[Next](#) >>