

#49 The Legs of Iron – Ivan IV, and Moscow as the Third Rome

Moscow as the Third Rome was first promulgated by Ivan III. His reign (1462-1505) as the Grand Duke of Moscow and creator of the Muscovite consolidated Russian state began shortly after the 1453 Fall of Constantinople. Ivan III, called Ivan the Great, married Sophia, the niece of Constantine XI, the last Byzantine Emperor.

The term “Third Rome” became popular after a Russian Orthodox Monk, Philoteus (Filofey), wrote a letter to the Czar in 1510 with the famous quote:

“All the empires of Christendom are united in thine, for two Romes have fallen and the third exists, and there will not be a fourth. No one will replace your Christian Tsardom!”

Key Understanding: *Ivan IV and Moscow as the Third Rome.* Ivan IV had Byzantine blood in him as he continued the legacy of Moscow as the Third Rome.



Ivan IV, the Terrible. The grandson of Ivan III and Sophia was Ivan IV, the Terrible. For our purposes, we should understand that **Ivan IV had Byzantine blood in him as he continued the legacy of Moscow as the Third Rome.** Ivan IV was the first to assume the actual title of Tsar of Russia. Ivan officially made Moscow the capital of Russia. While being crowned the first Tsar of Russia in 1547, Ivan IV again proclaimed Moscow to be the Third Rome. In fact, there is a prominent 1945 Soviet movie titled *Ivan the Terrible, part I*, where the film begins with the crowning of Ivan IV as Tsar. At the ceremony, Ivan speaks of his plans to lessen the power of Russia’s nobility and to unify all the Russian lands under one Tsar, protected by one army, and then follows with the words, **“Two Romes fell. The third – Moscow – stands. Never shall there be a fourth. Of the third Rome – the realm of Muscovy – I am henceforth the sole and absolute ruler.”** [Incidentally, the Soviets wouldn’t release *Ivan the Terrible, part II*, made in 1946, until 1958.]



Ivan the Terrible

Russia expanded into Siberia under the rule of Ivan the Terrible. Ivan was crafty and cruel. His secret police spread terror throughout the country. In 1581, Ivan IV beat his pregnant daughter-in-law for wearing immodest clothing. Upon learning of this, his son, also named Ivan, and inheritor of the throne, engaged in a heated argument with his father, which resulted in the son’s death (probably accidental) on November 16, 1581. This is depicted in the famous oil painting

(pictured) by Ilya Repin commonly known as *Ivan the Terrible killing his son*. The killing would bring about the extinction of his own dynasty, and have an enormous bearing on the future of Russia. After Ivan IV's death in 1584, his second son was such a weak ruler that there was a breakdown of the Tsar's powers and others intervened. Russia descended into what is known as the "Time of Troubles".



Ivan the Terrible and His Son Ivan on November 16, 1581
by Ilya Repin

[The advent of the Romanov Dynasty in 1613 ended the so-called "Time of Troubles". The Romanov Dynasty would rule Russia for 300 years, from 1613 to 1917, when Lenin's Bolshevik Revolution ended the Tsarist Russian Empire for good.]

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**].

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