

## #52 The Legs of Iron – The Great Schism of the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches

**Key Understanding:** *The Great Schism of the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches.* In the foreground of the Divided Legs of Iron of Daniel 2:40 of the *Eastern Roman Empire* and the *Western Roman Empire* is what historians call “the Great Schism” of *Eastern (Greek and Serbian and Russian Orthodox)* and *Western Christendom (Roman Catholicism)*. [Obviously then, the very words “Great Schism” reveal the Daniel 2:40 role of the Division of the Greek Orthodox Church from Roman Catholicism.]

The “Great Schism” is quite a complex story, but for our purposes, just to know that it existed helps us to move along in prophecy as concerns Daniel 2:40.

The suggestion is that *over a reasonable course of time*, as we continue to progress, the following two sources be read about the Great Schism, since we will not cover much of the details otherwise. The contents of **#52–Doc 1** (*below*) and **#52–Doc 2** (*below*) provide a good overview.



**Pope Paul VI**, born Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini (who was pope from June 21, 1963 – August 6, 1978), meeting with Archbishop of Constantinople New Rome and (268<sup>th</sup>) Ecumenical Patriarch (from 1948 to 1972), **Athenagoras I**, January 5, 1964, in Jerusalem. This meeting led to rescinding the 1054 excommunications of the East-West Schism. This was a significant step towards restoring communion between Rome and Constantinople. It produced the Catholic-Orthodox Joint Declaration of 1965, which was read out on December 7, 1965, simultaneously at a public meeting of the Second Vatican Council in Rome and at a special ceremony in Istanbul. The declaration did not end the 1054 schism, but showed a desire for greater reconciliation between the two churches, represented by Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I. Nevertheless, not all Orthodox leaders at the time were happy with this Catholic-Orthodox Joint Declaration.

[Click here](#) for **#52–Doc 1**

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**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 (Eastern Orthodox) 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.*

Now let's move on to a very important part of the Great Schism, which was Pope Leo III's crowning of Charlemagne as Emperor of the Romans on Christmas Day, 800 A.D.

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