

#54 The Legs of Iron – Charlemagne Births the Holy Roman Empire

Charlemagne (pictured right) was probably the most famous ruler of the Middle Ages. He is a huge figure in European history. He conquered much of Western Europe and united it under one great empire – and it became a Christian Empire. He revived the political and cultural life of Europe, which had collapsed after the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 400's. Charlemagne, who was tall for the age, at 6'2", was the son of Pepin the Short, who was king of the Franks. After Pepin died in 768, and Charlemagne's brother's death in 771, Charlemagne became sole ruler of what are now Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and part of western Germany. Charlemagne then began to expand his kingdom immediately, conquering Lombardy (northern Italy) and Bavaria (southern Germany). His bitterest campaign was against the Saxons, who lived in northwestern Germany. He subdued the Saxons after about 30 years of war and forced them to accept Christianity. [These were the Saxons still left on the continent. In the 400's and 500's, many Saxons had invaded Britain, conquered the Celts, and settled in southern and western Britain.]



Charlemagne's Empire. By 800, Charlemagne's realm extended from central Italy north to Denmark, and from eastern Germany west to the Atlantic Ocean. Throughout his reign, Charlemagne followed a policy of friendship and cooperation with the Christian (Roman Catholic) Church. He protected the Church and continually extended its power. In recognition of Charlemagne's vast power, and to strengthen the king's alliance with the church, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Romans on Christmas Day, 800.



Key Understanding: *Charlemagne's Empire became the extension of the former Western Roman Empire. It was the Roman Catholic religious thread of the Western Roman Empire that extended the Leg of Iron of the Western Roman Empire beyond 476 A.D., when barbarian forces deposed the last emperor of the West. The Leg of Iron of the Western*

Roman Empire was extended through the (unofficial) birth of the Holy Roman Empire by Charlemagne in 800 A.D.

*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 Western Roman Empire was extended to include the life of the Holy Roman Empire, begun by Charlemagne in 800 A.D. Its political power was generally German-based in the earlier centuries, and Austrian-based in the later centuries through the Habsburg Dynasty.** In the meantime, 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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Here is **#54–Doc 1**, another map of **Charlemagne's Empire in 800**. Similar to what is seen on the map *above*, note the Papal States, located just south of the Lombardy region that Charlemagne conquered. It was certainly expedient for Pope Leo III to crown him as the Christian Emperor of a new Christian Empire which many historians claim was the birth of the Holy Roman Empire.

[Click here](#) for **#54–Doc 1**

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#54–Doc 2 is another map that is helpful to view the approximate **lands of Charlemagne's Empire and the lands of the Byzantine Empire**.

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