

#56 The Legs of Iron – The Split of Charlemagne’s Holy Roman Empire

Key Understanding #1: *The split of Charlemagne’s Holy Roman Empire.* After Charlemagne’s death, his empire was divided among his grandsons into the parts that would become France and Germany.

Charlemagne died in 814. His empire started to fall apart, weakened from attacks by Vikings and other invaders. In 843, in what was called the Treaty of Verdun, Charlemagne’s grandsons received an empire divided into three parts. In general, one can see those three parts as being the general basic shapes of what would become modern day France, Germany, and the northern portion of Italy.

Again, the modern nations of France and Germany essentially came from this division of Charlemagne’s Empire. What would become France was received by the grandson named **Charles I (the Bald)**. What was east of the Rhine River and would become Germany was inherited by the grandson **Louis II**. A third grandson, **Lothair I**, received the middle kingdom, a narrow strip that extended from the North Sea to central Italy.



 *The Division of Charlemagne’s Empire. Internal tensions, dynastic competition, and external pressures led to the disintegration of Charlemagne’s empire and the emergence of what would become France and Germany.*

Next, to make the point even more clear about France and Germany, let’s look at **#56–Doc 1**, a map circa 1000 A.D., showing the two kingdoms which were developing into France and Germany adjacent to one another. [This map also nicely shows the Byzantine Empire and the realms of Kiev.]

[Click here](#) for **#56–Doc 1**

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Key Understanding #2: *The second Split.* The Split of Charlemagne’s Empire is prophetically important as concerns Daniel 2:40, for it was the *second Split* of what we are calling the *Double Split* of the Roman Empire. We will clarify that next.

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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