

## **#66 The Legs of Iron – The Holy Roman Empire took an initial step toward an Austrian-based future with the election of Rudolf Habsburg in 1273**

**The Habsburgs.** The name *Habsburg* comes from one of the family's first castles, the Habichtsburg (Hawk's Castle), built about 1020 in Switzerland. After a period of disorder in the Holy Roman Empire, **the German princes in 1273 elected Rudolf I of the Habsburg (or Hapsburg) family of Switzerland as emperor. Three years later, Rudolf conquered Austria, which became the Habsburgs' new home.**



Habichtsburg (Hawk's Castle) in Switzerland  
– smaller beginnings for the Habsburgs

**Key Understanding:** *The beginnings of an Austrian-based Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Empire began its trek toward an Austrian-based future with the 1273 election of Rudolf Habsburg as the Holy Roman Emperor.*

The Austria that Rudolf conquered is similar to the Austria that is seen on the map *below* in **#66–Doc 1 of the Holy Roman Empire during the time of Barbarossa.**

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At that time, it was a part of the southeastern edge of the large (German) Holy Roman Empire. The Austria of the German Holy Roman Empire of the 1200's comprised the eastern portion of present day Austria.

Next, look at **#66–Doc 2, the Map of the Holy Roman Empire in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.** The Habsburgs made Vienna, Austria, their capital. [Note how close Vienna is to the border of the Magyars, or Hungarians. The Ottomans would soon overrun much of Hungarian territory.]

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The Habsburgs would hold the title of Holy Roman Emperors almost continuously from 1438 to 1806. [The Habsburg Austrian-Hungarian Empire would finally dissolve with the events of World War I.]

**Because of the evolution of the Holy Roman Empire from mostly German to mostly Austrian, both Germans and Austrians viewed themselves as the natural seat of the Holy Roman Empire.** In general, there has always been a close kinship between the Germans and Austrians for that reason. Adolf Hitler himself was born in Braunau, Austria, just across the Inn River from Germany. He was a German speaking Austrian. He spent much time in Vienna, Austria. The Austrian Army in 1913 had called for a physical examination, but he was found unfit for service. After World War I began in August 1914, Hitler volunteered for service in the

German Army and was accepted. Later, as dictator of Germany, Hitler would invade Austria in March 1938, making it a part of Germany. The point of these facts is to note the “doubles” of Germany and Austria as the seats of power of the Holy Roman Empire, and the Lord ordained that those “doubles” also be evidenced in the life of Adolf Hitler.



Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, summer home of the Habsburgs, represents the increased glory of the Habsburgs. The Habsburgs would hold the title of Holy Roman Emperors almost continuously from 1438 to 1806.

***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, including that of Charlemagne, King Otto I and Frederick Barbarossa, **but more 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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