

#514 The Rise of Michael the Archangel – *The Time of Troubles*, part 3, The Deaths of Ivan the Terrible’s Three Sons – first Ivan, then Dmitri, and finally Feodor – lead to *The Time of Troubles*

Preface. *The Time of Troubles* for Russia would have much to do with Poland vs. Russia – and even specifically Roman Catholic Poland (as it is today) having a great desire to force Roman Catholicism upon Eastern Orthodox Russia. A Polish-Lithuanian kingdom was a great power at this time, actually encompassing large parts of White Russia (Belarus) and the Ukraine, which later would become a part of Russia. Let’s get to the story.

The Time of Troubles. Ivan IV’s semi-accidental murder in 1581 of his eldest son (*right*) – also named Ivan – left only the feeble-minded second son, Theodore (Feodor in Russian), and a third son, a young child, Dmitri, as the last of the Rurikovich line. Upon Ivan IV’s (Ivan the Terrible’s) death in 1584, Theodore took the throne, but was a terribly weak tsar. His wife’s brother, Boris Godunov, became the real decision-maker for Russia. Theodore would reign from 1584 to 1598. In the meantime, in 1591, young Prince Dmitri,



Ivan the Terrible murdered his son Ivan



Somebody murdered young Prince Dmitri, here, at Uglich Palace. Dmitriy was found dead a few steps from his residence.

who would have been heir after Theodore, was found dead with his throat slit. Godunov sponsored an investigation, but many suspected Godunov himself of having the prince assassinated. The investigation determined that the boy had been playing with a knife, and had stabbed himself during a fit of epilepsy. When Theodore died in 1598, there was no legitimate heir to his throne. A parliament with little power elected Boris



Boris Godunov ruled

Godunov as tsar, thus ending the long-standing Rurikovich bloodline on the throne.

Famine hit Russia in 1602-1603. Millions died. Many believed God was punishing Russia for its sins. Eyes turned to Boris Godunov. In the meantime, rumor spread that Dmitri had not been killed after all – that Godunov had killed an impostor while the real prince escaped, soon to return. Answering the cry of the Russian people, a young man claiming to be Dmitri, the son of Ivan IV, had surfaced, ready to take the throne that was “rightfully” his. He is known to history only as False Dmitri, but would indeed sit on the Russian throne in a few years hence, albeit

briefly, as if he was the real Dmitri. [The story of *The Time of Troubles* is continued in the next Unsealing.]

Key Understanding: *The Time of Troubles* in Russia in the early 1600's was a part of the fulfillment of Daniel 12:1.

Daniel 12:1 (KJV) And at that time SHALL MICHAEL [the Archangel] STAND UP, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be A TIME OF TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

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