

#516 The Rise of Michael the Archangel – The Time of Troubles, part 5, A Second False Dmitri

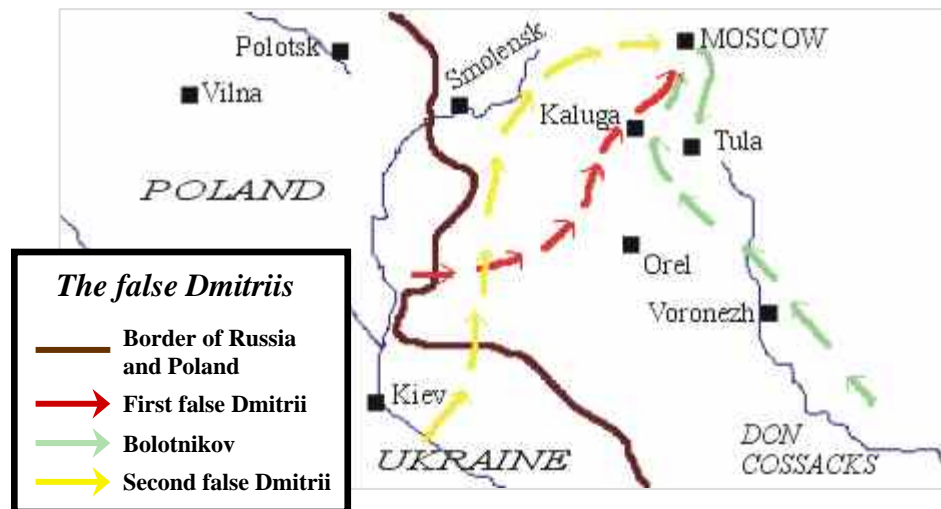
[This continues the story of *The Time of Troubles*.]

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.*

Within 14 months, Russia knew four tsars: Boris Godunov, Feodor Godunov, False Dmitri, and finally Vasili Shuisky.

Tsar Vasili Shuisky's reign was perhaps the most complicated period of early Russian history. Rebellion and civil war were its hallmarks; literally dozens of rebel leaders gathered armies of peasants and nobles alike, attempting to take Moscow, to no avail. The rebel armies suffered inevitable quarrels and schisms; the tsar remained the master in a sea of bickering factions. Many rebels fought not only against Tsar Vasili, who was viewed as a back-stabbing usurper, but against the entire social structure of ownership and nobility. Throughout the period, minor uprisings of slaves and peasants against their lords were also commonplace.



Several new pretenders to the throne appeared. The southern cities brought forth a False Peter claiming to be a son – an *entirely imaginary* son – of Feodor I, and thus the grandson of Ivan the Terrible. A second False Dmitri surfaced, claiming to be both the original Dmitri and the first False Dmitri who had defeated the Godunovs (and was killed by the Russians) despite his lack of resemblance to either. This False Dmitri II (known to historians as the Felon of Tushino) set up a government mimicking the one in Moscow, to which much of Russia swore its allegiance. For a while, Tsar Vasili Shuisky and this “Tsar Dmitri” ran Russia together, each taking taxes, settling criminal matters, etc.

Tsar Vasili Shuisky, growing desperate, formed an alliance with Sweden, which sent its army into Russia and shattered the Felon's troops, ending his 13-month siege of the St. Sergius monastery. The years that immediately followed saw Tsar Vasili deposed, the death of the Felon, and several foreign claims to the throne, including one from Poland and two from Sweden. In 1610, Poland would actually occupy and control Moscow.



False Dmitry II's camp at Tushino

[The story of *The Time of Troubles* is continued in the next Unsealing.]

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