

#36 The Legs of Iron – The First Phase of the Legs of Iron, the Division of the Roman Empire into East and West

Before we get to the *FEET* which are *PART OF IRON AND PART OF CLAY* [see Daniel 2:33 *below*], we must better understand the *LEGS OF IRON* [see also Daniel 2:33 *below*] of the Roman Empire. Let's begin here.

Key Understanding: *The Division of the Roman Empire into East and West.* The understanding of the (two) Legs of Iron of Rome primarily shows the eventual Split of the Roman Empire, into East and West, beginning in 395 A.D. [However, there are different phases of the split, and that is important to the understanding of history and prophecy. Be patient and you will see the entire picture come together.]

The Split in 395 A.D. was the *official* splitting of the Roman Empire. [The unofficial Diocletian's Split was roughly 100 years earlier.] The Western Roman Empire was already weakened by this point in time, and in fact the Roman Emperor Constantine had actually moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Italy to a small city named Byzantium, renamed Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey), years before, in 330 A.D.



The division of the Roman Empire, ca. 395

What happened to the Western Roman Empire? The **Western Roman Empire** continued to weaken, and fell in 476 A.D., after tribes such as the Vandals, Visigoths, and other Germanic peoples invaded the territory of the Western Roman Empire, such as Spain and Gaul (France).

What happened to the Eastern Roman Empire? The **Eastern Roman Empire**, with its capital at Constantinople, **survived as the Byzantine Empire for over 1000 years**, until 1453 A.D., when the Turks of the Ottoman Empire captured Constantinople. It is important to note, and we will address it, that the Byzantine Empire was the *political* empire of the *religious* Eastern (Greek) Orthodox Church. In other words, the Byzantine Empire was the Eastern Roman Empire, and considered itself as such, but was at the same time the political/religious empire of the Eastern (Greek) Orthodox Church and believed that it was defending the true church and the true faith of Jesus Christ.



The Byzantine Empire, 476 A.D.

[Note: Both the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire fell (in 476 A.D. and 1453 A.D., respectively), so where does that leave *the continuation of the legs of the Roman Empire*? That is the key question which we will be addressing soon.]

THE DREAM

*Daniel 2:31-33 (KJV) Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.
32 This image's HEAD WAS OF FINE GOLD [Babylon], HIS BREAST AND HIS ARMS OF SILVER [Media-Persia], HIS BELLY AND HIS THIGHS OF BRASS [Alexander the Great's Greece],
33 HIS LEGS OF IRON [Roman Empire], HIS FEET PART OF IRON AND PART OF CLAY.*

THE INTERPRETATION

Daniel 2:40 (KJV) And THE FOURTH KINGDOM SHALL BE STRONG AS IRON [Roman 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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