

public apology and penance for this quick act..and emperor complies (390). He ruled the empire by himself from 392 until 395 and on his demise his sons took office.

Western Emperors (to 476)

Honorius, Theodosius' son, ruled in the west after 395 and with the aid of a guardian, the capable Stilicho, until 423. While Theodosius had been good at both military and diplomatic skills, the boys seemed to lack in these areas. In 423 the rule passed to Valentinian who was only six years old at the time and naturally the office was run by manipulators, family members, etc. The position remained under his trust until 455 and the territory of the Italian peninsula gradually suffered more and more from barbarians even though the city of Rome had relative calm. Note the progress of the barbarian attacks as follows:

- 410, Visigoths (Alaric) sack Rome
- 412, Goths take control of most of France.
- 413, Vandals and Franks invade northern Italy
- 420, Angles, Saxons, end Roman rule in England
- 425, Vandals subdue Rome in a raid
- 451, Attila the Hun on the peninsula
- 476, Ostrogoths end western Roman empire.

We will note more in this period with regard to Valentinian and Leo I of Rome in a later section.

Eastern Emperors (to 476)

Arcadius ruled in the wake of Theodosius and was succeeded by Theodosius II in 408 and his rule continued to 451. His early period of rule was under tutors but he showed himself a person of ability and developed into an able and energetic Christian leader although his faith would move towards less orthodox expressions as he lived. Succeeding him was Marcian (to 457), under whose aegis the fourth ecumenical council was called. He and Leo (to 474) spent a lot of time defending the Balkans but the eastern empire due to their skill stayed fairly intact through this time. It had a much better and more established government than did the west. We will see it disappear slowly in time, bit by bit, until the Islamic forces bring it to an end in 1453.