

Odoacer or Odovacar the chieftain of the Germanic Heruli people 435 -493 AD ruled Rome 476-493 AD. His people had been mercenaries for Rome. Odoacer revolted deposing the last Roman emperor in the West Romulus Augustulus. Zeno the emperor in the East a friend of the pope was anxious to drive out Odoacer and the Heruli. Zeno sent Theodoric the king of the Ostrogoths to overthrow the Herulian kingdom. This was accomplished after 5 years war in 493 AD Statue depicting the baptism of Clovis King of the Franks at his conversion to Roman Catholicism in 496 AD. His "desire" to spread his new religion and to ruin Christian kingdoms which refused to bow to the Catholic version of thinking seemed to be the aim of this "convert" ruler. He moved on to take the kingdom of the Visigoths and routed them in 507. Thereafter, in 508, Clovis was declared the "eldest son of the church". In 533 AD Justinian passes a decree to give the Pope absolute and total authority over the ecclesiastical world . Justinian sends Belisarius his general to start war on the vandals. The Vandals were one of the two remaining Arian Powers preventing the way for the Pope to take over the political seat of Western Rome where the Caesars once ruled before Constantine moved the emperors seat to Constantinople in the East. They Vandals were destroyed by Belisarius in 534 AD Belisarius drove out the Ostrogoths from Rome in 538 AD tipping the balance of power in favour of the pope against Arian domination. When Theodoric died in 526 the new king of the Ostrogoths, Totila, regained most of the territory gained by Belisarius. Rome was taken in December 17, 546 AD and recovered by Belisarius in the following February. Totila took Rome again in 549 AD but in 552 AD Narses delivered the city forever from Gothic domination.