

FROM OUR PASTOR

March 26, 2016

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

Where is John III Sobieski? The nations of Europe, indeed all of Western civilization, need him to stand up now, but he is nowhere to be found. Who was John Sobieski? From 1674 until his death in 1696 he was the elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, the most notable monarch of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. He was the man who saved Western Civilization and Europe in 1683. Without this one man with clear vision, determination, and courage the history of the world would have been vastly different.

In 1683 the Ottoman Turks under Kara Mustafa invaded southern Europe, with the announced goal of “establishing a Muslim caliphate over all of Europe.” Mustafa understood that the crown city of Vienna was the key. If that city fell, the continent would follow. Defending the city were troops of a confederation of Austrian, German, and a mix of other nations. They were outnumbered 5 to 1 by the invaders as the siege began. Their leaders were fearful and unsure what to do. Compromise and surrender was discussed. An urgent call was sent to Poland for help. Most of his advisors told Sobieski not to risk losing his army, but Sobieski understood the enemy and what was at stake. He moved his army at record speed and arrived at Vienna just as the city was about to fall.

Sobieski ordered a full attack on 12 September. On early morning of that day, the united army of about 65,000 attacked a Turkish force of about 115,000. Sobieski, 54, was likely the oldest man in the fight, but he led his men with a fierceness that men want to follow. At 5:30 pm, Sobieski entered the deserted tent of Kara Mustafa and the Battle of Vienna ended.

The Pope and other foreign dignitaries hailed Sobieski as the "Savior of Vienna and Western European civilization." In a letter to his wife, he wrote, "All the common people kissed my hands, my feet."

This past week the world witnessed another bloody terrorist attack, this time in Brussels. The speeches and statements of world leaders sounded much the same as they did after the attacks in New York, London, Barcelona, Paris, and other cities in recent years. They spoke of resolve, unity, and sharing intelligence. President Obama visited the Castro brothers in Cuba and then went to Argentina for some Tango dancing. It is as if they believe words will somehow defeat those sworn to destroy civilization.

If you study Sobieski, you find that he always understood the enemy he faced. He did not pretend the enemy would go away or be defeated by words or good intentions. Many in Europe today are awaiting a new leader that will face the enemy with strength, not words.

Revelation 13 is a prophecy about the final stage of the old Roman Empire. A man of great strength, determination, and courage is described in these verses as coming quickly on the scene and saving civilization. He gains control of most of the world and brings in economic prosperity for a short time. Another Sobieski?

An Isis terrorist from Belgium, named Delefortrie, recently stated in an interview that “his dream is to live under an Islamic caliphate” that would soon become a reality in Europe. ISIS’s brand of militant Islam would not be denied, he said, because “ISIS is not a group, it’s an ideology.” (FUSION.net March 23, 2016)

Many Europeans are aware of the real threat and will unite behind a strong leader who promises to protect them.

The predictions in Daniel’s visions and Jesus Christ’s Revelation to John are more likely today than ever. The vast majority will not understand what is taking place. But some will. As Daniel’s final words recorded, “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried. But the wicked shall do wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” (Daniel 12:10)

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