

## From Our Pastor

### October 28, 2017

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

Europe is changing rapidly. The soon to be Chancellor of Austria will be thirty-one-year-old foreign minister Sebastian Kurz. Rising to his nation's highest post will make him the world's youngest leader, beating the notorious Kim grandson in North Korea by a debated number of years.

Nationlinterest.org reported, "Kurz is "slick and opportunistic, the polar opposite of Angela Merkel," the German chancellor, in style and deed, ..... "The anti-establishment mood is strong everywhere, but especially in Austria," Kurz is "a young careerist" in the mold of Emmanuel Macron, current president of France. "When party brass told him to wait his turn, he turned on its leadership and made full use of its unpopularity to fashion a Macron-style candidacy... His huge network of younger contacts was a huge asset."

Kurz is joining a growing list of very young elected leaders on the continent. Emmanuel Macron, thirty-nine, is Kurz's most prominent peer, but Alexis Tsipras, forty-three, of Greece and Spanish opposition politician Pablo Iglesias, thirty-nine, are other examples. Others are waiting and planning. What most of the younger political leaders agree on is stopping the rampant immigration of refugees from Africa and the Middle East. They chafe to see their society being turned into a quagmire by the leaders of the past decade and want to stop it.

Meanwhile, Spain appears to be on the brink of civil war. Catalan lawmakers voted Friday to declare independence from Spain, as Madrid vowed in turn to "restore legality" and quash the region's secessionist bid. Catalonia is a region of northern Spain. It is about the size of Belgium and accounts for 16 percent of Spain's population and a fifth of its economic output. On Friday the regional parliament in Barcelona passed a resolution to "declare Catalonia an independent state in the form of a republic" while a large crowd cheered outside.

Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy responded immediately, urging "all Spaniards to remain calm". "The rule of law will restore legality in Catalonia," he tweeted immediately after controversial vote.

Any historian will tell you that revolutions do not go well in Europe. France 1787? Russia 1917? England 1642? Most of Europe 1848? Spain 1936? Germany 1929-31? Just to name a few. All resulted in terrible wars and bloodshed. The current Catalan secession in Spain may or may not result in a war, but what is for certain is that the old Europe is being replaced by a new and very different one.

The coming world government is described as "a beast rising out of the sea," (Revelation 13:1). The sea pictures waves, wind, and turmoil. As political events run out of control and people sense a coming time of violence and upheaval they will call for a strong leader to control events. Napoleon Bonaparte rose out of the chaos of 1790's France, Julius Caesar from the civil wars that almost destroyed Rome in 49-47 BC, and many others that could be named. Who will bring stability to the growing instability in Europe?

Revelation and Daniel both foretell a loose confederacy of ten nations (Daniel 2: 41-42, Revelation 13:1) that will rise from the soil of Europe and will be a combination of church and state. Events are happening fast. We need to be aware of these political developments as Jesus warned, " Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! (Mark 13: 28-29).

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