**when a king becomes a beast**

(Revelation 17:7-18)

(Map of current dictatorships in 2018.)

People have often wondered how democratic forms of government, such as we have here in the United States, can turn into dictatorships (such as happened in the 1930’s when Germany was transformed from a democracy into a dictatorship under Hitler). How in the world can that happen?

Daniel Baker, who has an MA in European History from George Mason University, wrote that democracies become dictatorships in essentially three ways. One way is by **Internal imposition**—a large enough group of dissatisfied citizens bands together and overthrow the government illegally by the use of force. Many democracies have collapsed in this way historically.

Another way democracies become dictatorships according to Baker is by **Constitutional takeover**. A dictatorship takes power legally, usually with at least some democratic support, and within the constitution. The Weimar Republic in Germany before Hitler is the most famous example. Jim Powell at the *Forbes* website wrote the following in 2013 regarding Hitler’s legal takeover in Germany:

…bad policies caused economic, military and political crises – chow time for tyrants. German circumstances changed for the worse, and when people become angry enough or desperate enough, sometimes they’ll support crazies [like Hitler] who would never attract a crowd in normal circumstances.

A third way that democracies become dictatorships according to Baker is by **Foreign conquest.** “A dictatorship invades and conquers a democracy, then either ruling it directly or imposing a dictatorial government.” In WW2, Hitler conquered France, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and other countries and took control (of course, later, this was reversed in all of these countries).

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If you are a student of Bible prophecy, you are already aware that in the seven- year period before Jesus’s Second Coming to earth, a man (a Middle Eastern king whom the prophet Daniel calls the King of the North), will initially gain power over several countries in this very way—through military conquest. However, eventually, he will move from being the dictator over countries in Africa and the Middle East, to being dictator over the entire earth.

However, he does not do this by any of the three methods we spoke of earlier. This morning, we will look at this man (whom the book of Revelation refers to as “The Beast”) who goes from ruling over a tiny portion of the world to ruling over the entire earth in the space of just over three years.

**Title:** When a King Becomes a Beast (Prayer)

**Last week:** “The Most Dangerous Woman in the World.” (Comments)

**Today** we will focus on the man who will support this woman (at least for a time) and rule over the entire world just before the return of Christ.

Daniel calls him: “The Little Horn” and “The King of the North.”

Paul calls him: “The Man of Sin”
“The Son of Perdition”
“The Lawless One”

(In Rev.), John: “The Beast”

Many Christians: “The Antichrist” (though my view, A.C.= the False Prophet)

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As we saw last week, the vision John is given in Revelation 17 begins with a detestable harlot riding on a wild beast with 7 heads and 10 horns.

Result of vision: John is stunned. The angel who is with John asks him (v. 7):

“﻿Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Last week we saw that **the woman** represents the city of Rome and its future world-wide rise to power, economically and in many other ways. Rome will have the admiration and respect of the entire earth.

Now, in Rev 17, what do we discover about **the beast** in John’s vision who is supporting this woman representing Rome?

First some **background**, before we look at Rev 17.

1. His **rise to** **power** from King of the North (Dan 11) to world ruler (Comments)
2. Info about his **deadly wound** (Note: DO NOT say how he is healed)

**Q: How is he miraculously healed?**

**Revelation 17:8**-----8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

First, the angel tells John that the beast **“was”**—he existed previously.

Second, the beast died somehow: **“and is not.”**

Third, the beast **“will ascend** [future tense] **out of the bottomless pit.”**

The beast who died will rise from the dead.

Fourth, mankind will be stunned: “**And those who dwell on earth will marvel … when they see the beast who was, and is not, and yet is.”**

In the last 3.5 years before the return of Christ, planet earth will experience miraculous Satanic power never seen before by mankind. We’ll look at this in a moment.

But because of time, we will not be able to go into vv. 9-14 in depth. Allow me to boil this all down for you.

Earlier, we shared that once the King of the North has conquered much of the Middle East, he will be assassinated (you can read about this in Revelation 13). However, a demon from the bottomless pit (or, hell), will ascend and will indwell the king’s human body and bring him back to life. This Middle Eastern king, now indwelt by a demon, becomes the Beast---the Man of Sin—the Son of Perdition. Cable TV, which earlier had announced his death, now shows the entire world that he is alive and walking around. And with power that Satan will supply him with, the Beast will go to the Temple Mount, kill God’s Two Witnesses (of Rev 11), and commit the “abomination of desolation”—he will, as a Gentile indwelt with a demon, go into the Holy of Holies in the temple, and declare to the entire earth that he is God. He has risen from the dead, done what no one has been able to do for 3.5 years (kill God’s witnesses) and the result will be that the world will marvel “when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is” (17:8).

(Take questions before “Application”)

**Application:**

**---Satan is powerful** We must be alert and caution. We must not be ignorant of his schemes. We
 must resist him, stedfast in the faith.

**---Satan is deceptive** We must be know God’s word and be able to look at what is happening
 around us in the world and reject His lies and the lies of this world.

 (Germany was a highly educated and technological sophisticated society but
 they were duped by Hitler.)

**Lord’s Supper**