

# Germany, The New King of the Hill-Nov. 2010

The fallout from the world economic crisis has created a different looking world. Here we look to Germany at the heart of Europe, and the question posed in the Economist, “Will Germany now take centre stage?” (See article “Germany’s Role in the World” in October 21st Economist) :

*“The crisis has created a new pecking order, at least temporarily. **Germany, with its high-competitiveness, low-debt economy, is on top.** The rest are having to adjust, including France, traditionally a joint leader of the European project. This is unsettling. “*

As the “king of the hill” we can expect Germany to use its clout to turn things in the direction it would like. Germany’s goals and aspirations are becoming clearer as key German leaders are promoted to leadership positions within the EU institutions, such as the European Council and the European Central Bank. Remember the so-called golden rule: “He who has the gold makes the rules.”

## The New Golden Rules

Germany has convinced France to back it as it leads the way to re-open the Lisbon Treaty, at the backbone of the EU itself. In the same magazine under the headline, “Why the European Union is Talking Yet Again of Renegotiating its Rulebook” the following was stated:

*“[France and Germany have] declared that, in order to deal with future debt crises, **“it is necessary to revise the treaty”**”.*

Germany wants changes made to the Lisbon treaty to add more control, and remove more sovereignty from member nation-states, including loss of voting rights for those who “break the rules”.

It is of great interest to Bible students to read passages like Daniel 2 at right, describing the kingdom being “partly strong and partly broken,” and then hear statements like this one, coming from the same Economist article:

*“The EU’s members are **part-integrated and part-sovereign**, and the contradictions cause inevitable upheavals. Brussels’s instinctive response to the threat of disintegration is further integration. Europe may not be in a state of permanent revolution, but it is in **permanent renegotiation.**”*

Not only that, the insecurity of Germany is described in the following terms:

*Despite... examples of leadership, Germany’s overall direction is obscure. It is torn, intrigued by its new possibilities but painfully aware that **alone it does not count for much** in the world. Its population is already shrinking. Europe will lose economic and demographic bulk relative to China, India and Brazil.*

Remember the words of Revelation 17:12

*“ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast”*

Individually, they don't account for much. The remedy? A collective union – give their power and strength to the beast. The article continues:

*...Guy Verhofstadt, a former Belgian prime minister who now leads the liberals in the European Parliament. “It shows we need one voice.” Fear of war launched the European project; he hopes that fear of irrelevance will drive it forward.*

*... Pressed for Germany's vision of Europe, Werner Hoyer, an aide to the foreign minister, says it is to secure Europe's “success in a globalised world”. That means “**deepening economic integration**”, dismantling remaining barriers to the single market and dealing with other powers through Brussels, not national capitals... He thinks Europe must “**globalise its foreign policy** if we don't want to be bystanders”.*

These are indeed exciting statements, and echoing the prophecies of scripture which in process of being fulfilled.

## The Pope's Involvement

Meanwhile, German Pope Ratzinger is reminding these leaders that their economic and political changes must be upheld by a moral authority:

*The Church's social doctrine has always maintained that **justice must be applied to every phase of economic activity**, because this is always concerned with man and his needs... Thus every economic decision has a moral consequence.*

Obviously he sees his “justice” as the ruling authority that must be applied to every phase of economic activity.

As Germany re-emerges, Europe agrees to re-open its treaty, and the Vatican dictates its version of responsible economics, we are watching the major powers of the world set themselves in the positions the Bible has predicted will be present when Christ returns.

We need to be putting every effort into preparing for the coming marriage of the Lamb, and “make ourselves ready that we might be granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white” (Revelation 19:7-8).

# Europe in the Last Days

The dream given to King Nebuchadnezzar, as explained by the prophet Daniel, was the picture of a statue representing several world powers to be succeeded by then Kingdom of God. The last stage of the image, that of the feet and toes, corresponds to our day and the time right before the stone (the Lord Jesus Christ) destroys the kingdom of men and replaces it with God's Kingdom: The "iron" represented, earlier in the image, the power of Rome, which we see in the Roman Catholic connections of Europe. The clay represents the human aspect:

*Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be **partly strong and partly fragile**. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but **they will not adhere to one another**, just as iron does not mix with clay. (Daniel 2:41-44)*

*And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; **it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.***

The ten toes in the image correspond to ten kings, who are also described in the book of Revelation:

*"Ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These **have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast**" (Revelation 17:12-13)*

The ten kings are willing, for some reason, to give their power and strength to a common force. The Economist article gives us a clue as to why they are willing to do this: they realize their own insignificance and need for unity. Only through working together will the kings achieve their goal of greater, worldwide power. Although the end result will be an achievement of power for only "one hour", they do not realize this. The Greek words indicate both their "power of wealth", and "their power to govern".