

## **Kim Jong Un: Number three but number one.**

So we have this dynasty. Dynasties usually pass their power along to the first-born son. Kim Jong-Il was the only (surviving) son from which to choose, so he got the job. But when trying to decide which of his three sons would be next in line, he ran into some serious stumbling-blocks. At least one source close to the family suggests that Kim Jong-Il really didn't want to carry on this dynasty business, because it was so unlike socialism in his thinking. But, the need for stability drove him to choose between three not-so-good possibilities.

Possibility number one was Kim Jong-Nam. It would have been a tough sell to even the brainwashed North Koreans, who still have a bit of Confucian family values in their veins, to put Nam on the throne. You see, his mother was Kim Jong-Il's , ahem, mistress. To be more exact, his favorite mistress.

But the number one son decided to shoot himself in the foot and save his daddy the trouble. A few years back he got a forged passport to Japan, and was on his way to, would you believe, Disneyland, when he was apprehended and turned back from his supposed purposes. He and Dad didn't get along too well after that incident, and his name was subsequently scratched out in terms of desirability for such an august position.

Today number one son lives in Macao. And Beijing. And Singapore. Wherever he can keep safe. With baby brother in charge, who knows what might happen to a threatening sibling like this? Wasn't it just months ago that Un executed his uncle?

Both Kim Jong-Chul and Kim Jong-Un are from the same mother, the legitimate wife of the former dictator. There was a short time when number two's star began to rise. A little. Word is that this son was just a disappointment without even doing anything bad. He, they say, is a bit effeminate. Not sure how they are defining this. But something gave someone the signal, that this man could not be the tough leader we need to carry on our image. Next, please.

Kim Jong-Un was all that was left. He was 27 or 28 (no one seems to know his exact age) at the transfer of power. He had become a 4-star general in 2010. Of course, he had never served in the military. That same year he became #2 in the Central Military Committee. 25 years earlier his father had taken the same route.

At first they dubbed him the "Great Leader." A chubby 200+ pounds at only 5'9", many re-dubbed him the Great *Eater*. But the resemblance to Dad and even Grand-dad (Kim Il-Sung) was and is striking.

Kim spent a couple of young teen years in Bern, Switzerland, at a German language state school. He had to lie to his classmates about his true identity. Every day he was driven into and off of the grounds in a black van. The mystery student.

His love of things Western after those days included video games, action movies, and the NBA, especially the Chicago Bulls. All pretty normal stuff. I even got caught up in the Bulls

thing when they were riding the Michael Jordan waves. To think that I have this in common with the son of a dictator. Michael was his favorite.

Michael evidently was not "available" to fulfill his childhood dreams last year, but there is always Dennis Rodman. This love I do not share with Mr. Un.

What else do we know about this man? Not much. You will see him now looking very grandpa-ish as he goes from factory to field inspecting this and that, as Sung was wont to do. His birthday is celebrated as a national holiday. And he is making an evil name for himself by championing aggression against all, in the name of the special rights of the Korean people to be masters.

One smells Hitler at every turn. Master race. In your face.

His supervising of catastrophes actually began with his late father. He was at Jong-Il's side at the sinking of that South Korean vessel in 2010. The island shelling was partly his too. As was the April '09 ballistic test.

So, he is looking back and trying to do what Daddy did. And Gramps. But as someone remarked, he is an Emperor with no clothes (of his own). He has bought the party line, the dynasty line, and *juche*, and is trying to prove to anyone who will listen that the powers that be have made a good choice by allowing him to take over.

Has he heard of the Arab Spring? Does he see himself as one of a long line of dictators that the world is weary of and wants to rid itself of sooner rather than later? Does he lose sleep nights thinking he might be the next to go?

Is North Korea so unified by decades of mind control that no one will ever dare to challenge him?

Try these dates: 1981, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2011... and more. In each of these years, in the Hermit Kingdom of Chosun, believe it or not, there was either an uprising, a protest, an armed clash, an assassination attempt, or at least vandalism and graffiti against the government. Yep, the NK government.

No reason why Kim has to hold on to power. No reason why God could not hear your prayers this very day and topple this disease-ridden infestation called the North Korean Government. A people will be freed to hear the Gospel. The Christians will breathe again. Go ahead, pray. Kim is not eternal. He is not all-powerful. He can be stopped. He will be stopped. Pray.

But while North Korea lives, Western believers need to learn from it. Do we not see that Kim Jong-Un has been given power over believers? Is that not what the Bible says will happen to *all* believers one day under antichrist? Book of Daniel. Book of Revelation. The saints will be given into antichrist's hands. That's what it says. You can call these saints "Tribulation Saints" if you must, but you will have much trouble explaining that title from the Bible, which does not differentiate saints today from saints in that day. Saints are saints.

God wants the escape artists of our day to take a long look at the suffering church in North Korea. Get ready, He says. Trouble is coming. Be sure your heart is right. It's not always going to be like it is now. Wake up.

Assassination of the dictator or any political intrigue is never the advice of Scripture for believers caught in these traps. I have always questioned the heroism we have attached to Mr. Bonhoeffer. He was a true believer. But he was imprisoned and executed because he decided to help get rid of Hitler.

I read of no heroics such as this in the New Testament. Endure. Be strong. Overcome in the Spirit. These are the directives to persecuted saints in any regime. And the rest of us are told to help them in any way we can. But never to violate Kingdom principles in so doing. Murder is never an option for us.

As I stated earlier, I want this man gone. I pray that way. My heart is aching for Koreans subjugated to this daily evil. Here is a young man barely old enough to run a good-sized business having become master-in-charge of the world's greatest shame. One thinks of Caligula and Nero, in Paul's time, aged 25 and 17 respectively at their accession. Domitian, in John's day, a mere 30. Constantine and Theodosius, who brought the church out of and into its greatest bondages, aged 27 and 32.

Kim, not yet 30, with still so much to prove.

We have much to prove also. Will we prove ourselves worthy in this time? Will we pray and fast for this man's lowering, and change of heart? Yes, God could still save him. His grandfather had a form of Christian faith until his teens. Why not a reversal in God's favor?

Soon we must land this "helicopter" by which we survey the externals of North Korea. It's in my heart to visit some labor camps, to meet some folks we know already and make some friends. Possible? Kim won't let us in. We'll have to find another way. Can you come with me?