

Dear Church,

During yesterday's sermon, I was unable to share with you (due to time constraints) the entire timeline of events in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1934 that show how quickly things changed for the German people, and especially the Jews, once Hitler came into power. The purpose of this was to help draw some parallels between the rapid demise of the rule of law in our nation and that of the Third Reich. And as you can see, the parallels are striking.

But these parallels or the problems we see on the horizon are not to elicit fear in the heart of any believer. We serve a mighty God who has everything under control and nothing happens outside of His permissive will (Psalm 115:3). Yet it does serve to allow us to not be caught by surprise by how quickly our world may soon unravel as our Lord prepares for His return. As I shared yesterday, Proverbs 22:3 (and 27:12), contrast the actions of two types of people when troubling times inevitably come. They are the *prudent* and the *simple*, or foolish.

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

So let us prepare our hearts to cling closer to Him regardless of what long-overdue judgment may befall our nation. And let us learn how to prepare our faith for whatever may come, as a faith prepper, together. In other words, we need to learn to be the *prudent* man and not the *simple* one.

Finally, if you need a bit of encouragement after reading the timeline below, you might want to read both the Morning and the Evening Psalms, as they are commonly known, namely Psalm 3 and 4. And as you meditate on these Psalms, remember:

I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety - Psalm 4:8.

The Timeline of Events in Nazi Germany in 1933

January 4th – Franz von Papen (Chancellor of Germany in 1932 and replaced by General Kurt von Schleicher) secretly meets Hitler at the home of German banker Kurt von Schroeder.

January 15th – An election in the state of Lippe saw the Nazi Party win 38,000 votes out of a possible 90,000 – 39.6%.

January 22nd – Oskar Hindenburg, son of the President, and Otto Meissner, Chief of the Presidential Office, met Hitler.

January 28th – Schleicher resigned as Chancellor when German President Paul von Hindenburg refused to grant him another dissolution of the Reichstag (Parliament).

January 30th – Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany. The Jewish population was 566,000.

February 1st – Hitler announced his "Proclamation to the German People" and promised new elections for March 5th. Hindenburg dissolved the Reichstag.

February 2nd – Hitler meets with top military leaders, describes his plans to rearm Germany.

February 4th – A decree "For the Protection of the German People" gave Hitler the power to ban political meetings and the newspapers of his political rivals.

February 17th – Hermann Goering issued a decree that ordered the police to make "good relations" with nationalist associations (SA + SS) but to make free use of their weapons against the Left.

February 22nd – Goering united the SA (Storm Troopers or Brownshirts), SS (Secret State Police), and Stahlhelm (Steel Helmet) into one single police force. Over 40,000 SA and SS men are sworn in as auxiliary police.

February 27th – The Reichstag building was burned down. It was officially blamed on the Communists.

February 28th – "The Emergency Decree for the Protection of People and State" was passed, which led to the suspension of civil rights, a ban on the left-wing press, and the rounding up and arrest of communist and socialist leaders. Over the next five months, the Nazis systematically force all opposition political parties to shut down.

March 5th – Elections to the Reichstag were held. The Nazis gained 288 seats (43.9% of the votes). The German National Party gained 52 seats (8% of the votes). Combined, this gave the Nazis a majority of support in the Reichstag.

March 6th – Communist and Socialist Party headquarters were occupied by the state police, as were trade union headquarters. Buildings housing publishing companies associated with the left-wing were also occupied.

March 9th – All states that were previously not loyal to the Nazis now had Nazi-loyal state administrations.

March 13th – Joseph Goebbels set up the Reich Propaganda Ministry.

March 15th – The German press received its first directive from Goebbels.

March 16th – Hjalmar Schacht replaced Hans Luther as President of the Reichsbank.

March 20th – Heinrich Himmler announced the establishment of a concentration camp at Dachau.

March 21st – The newly elected Reichstag sat for the first time.

March 22nd – The Interior Ministry set up a racial hygiene department.

March 23rd – The Enabling Act was passed by the Reichstag that gave Hitler the power to enact laws without the involvement of the Reichstag.

March 28th – The first open attacks by the SA against Jewish businesses occurred. Gleichschaltung was introduced – the forcible removal of all known opponents to the Nazis.

April 1st – An official one-day boycott of Jewish shops took place. Literature produced by the Jehovah's Witnesses was banned.

April 7th – A law for the "Restoration of the Professional Civil Service" was introduced that banned all Jews and non-Germans from public service.

April 26th – The Gestapo (Secret State Police) was established by Hermann Goering. The Nazis took over the local government.

May 1st – Hitler gave his "Day of German Labor" speech. Trade union offices were stormed by SA.

May 2nd – Trade unions were banned.

May 6th – The Deutsche Arbeitsfront (German Workers' Front) was introduced to replace trade unions.

May 10th – Over 25,000 "Un-German" books were publicly burned in an "Action Against the Un-German Spirit" that was encouraged by Joseph Goebbels.

May 19th – The Reich government took on the task of regulating workers' contracts.

June 22nd – The Social Democrat Party was officially banned.

July 5th – All political parties other than the Nazi Party were banned.

July 6th – Hitler declares the success of the National Socialist or Nazi revolution

July 14th – A "Sterilization Law for the Prevention of Hereditary Diseases" was passed.

July 20th – Hitler agreed to a Concordat or Reichskonkordat with the Papacy.

September 22nd – The Reich Chamber of Culture is established with Joseph Goebbels as its figurehead. Jews were excluded from the Arts.

October 14th – Hitler officially withdraws Nazi Germany from the League of Nations and the World Disarmament Conference.

November 17th – The Nazi Party won 92% of the votes cast in an election.

November 24th – The Nazis pass a Law against Habitual and Dangerous Criminals, which allows beggars, the homeless, alcoholics, and the unemployed to be sent to concentration camps.

November 30th – The Gestapo is now given authority through greater Germany, and not just in Prussia.

December 1st – A law was passed that safeguarded the unity of the party and the state.

The Timeline of Events in Nazi Germany in 1934

January 1st – Jewish holidays were removed from the German calendar.

January 20th – A law was introduced "for the ordering of national labor." Decisions made in the workplace were weighted in favor of the management and against the workers.

January 24th – Alfred Rosenberg was appointed ideological supervisor of the Nazi Party. Jews were banned from the German Labor Front.

January 30th – The independence of the state government was abolished. The "Law for the Reconstruction of the Reich" was passed. Hitler publicly insisted that Germany will not be deterred from its program of rearmament.

March 21st – The "Battle for Work" started.

April 1st – Heinrich Himmler appointed head of the SS.

April 11th – Pact of the Deutschland: Hitler persuaded the top officials of the army and navy to back his bid to succeed Hindenburg as president by promising to "diminish" the three-million-man plus SA and greatly expand the regular Army and Navy.

April 20th – Himmler was made Acting Chief of the Prussian Gestapo.

April 24th – A People's Court was established to deal with treasonable offenses. There is no trial by jury and no right to appeal.

April 25th – Germany passed a law restricting the college enrollment of Jews.

May 1st – Julius Streicher's Nazi periodical, Der Stürmer, one of Germany's most popular periodicals and a favorite of Hitler, reminded its readers that during the Middle Ages, the Jews were accused of committing ritual murder of Christian children and of using their blood for religious ritual purposes.

May 16th – German officer corps endorsed Hitler to succeed the ailing President Hindenburg.

May 17th – Jews were no longer allowed to participate in national health insurance.

June 20th – The SS was made independent from the SA and put in the hands of Himmler, who was appointed Reichsführer of the SS.

June 25th – Austrian Nazis murdered Austrian President Engelbert Dollfuss in the hope that the Austrian Nazi Party could take control of the country.

June 30th – The Night of the Long Knives. On the pretext of suppressing an alleged SA putsch, much of the brownshirt leadership were arrested and executed. Schleicher and other political enemies were murdered. Papen was briefly imprisoned; between 150 and 200 were killed. The SS, formerly part of the SA, now comes to the forefront.

July 4th – An Inspectorate of Concentration Camps was established, headed by Theodor Eicke.

July 13th – Defending the purge, Hitler declared that to defend Germany, he has the right to act unilaterally as "supreme judge" without resort to courts.

July 22nd – Jews are prohibited from getting legal qualifications.

July 31st – In Germany, 30,000 are now interned.

August 2nd – President Hindenburg died. Hitler declared himself both Chancellor and President. The armed forces, in response to the Night of the Long Knives, swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler. Hjalmar Schacht was appointed Minister of Economics. Hitler now becomes Fuhrer.

August 19th – Hitler received a 90 percent "Yes" vote from German voters approving his new powers.

October 1st – Hitler secretly ordered the expansion of the army, navy, and the creation of the air force, breaking the Treaty of Versailles.

Finally, to again show you how quickly things changed for the German people, less than five years later, on September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. And the rest, as they say, is history.