

#118 The Short Space Kingdoms – The U.S. vs. USSR “Space Race”

The Soviet Union was the 7th Kingdom of Revelation 17:10, which continued “*a short space*,” literally meaning that it lasted just “*a little while*” (as it reads in the *New International Version*).

Key Understanding: *The space race in prophecy. The Lord ordained that, in Revelation 17:10, the King James Version describe the short duration of the life of the USSR as “a short space,” because it would be the so-called “Space Race” that came to define the competition between the U.S. and the USSR for world supremacy.*

*Revelation 17:10-11 (KJV) . . . and **THE OTHER** [the Seventh Kingdom, the USSR] **IS NOT YET COME**; and when he cometh, he [the Seventh Kingdom, the USSR] must continue **A SHORT SPACE**.*

*11 And **THE BEAST** [out of the Pit in Rev. 17:08, the United States of America] that was, and is not, even **HE IS THE EIGHTH**, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*

Yuri Gagarin, then Alan Shepard. Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on April 12, 1961. The U.S. responded within a month, briefly putting Alan Shepard into space on May 5, 1961. Still, the U.S. seemed to be trailing the Soviets.

Yuri Gagarin in a bus taking him to the launch pad for the launch of *Vostok 1*. Behind him in another orange pressure suit is Gherman Titov, the back-up pilot for *Vostok 1* and the pilot in the later *Vostok 2* mission.



Kennedy’s challenge. On May 25, 1961, U.S. President John F. Kennedy made a strategic move in the Cold War chess match between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. In an address to a Joint Session of Congress, Kennedy stated, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth.” On July 20, 1969, that feat was accomplished. *Apollo 11* astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man on the moon, taking a small step for a man and a giant leap for mankind. America claimed the Space Race victory.

Prior to his speech of May 25, 1961, Kennedy had just been humiliated by the Bay of Pigs fiasco in Cuba, a communist ally of Moscow. In his address, Kennedy called for many measures to

combat Communism, requesting billions, for example, to stop red insurgencies in Southeast Asia.

In the speech, however, the President chose *space* as the main Cold War battleground on which to marshal U.S. forces. It was in fulfillment of the overall prophetic picture of the USSR continuing only “*a short space.*”

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