

#120 The Short Space Kingdoms – October 4, 1957: Sputnik and the Control of Space

We have discussed Star Wars and the Control of Space. That represented more of *the end* of the Space Race period of time between the U.S. and USSR. The U.S. was victorious. But let's return to *a beginning* period of time in the Space Race to discuss the Soviets' *Sputnik* and the Control of Space.

Key Understanding: *Sputnik and the control of space. What ended with Star Wars and America's Control of Space began with Sputnik and Russia's possible Control of Space. All of this was a part of the fulfillment of the Soviet Union continuing "a short space."*

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.



The Soviets launched the world's first artificial earth satellite, *Sputnik* (pictured), on October 4, 1957. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson described later about that night of October 4, 1957, that he was at his ranch when the news of *Sputnik* came across the television. Johnson had first taken his Senate seat in January 1949 and was appointed to the Senate

Armed Services Committee. He became increasingly concerned with the country's military preparedness in the Cold War with the Soviets. Now *Sputnik* had been launched. He remembered taking 'a walk . . . with eyes lifted skyward, straining to catch a glimpse of that alien object which had been thrust in the outer reaches of the world.' He remembered the shock of realizing that it might be possible for the Soviet Union to achieve technological superiority over his great country.



As a U.S. Senator from Texas, Lyndon B. Johnson helped to establish NASA. Johnson, the recent former President of the United States, is pictured with the then Vice-President of the United States, Spiro Agnew, watching the Apollo 11 crew liftoff from Launch Pad 39A at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on July 16, 1969.

Lyndon Johnson felt it was necessary to make the American people realize the importance of the struggle for space. The first step involved the preparation and delivery of a series of public statements such as the one he presented to the Democratic Caucus in 1958. "**Control of space,**" Johnson argued, "**means control of the world.**" Johnson's position was that, "there is something more important than the ultimate weapon. **That** [something] **is the ultimate position – the position of total control over earth that lies somewhere in outer space . . . and if there is this**

ultimate position, then our national goal and the goal of all free men must be to win and hold that position.”

Johnson introduced legislation which eventually resulted in the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA began operations on October 1, 1958.

[After Johnson’s death on January 22, 1973, the Manned Space Center in Houston in February was renamed the Johnson Space Center (pictured right).]

Sources for the above paragraphs include *Kennedy-Johnson*, tape #20, *Kennedy Series*, chart #5112, which in turn references specifics in *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*, by Doris Kearns, and *Daring the Unknown, A History of NASA*, by Howard E. Smith.



An aerial view of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center facility of Houston in 1989

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