

## The Soviet Union's Demise

### Commentary for March 1, 2012 —How Quickly God Can Change the World

I wrote in footnote #1 in my January 2005 Commentary "[Freedom as God's Gift](#)"<sup>1</sup> that Dr. Ernest L. Martin predicted the fall of the Soviet Union.

**"Dr. Ernest Martin predicted the fall of the Soviet Union long before it took place. Dr. Martin produced a tape dated February 6, 1982 (reissued in 1991) in which he gives his reasons why the Soviet Union could not succeed and would collapse, hopefully without warfare. This in fact happened. ... Dr. Martin noted that the bulk of military might of the Soviet Union was used as a prison-guard force to keep the people inside the Soviet empire, not to be used to invade further countries. This was a most accurate appraisal.**

**Around the same time Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) predicted the Soviet Union's collapse. See political historian Richard Gid Powers's lengthy introduction to Moynihan's excellent book *Secrecy: The American Experience* (Yale University Press, 1999). Moynihan's premise in the book was that excessive secrecy by the U.S. government prolonged the myth of Soviet economic and military power, and delayed its collapse."**

The late Senator Moynihan and Dr. Martin both understood that the primary cause of the collapse of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European vassal states was due to the lack of freedom. God will see to it that freedom of religion will be available to most all people in the world for the last generation before Christ returns.

The title of this month's article by Dr. Ernest L. Martin is "The Collapse of the Soviet Union." Again, read the "[March 2012 Newsletter](#)" first. Looking back in recent history, the geopolitical mechanisms of the demise of the Soviet Union are now clear. A February 20, 2012 Stratfor article<sup>2</sup> begins with a statement of fact that seems to use biblical language:

**"The evolution of geopolitics is cyclical. Powers rise, fall and shift. Changes occur in every generation in an unending ballet. However, the period between 1989 and 1991 was unique in that a long cycle of human history spanning hundreds of years ended, and with it a shorter cycle also came to a close. The world is still reverberating from the events of that period."**

- "[The State of the World: A Framework](#)"

The changes that came about within that 2 year period had a long period of preparation, like pressure building before a release, when finally major political changes snapped into being and changed the political landscape. Events occurred with surprising rapidity, like chains of dominoes falling over from multiple causes.

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<sup>1</sup> Originally written as a Commentary for January 28, 2005. I later expanded it to a Prophecy article in July 2008.

<sup>2</sup> This article in full is publically available for a limited time at [www.Stratfor.com](http://www.Stratfor.com).

**“On Dec. 25, 1991, an epoch ended. On that day the Soviet Union collapsed, and for the first time in almost 500 years no European power was a global power, meaning no European state integrated economic, military and political power on a global scale. What began in 1492 with Europe smashing its way into the world and creating a global imperial system had ended. For five centuries, one European power or another had dominated the world, whether Portugal, Spain, France, England or the Soviet Union. Even the lesser European powers at the time had some degree of global influence.”**

- [“The State of the World: A Framework”](#)

Today in 2012, with 20 years of hindsight since 1991, the geopolitical implications of the Soviet Union’s demise are also now understandable. It has resulted in the United States being the only superpower in the world. All other major powers are only regional in scope and unable to project their power outside of their region in any meaningful way. The world-wide scope of the power of the United States is economic, military, political, and cultural.

**“After 1991 the only global power left was the United States, which produced about 25 percent of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP) each year and dominated the oceans. Never before had the United States been the dominant global power. Prior to World War II, American power had been growing from its place at the margins of the international system, but it was emerging on a multipolar stage. After World War II, it found itself in a bipolar world, facing off with the Soviet Union in a struggle in which American victory was hardly a foregone conclusion.”**

- [“The State of the World: A Framework”](#)

This does not make the United States better than any other country or its people better, it merely states the reality of the situation in 1991 and today, and that reality may change in the future.<sup>3</sup> Continuing on with the Stratfor article:

**“The fall of the Soviet Union ended the European epoch, the period in which European power dominated the world. It left the United States as the only global power, something for which it was culturally and institutionally unprepared. Since the end of World War II, the United States had defined its foreign policy in terms of its confrontation with the Soviet Union. Virtually everything it did around the world in some fashion related to this confrontation. The fall of the Soviet Union simultaneously freed the United States from a dangerous confrontation and eliminated the focus of its foreign policy. ...**

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<sup>3</sup> Such is the human condition of all men, all nations, through time. Ben Moreell, [“Power corrupts,”](#) *Religion & Liberty*, Volume 2, Number 6:

**“When a person [or a nation] gains power over other persons — political power to force other persons to do his bidding when they do not believe it right to do so — it seems inevitable that a moral weakness develops in the person who exercises that power. It may take time for this weakness to become visible. In fact, its full extent is frequently left to the historians to record, but we eventually learn of it. It was Lord Acton, the British historian, who said: ‘All power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.’ Please do not misunderstand me. These persons who are corrupted by the process of ruling over their fellow men are not innately evil.”**

Moreell says they **“are not innately evil.”** No, but they are innately sinful which inevitably leads to evil in thought, word, and deed. This is the condition of every human being.

**In 1989-1991 the world changed the way it worked, whether measured in centuries or generations. It was an extraordinary period whose significance is only now emerging. It locked into place a long-term changing of the guard, where North America replaced Europe as the center of the international system. But generations come and go, and we are now in the middle of the first generational shift since the collapse of the European powers, a shift that began in 2008 but is only now working itself out in detail.**

- [“The State of the World: A Framework”](#)

Changes of similar magnitude and swift occurrence will occur in geopolitics, religion, economics, culture, entertainment, communications, in every area of human life as we close in on the last generation before Christ’s return. Many if not most of those changes will have global impact. Such changes will come again and again, faster and faster. Major changes will occur which will impact our biblical understanding, clarify and focus our knowledge of the Bible, and demonstrate that God is active in the affairs of men. Proper biblical knowledge and understanding will make obsolete most religious thinking and understanding.

Dr. Martin’s article not only discusses the cause of the collapse of the Soviet Union and empire, but he also gives excellent information about the sequence of one set of end-time events. While many prophetic interpreters today, especially evangelicals, believe that Russia (and previously the old Soviet Union) will invade the Middle East and Israel, Dr. Martin shows that this will NOT happen by Russia.

He then explains step by step who will invade Israel and why he shall do so. It is a fascinating read. Also, re-read what is at the beginning of this Commentary, and it will have greater impact than it did reading it the first time.

### ***New Website Feature***

Thanks to the long hours of hard work, Henry Dye has produced a document that I hope will be of great use to many of you. It is called “[ASK Topical Index](#).” It is an index of topics and subjects of every article, commentary, newsletter, and book chapter that is currently on the ASK website (and it even indexes some book chapters that are not yet online).

Mr. Dye devised this for his own use and Bible study and has graciously and voluntarily offered to make this document available to all interested ASK readers. Therefore it has been converted to a PDF file and put on the ASK website, with links at two locations:

- (1) One location is at the upper left of the ASK Homepage, labeled “ASK Topical Index.”
- (2) The other link location is the last item under the “Articles” tab of all the tabs across the top of the ASK Homepage.

This Topical Index supplements the Search program at the top of the ASK homepage, and the “Advanced Site Search” at [www.askelm.com/resources/sitesrch.asp](http://www.askelm.com/resources/sitesrch.asp). It is our hope that you will use either the “ASK Topical Index” or the ASK Search program to “ease” your way around and through the very large ASK website.

Mr. Dye has tried to make using his ASK Topical Index as easy as possible. (It is internet only.) If you have problems using it, email us at [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com). It may be difficult at first for some to use, but once you get the hang of it, it will be like riding a bike and it will be a valuable tool.

The PDF is large, 75 pages. It is not intended to be printed out, but you should download it to your own computer and use it as needed. Or, access it through the ASK website and use it from there. We have a good reason for suggesting that you not to print this ASK Topical Index. As more articles are produced from Dr. Martin's work, the Topical Index will expand and grow. Your printout would be obsolete within a month or two. Topics will be added and expanded throughout the work and articles added at the end of the Topical Index as they appear. Additions to the Topical Index listing will occur on a timely basis.

I want to thank Henry for the good work that he has done, and will continue to do, with this ASK Topical Index.

### ***Speaking Engagements***

Again I have been invited to speak at the Richmond Bible Fellowship Conference which will be held April 6–8, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia, sponsored and arranged by Roosevelt Arrington. This is a great conference with interesting speakers. Robert Bowie Johnson will also be speaking at the Conference.

My times of speaking will be on Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 am, and later at 3:00 pm, a bit less than an hour each time. I will give a 2-part presentation on "Christ as High Priest." Part **(1)** will talk about the office of Melchizidek, the High Priest, and Psalm 110. Part **(2)** will discuss the usage of those OT passages in the Book of Hebrews, and how and why Christ is our High Priest. This is a very important subject that all Christians should know.

If any ASK readers attend, please introduce yourselves to me. I always enjoy meeting people I have corresponded with or spoken with by phone, as well as new people I have never met. The event will be at

**Days Inn West  
2100 Dickens Road  
Richmond, VA 23230  
804-282-3300**

In addition, I have been invited to speak at the Christian Universalist Association conference in September 2012 in New Jersey, 40 miles north of Atlantic City. I will be speaking on the growing movement within the Roman Catholic leadership, including the past and current Pope, to promote universal salvation with a seemingly biblical basis. I will provide further details as I receive them. God bless you all.

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