

It Might Be Today

RFID & Wal-Mart

We like every week to bring what we call a Prophecy Update. We show how news and trends in the world are corroborating centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

We talk a lot about the advancement of technology, and especially technology that corresponds to the dreaded 'mark of the beast.'

Most everyone, believer and nonbeliever, has heard of the mark of the beast. The Bible predicts that there will be a cashless society. All commerce, and indeed your personal identity, will involve some sort of a mark on your hand or forehead. In the middle of the future seven-year Great Tribulation, the man the Bible calls the antichrist will demand that you swear allegiance to him. He will hijack the system that involves this personal mark and, if you do not swear your allegiance to him, you will not be able to buy or sell anything.

It's only been very recently that the kind of technologies necessary to support such a system have been developed. One such technology is RFID, which stands for radio frequency identification. It is the technology by which a microchip or some other tag sends electronic information from a distance to a scanner.

RFID is getting a big boost from Wal-Mart. A recent USA Today web article was titled, *Wal-Mart plan to use smart tags raises privacy concerns*.¹

Excerpts:

Wal-Mart... is putting electronic identification tags on men's clothing like jeans starting August 1 as the world's largest retailer tries to gain more control of its inventory. But the move is raising eyebrows among privacy experts.

¹ http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/retail/2010-07-25-wal-mart-smart-tags_N.htm

The individual garments, which also includes underwear and socks, will have removable smart tags that can be read from a distance by Wal-Mart workers with scanners.... The tags work by reflecting a weak radio signal to identify the product.

Wal-Mart's goal is to eventually expand the tags to other types of merchandise but company officials say it's too early to give estimates on how long that will take.

Before the rollout, Wal-Mart and other stores were using the tags, called radio frequency identification tags, only to track pallets or cases of merchandise in their warehouses. But now the tags are jumping onto individual items, a move that some privacy experts describe as frightening.

Wal-Mart, which generated annual revenue of a little more than \$400 billion in its latest fiscal year and operates almost 4,000 stores, has huge influence with suppliers. That makes other merchants tend to follow its lead.

"This is a first piece of a very large and very frightening tracking system," said Katherine Albrecht, director of a group called Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering.

Albrecht worries that Wal-Mart and others would be able to track movements of customers who in some border states like Michigan and Washington are carrying new driver's licenses that contain RFID tags to make it easier for them to cross borders.

Wal-Mart officials said they are aware of privacy concerns but insist they are taking a "thoughtful and methodical approach."

To placate privacy concerns, Wal-Mart, which is financing some of the suppliers' costs, is asking vendors to embed the smart tags in removable labels and not embed them in clothing.

Wal-Mart plans to educate customers with the new program through in-store videos and through signs posted in the stores that educate customers about the program.

Developments like this establish that technology is a juggernaut that cannot be stopped. We are most definitely headed towards the cashless system of commerce and id predicted in the Bible over 2000 years ago.

This is exactly the kind of news you'd expect if we were trending towards the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

I remind you that although we follow the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, we are not waiting for any prophecy to be fulfilled. Jesus promised to return to resurrect and rapture the church as an imminent event. By that we mean

the certainty that He may come at any moment and the fact that no prophesied event stands between the believer and that hour.

Nothing needs to be fulfilled before the Lord can return for us. We are only waiting for Him - and His coming is always imminent.

Are you rapture-ready? If not, get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up.
Ready or not, Jesus is coming!