

It Might Be Today

One Card to Rule Them All

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.

When the apostle John wrote the Revelation of Jesus Christ in the first century he spoke of a cashless society in which each citizen would have some sort of a 'mark' on their body by which they would be uniquely identified to conduct business and contact the government.

Mid-way through the seven-year Great Tribulation, the man we know as the antichrist will take over that system and demand that his citizens swear allegiance to him. Those who refuse will not be able to conduct any business.

Ours is the generation that has seen the technology developed to fulfill this prophecy. I want to cite a couple of stories that indicate we are moving in the direction of having a unique personal identifier, what some call a national ID, by which we will transact all of our business.

MarketWire.com posted an article on March 8 titled, *National ID Cards Enter the Digital World With Russian Project Leading the Way*.¹

Excerpts:

Universal, multi applications cards will be the main trend on the electronic identification (eID) market for the coming years. Many European countries have introduced new ways to interact with their citizens using this cost-effective strategy to justify citizen's identity for access, payment or as a digital signature. The Universal Electronic Card (UEC) introduced recently in Russia is the most complex project in Europe...

Many European countries have already introduced the eID program as a way of accessing many institution services with only one eID card," says Jean-Noel Georges,

¹ <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/National-ID-Cards-Enter-Digital-World-With-Russian-Project-Leading-Way-Says-Frost-Sullivan-1407432.htm>

Global Program Director for ICT - Smart Card practice... "The eID document has been much more than a simple identity proof and time-saver for contacting administration authorities. In Germany it might be used for paying taxes by providing an electronic signature while in Portugal, it gives access to civil records and birth certifications and enables a social security declaration."

Russia is evolving the above strategy, entering the digital world for identity management. According to the official project website, Russian citizens will have the UEC in 2012. The card will be adopted around 1000 national and regional services along with about 10,000 commercial enterprises.

A while back, in Germany, "23% of 1000 Germans in a poll said they would allow a chip implanted under their skin for certain benefits."²

The survey, by German IT industry lobby group BITKOM, was intended to show how the division between real life and the virtual world is increasingly coming down...

Around one in six, or 16 percent, said they would wear an implant to allow emergency services to rescue them more quickly in the event of a fire or accident.

And five percent of people said they would be prepared to have an implant to make their shopping go more smoothly.

On March 15 GulfNews.com posted a story titled, *Machines to dispense United Arab Emirates ID cards soon*.³

Excerpts:

The complaints about delayed delivery of the national ID cards have prompted the Emirates Identity Authority (Eida) to think of card dispensers and engage one more courier service company to distribute the cards.

The national ID card applicants will soon be able to collect their cards from the card dispensers which will be installed in public places like shopping malls...

After receiving a confirmation [text message] that the card has been printed, the applicant will be able to collect the cards from the card dispenser by scanning his or her fingerprints, Dr Ali Al Khoury, Director General of Emirates Identity Authority (Eida), said.

² <http://ivarfjeld.wordpress.com/2011/03/07/one-in-four-germans-wants-microchip-under-skin-poll/>

³ <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/general/machines-to-dispense-uae-id-cards-soon-1.777128>

InformationWeek.com posted a story on February 3 titled, *Feds Set Deadline For Identity Smart Card Program*.⁴

Excerpts:

Federal agencies [in the United States] have until March 31 to come up with an implementation plan for a new government-wide identification system that [combines] biometric technology and smart cards.

The federal government has stepped up plans to use the Federal Personal Identity Verification (PIV) system to verify employee and contractor credentials to access federal facilities and IT networks and systems, according to a memo from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued Thursday.

Effective in October at the beginning of the government's 2012 fiscal year, agencies must upgrade all existing "physical and logical" access control systems to support the PIV system before they can use any technology refresh funds for other projects.

The Real ID Act was signed in 2005 as part of President Bush's "war on terror." It was designed to enhance security and create a certified federal identity which every American would need before being allowed to fly, before entering government buildings, before entering national parks, before opening a bank account, and possibly being extended into many other areas like showing it before prescription drugs could be filled.

On March 7 the Department of Homeland Security posted a notice to extend the Real ID deadline to January 15, 2013, by which time states' "driver's licenses and identification cards" will meet the "security requirements of the REAL ID Act."

This is exactly the kind of news you'd expect if we were trending towards the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. You be seeing advancements in technology that make the kind of thing John saw in the first century possible and probable. And governments would be slowly but inevitably moving towards implementing the technology.

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

⁴ http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=229201218&cid=RSSfeed_IWK_All

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

Are you rapture-ready? If not, get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up.

Ready or not, Jesus is coming!