

# IT MIGHT BE TODAY

## On Your Mark

Each week we present what we call a prophecy update. We check the news for stories that seem to corroborate centuries old prophecies found in the Bible.

By far the most well-known of all last days prophecies is the mark of the beast. Seen by John in the late first century, it is something on or in your hand or forehead by which you are personally identified to the government. It also is the means by which you will conduct all your business in a cashless society.

Our generation is the one to see technological advances that make this 'mark' not only possible but probable. Whether it's an implanted VeriChip, or an RFID tag, or a wearable invisible skin tattoo, the governments of the world could implement such a system almost overnight.

On the one hand (pun intended!) we are pretty open to technology that will make our lives easier. At this year's consumer electronics show in Las Vegas Panasonic announced a feature called "My Home Screen" that will show a viewer customized suggestions of TV shows, streaming shows and Internet content, all on one screen. Each family member can have a personalized screen, and will not have to sign in - the higher-end Panasonic TVs will have a built-in camera that will use face recognition to determine whose preferences to display.

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/07/panasonics-tvs-can-recognize-a-face/>

In the latest and most high-profile example of travel companies using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to track visitors, Disney World parkgoers soon will be able to ditch paper tickets and credit cards in favor of wireless rubber wristbands that monitor where they go and what they spend in the Happiest Place on Earth.

According to The New York Times, the new "MyMagic+" program will let users of a new web site and app called My Disney Experience preselect three FastPasses before they arrive at the Orlando park for rides or V.I.P. seating for parades, fireworks and character meet-and-greets. Theme park guests also can register for "MagicBands," bracelets that serve as room key, park ticket, FastPass and credit card.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/dispatches/2013/01/08/disney-world-wireless-wristband-tickets-travel/1816151/>

On the other hand we still fear government mandating such technology. We've been following a case in which a school district in Texas is forcing students to wear necklaces that have RFID tracking tags. On January 9 it was reported that U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled the San Antonio Northside School District had the right to expel sophomore Andrea Hernandez, 15, from Jay High School because she refused to wear the device, which is required of all students at the magnet school.

[http://usnews.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2013/01/09/16427652-texas-school-can-force-students-to-wear-locator-chips-judge-rules?lite](http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/01/09/16427652-texas-school-can-force-students-to-wear-locator-chips-judge-rules?lite)

Hernandez's suit against Northside, the fourth-largest school district in Texas, argues that the ID rule violates her religious beliefs. Her family says the badge is a "mark of the beast" that goes against their religion.

Judge Garcia said that if Hernandez does not accept the school district's accommodation of wearing a badge without the tracking chip, the district can transfer her to another campus.

Judge Garcia denied a request to stop her from being transferred, saying the badge requirement "has an incidental effect, if any, on (Hernandez's) religious beliefs."

Garcia also wrote in his 25-page ruling that because Hernandez has worn a previous ID badge for several years, her refusal to wear the new badge "is clearly a secular choice, rather than a religious concern."

[http://www.philly.com/philly/business/technology/20130108\\_ap\\_judgeschoolcanmovegirlinidtrackingcase.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/business/technology/20130108_ap_judgeschoolcanmovegirlinidtrackingcase.html)

Regardless what we think or how this will all play out in court, the point is that the Bible predicted this kind of technology two thousand years ago. To put it another way: If these are the last days you'd expect it to be possible for people to be identified and to conduct business by some personal identifier on them or in them - and that is exactly what you see happening.

As always, we are looking for the imminent return of Jesus to resurrect and rapture the church.

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