

It Might Be Today

RFID is Everywhere!

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 in the future Great Tribulation all commerce, and indeed your personal identity, will involve some sort of a mark on your hand or forehead. In the middle of the 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 reasonable to assume that the technology needed to accomplish this marking would be developed and utilized before the Great Tribulation begins.

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.

This morning I'm going to give you a quick review of what's happening regarding the increasingly invasive use of RFID technology.

For starters, on November 21 NetWorkWorld.com posted a story titled, *Creepy RFID Tracking Coming Soon to Human Embryos*.¹

¹ <http://www.networkworld.com/community/node/68759>

Excerpts:

Spanish researchers from the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology at Barcelona University are perfecting a system to individually tag and track mouse embryos with silicon barcodes. RFID tags to improve traceability of reproductive material in mice seems fine, but the researchers do not intend to stop there. The[ir] press release stated, "Researchers recently received authorization from the Department of Health of the Government of Catalonia to begin testing the system with human oocytes and embryos from several fertility clinics in Spain."

Did you ever wonder why sponges sometimes get left behind after surgery? Sponges mold into different shapes and become the same color as the fluid absorbed, making them difficult to see. At the University of North Carolina School of medicine researchers implanted RFID tags in surgical sponges that, if left behind in a patient, could cause infections that may require additional surgery. The RFID sponges were used in 1,600 operations.²

Have you heard of digital memorials? A November 10 web article explained,

The E-tomb... is a high tech tombstone for the information age. Memorable data such as blog posts, tweets and websites are uploaded into the tombstone, which is equipped with solar panels and Bluetooth, allowing family members to access this information via their phones using RFID.³

Way back in January 2007,

Somark Innovations announced biocompatible RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) ink, which can be used to tattoo cattle and laboratory rats and can be read through animal hair.

This is a passive RFID technology that contains no metals; the tattoos themselves can be colored or invisible.

Somark Innovations co-founder Mark Pydynowski noted that the RFID ink is fully biocompatible and was safe for use in humans. He noted that RFID ink tattoos could be used to track and rescue soldiers. "It could help identify friends or foes, prevent friendly fire, and help save soldiers' lives," Pydynowski said.⁴

² <http://www.med.unc.edu/www/news/2010/october/no-sponge-left-behind>

³ <http://www.psfk.com/2010/11/digital-memorials-rfid-rosetta-stone-the-e-tomb.html>

⁴ http://www.livescience.com/technology/070119_radio_tattoo.html

On November 16 ESPN posted a story titled, *RFID use raises on-slope privacy concerns*.⁵

Excerpts:

Radio frequency identity has revolutionized the ski industry. Instead of fumbling with frozen fingers, skiers and snowboarders can now move through scanners, letting RFID chips embedded in lift passes open gates before them.

The Guardian Weekly...

... reported that nearly 150 maternity units in hospitals worldwide use active RFID wristbands on babies to prevent swaps or kidnapping. In France, people had major privacy invasion issues and plans to RFID tag babies in nurseries were dropped. About 300,000 babies were fitted with RFID bracelets in 2009. In Portugal and Brazil, laws were passed to require RFID tracking of newborns.⁶

The NetWorkWorld.com article we cited to start with also reported “RFID technology will only continue to increase. [Research] predicts revenue for RFID systems to grow more than 16%, expecting the RFID market to make about \$5.3 billion by the end of 2011.”

This is exactly the kind of news you’d expect if we were trending towards the fulfillment of Bible prophecy regarding the future mark of the beast.

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!

⁵ <http://sports.espn.go.com/action/news/story?id=5810585>

⁶ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/09/france-tagging-technology-child-protection>