

MARK OF THE BEAST

This is a warning to the true assembly...besides your bible; this is the most important book you have. 2 Thes. 2:3 says that before that day cometh, there shall be a great falling away. That is not just Believers whose faith has been lost, or the laodicean. One of the great falling always is failure to come out of Babylon, the beast government. This book describes the final control the government will instate over those who are in spiritual darkness and not watching. (1 Thes. 5:6) Many will lose their salvation and place in the kingdom at the last hour because they are double minded, with one foot in the assembly and one foot in the world. (Security) When this money system change comes, all must decide what mark they want to accept, Yahweh's sign or the mark of the beast!!! You cannot have both: if you take the mark, you lose your salvation for ever.

MARK OF THE BEAST

The Mark of the Beast; it is probably the best known prophecy in all of the Bible. Virtually everyone, at one time or another, has heard of this prophecy which tells that in the last days no one will be able to buy or sell anything unless they get the "devil's mark." This widely held perception is very accurate. In the book of Revelation the apostle John tells us that under the reign of the anti-messiah "no man might buy or sell, save he that [has] the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (1) This "mark," John tells us, will be universal. The false prophet will cause "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads."

This well-known prophecy is important for a number of reasons. First, it is a very clear prediction. There is very little room for interpretation. Either it happens, or it does not, there are no gray areas. Therefore, as we see trends and technologies leading us toward its fulfillment, we have one of the most powerful proofs possible for the accuracy of the prophetic Word of Yahweh. Unfortunately, it seems that this has proven to be a double-edged sword. In their anxiety to convince skeptics that this prophecy may soon come to pass, many have sensationalized the issue with unproven and undocumented stories. One perfect example was the report in the early 80's that the U.S. government had issued checks, which contained the restriction that they could not be cashed unless the recipient had a mark in their right hand or in their forehead! Yet, of all the people that purportedly received these checks, not one of them ever thought to keep the check or even make a photocopy. Nonetheless, this unlikely and undocumented story was quickly picked up by Christian publications all over the country.

Then there was the giant computer called "The Beast" in Brussels which purportedly was keeping track of everyone in the world. The fact that there is no hard evidence of its existence did not stop the rumor-mongers. In another instance, it was reported that an entire town in Sweden had received the "Mark of the Beast" as a test for the worldwide implementation of the system.

An additional rumor had it that workers in high security government projects in California were having microchips implanted under their skin for security purposes. In all of these instances, proof was never given nor asked for.

The point is that with this clear, well-known prophecy we had better be very careful not to cry wolf too many times. This would take credibility away from the events that are paving the way for the fulfillment of this prophecy in the very near future. Instead, what we need is a very discerning look at the facts that we do have. As you will see, they are sensational enough on their own!

It should also be noted that this prophecy is also extremely important because it is one of those prophecies that undoubtedly proves to us that we are the first generation qualified to be the last generation before the return of Messiah. Such worldwide control of buying and selling would hardly have been possible before the age of computers, satellites and cashless shopping. Today, the technology necessary to bring this prophecy to pass exists. Moreover, the political and economic will to bring it to pass exists as well.

What is the Mark of the Beast?

Although the “Mark of the Beast” will be used to regulate a person’s ability to buy or sell in the New World Order it is far from confined to the economic realm. As Revelation 14:9-11 tells us:

If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of Yahweh, which is poured out without mixture...And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Certainly, Yahweh would not pour out such serious judgment upon anyone for purely economic reasons. Instead, as is evident from this scripture, those who will accept the mark will also be making a spiritual decision as it is coupled with the “worship” of the beast and his image. Indeed, the “Mark of the Beast” will almost undoubtedly become the actual symbol of allegiance to the anti-messiah.

John’s statement that the “mark” will be received “in” the hand or “in” the forehead gives a good clue as to the actual attributes of this mark. It could well be that what this prophet was referring to, almost two thousand years ago, was what is known today as the computer microchip. In fact, the microchips currently being used in “smart cards,” could easily fulfill the definition of “the mark,” which will be issued under the Anti-messiah regime. These chips can contain the complete financial, medical and personal histories of the owner of the card. They can grant or deny access to bank accounts from automated teller machines and that’s only a small percentage of their capabilities. As far as the prophecy of the “Mark of the Beast” is concerned the only remaining requirement would be for the chip to be taken out of the card and actually be implanted into human flesh. That idea is not unthinkable. Already, pet shelters across North America have been injecting rice-grain sized microchips into the ears of cats and dogs to easily help owners identify and keep track of their lost pets.

The Cashless Society

The determination of just how close we could be to the fulfillment of this stunning prophecy must begin with a look at the current moves toward the cashless society. The following article in

USA Today sums up what is sure to be the most substantial change in the way the world does business in the nineties.

Imagine a “cashless society” where you can get groceries or gas, dine on fast food and make a phone call—all without a dime in your pocket. Robert Barone, president of Diebold, Inc., an automated teller machine (ATM) manufacturer, forecasts such a future:

“You will soon be able to do anything that you do today with cash with a plastic debit or credit card. “There will be a proliferation of point-of-sale authorization terminals that allow a store to go to your bank, determine if you have the money in your account, and charge your account electronically. “You could do your grocery shopping with such a card.... One benefit to the consumer is he won’t have to carry much cash around.”⁽²⁾

Many observers felt that this cashless society would emerge in the 1980s.’ A study of why it did not finds that although the technology existed, the problem lay in public acceptance. A generation of people who had not been raised on computers and newer technologies simply refused to use them. One dear lady told me she was scared she would punch the wrong buttons on the Automated Teller Machine and start a nuclear war! Another man simply said “I’ve dealt with a human teller all of my life and I am just not comfortable dealing with a machine.”⁽³⁾ Interestingly, for the younger generation, just the opposite is true. Many of those under thirty have seldom been in a bank branch. They do all of their banking with a machine. As this computerized generation grows up the trend toward electronic banking will continue to develop. However, bankcard organizations are not just leaving it to chance.

...The Pearl River, N. Y., [program] is bringing automated payment systems to elementary and high school cafeterias. The system allows pupils to use magnetic cards instead of cash to pay for their meals. They insert the card into a reader, which is linked to a personal computer that holds account information. The computer deducts the charge from the child’s account, which is prepaid by parents on a weekly or monthly basis. The cards are designed to withstand such punishment as spilled milk....So far, some 35 public school districts across the county have given the system the go-ahead....⁽⁴⁾

In another training program in Denver, children are being issued Kiddie MasterCard’s with a limit of only one hundred dollars.⁽⁵⁾ As a result, children from ages twelve and upward are becoming completely comfortable with the cashless system of the future. The delays that hindered the implementation of the cashless society in the eighties will not be allowed to repeat themselves.

A Bonanza for the Banks

The primary reason for the push toward the cashless society is because of the huge savings that financial institutions will be able to obtain. For instance, imagine that you go into a grocery store and pay for your order with a credit card. The number of transactions that have to take place to complete the payment are surprising. First, the store has to send a record of the purchase to the credit card company. Next, usually within a few days, the credit card company sends payment to the store. At the end of the month, the credit card company sends you your bill. Then, to pay the bill, you send them a check. They have to take that check and send it to your bank, or to a clearinghouse, to have the funds taken out of your account. Finally, the money that you spent at the store has to be credited to the account of the credit card company. In all, over six different transactions had to take place to pay for your bag of bean sprouts. Compare that to the

purchase of the future. In this instance, when you buy your groceries, you give the clerk your credit card look-a-like called a debit card. The clerk runs the card through a scanner, which is electronically linked to your bank. Instantaneously the money is removed from your account and put directly into the store's account. That's it.

It is no wonder that banks and financial institutions are pushing so hard for the adoption of such a system. The savings will be absolutely astronomical. Some estimates put the savings of an electronic system over the processing of a check at over 700% and even this figure may be conservative.

Moreover, as one bank manager explained it to me, in an electronic system, banks could tap into another huge area of savings. When a bank decides to open in a town they have two choices. They can shop for a piece of land, build a large building on it, furnish it, hire and train staff, pay property taxes, utilities and wages—or they can slap an automated teller machine on a telephone pole or in a subway stop. The choice is painfully obvious. Thus, the financial community is pushing for such a system with unrestrained enthusiasm.

Terry Galanoy, the former director of Communications for VISA International, is blunt in his assessment of the situation:

Protesting too loudly about it isn't going to help either, because the disturbance you kick up is going to end up in one of your files. And on that come-and-get-it day when we're totally and completely dependent upon our car--OR WHATEVER SURVIVAL DEVICE MIGHT REPLACE IT. You might be left all alone without one.

The Logical Reasons to Give up Cash

Of course, when bankers and other proponents of the cashless society are selling the electronic age to the public, the reasons they give are not based on their own profitability. Like in all good marketing campaigns, the benefits to the community and the individual are brought up front. Whether or not they are true benefits has little to do with the issue so long as they are perceived by the public to be advantageous. In the instance of the cashless society, there seems to be some good reasons being given in addition to the expected hype. The draw to a world cashless system is becoming virtually irresistible.

Destroying the Drug Trade

By its very nature the drug trade is based on cash--a suitcase-full at a time. Law enforcement officials say that if cash were done away with the drug trade could be dealt a serious blow. In a cashless system where all transactions leave a clear paper-trail, transactions involving huge sums of money could easily be monitored. A letter to the editor *Time Magazine* is representative:

Your report on drug smugglers converting drug-tinged money into clean assets shows that our government's oversupply of U.S. currency is a prime cause of the growth of the cocaine trade. You explain that 80% of all the bills printed by the Treasury can't be located because so many of them are concealed by the dealers. As an assistant prosecutor at the county level, I am disheartened by the inaction on denying the drug kings their medium of exchange, currency. One way to catch them would be a surprise big-cash recall. Let's demonetize the drug trade.

George E. Ward, Detroit (6)

Kiss Crime Good-bye

However, by eliminating cash, not only the drug trade, but the entire Black Market could be eliminated almost overnight, according to many observers. One particularly clear description of both the problem and the solution was given by a career foreign services officer:

William G. Ridgeway isn't so immodest as to suppose his plan would save the world. All he claims for it is that it would bust up organized crime, put an end to the deadly traffic in illegal drugs, reduce espionage and terrorism, drastically curtail corruption and tax evasion and begin a return to civility. Ridgeway's plan (dubbed Bold \$troke) would eliminate cash in favor of computerized, theft proof "smart cards."

Cash...is the criminal's vital accomplice, "the very mother's milk of the spy, the terrorist, the thief; the drug pusher, the drug user, the tax evader and the embezzler." Because it leaves no paper trail, it is "the interface between the legal and illegal world."

Cash, in short, is the root of a heck of a lot of the world's evil, and Ridgeway would outlaw it in phases: large bills first, then successively smaller ones and, finally, coins.

In its place: "smart cards." You've probably read about these electronic marvels, the technology for which already exists. On a foldable card the size of a dollar bill would be imprinted an astonishing amount of information: your bank balances, credit limits, medical records, passport, driver's license, photographs, welfare eligibility and other data including--this is key--your thumbprint.

The thumbprint, which would have to be verified electronically with each transaction, would make the card worthless to a thief.

Every single transaction would create its own record which could then be used for criminal investigations--just as checks, bank accounts and credit-card records are used now.

"The benefits of replacing cash (his plan would not affect credit cards or checks) would be incalculable," says Ridgeway. "No cash to smuggle. The sale of illegal drugs would stop, since none would want a record of the transaction. The spread of AIDS would be curtailed, as drug use fades away. The cost of government would go down, as would the cost of private business. Tax evasion--payment in cash to avoid sales tax ...[or failure] to report cash income would cease. The national debt could be reduced. Stolen items could not be sold without a trace. Personal security would be assured. Little old ladies could walk in the park again."

Ridgeway brushes aside the most obvious objections to his proposal: the Big Brother nature of a scheme in which every transaction is recorded.

As for the intrusiveness of Big Brother--the threat to liberty--Ridgeway believes that our real concerns should run in the other direction. "Ever-rising lawlessness," he contends, "will cause the public to demand more and more repressive measures, a sure recipe for the demise of our democratic way of life ...I know (from years in the Far East as a foreign service officer) what drugs, corruption and crime can do to a society. The same pattern of decline has started here, and the outcome is quite predictable. (7)

Ridgeway's assessment is extremely realistic. One recent report estimates that if tax-evaders alone could be thwarted it would put at least an additional one hundred billion dollars a year into U.S. government coffers.

The System is being Built

Crime and security concerns have indeed prepared the world to accept the necessity of

increased security measures in addition to the elimination of cash. As the *U.S. News and World Report* notes:

In an era when virtually all Americans are asked to show I.D.'s ranging from driver's licenses to credit cards, the process of insuring that a person is who he or she claims to be is a big business and a matter of growing concern. No longer is the simple password, the I.D. badge or the magnetic encoded card sufficient, say security experts. Those traditional devices can be falsified, stolen, or discovered accidentally. (8)

With the proliferation of debit cards, particularly the automated teller machine cards, most Americans are now familiar with PIN's--Personal Identification Numbers. These are the numbers that the cardholder is supposed to memorize and then punch into the terminal wherever they make a transaction. This is the way the developers of the system have tried to make sure that the person using the card is actually the owner of the card. The reasoning was that if someone stole a card it would be useless to them since they would not know the secret number. However, as a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta has shown, this system is often inadequate:

Current norms of security. In general have failed to provide much more than a rudimentary link between the individual and his access to funds in an account...The magnetic strip card combination merely seeks to match a holder of the plastic card with the knowledge of a four to six digit code or PIN. A growing body of research indicated, ironically, that many cardholders--rather than memorize a PIN--carry a written copy of their PIN near their bank card. Others literally write their PIN directly on their plastic card (9)

It is not just carelessness that plagues the system, however. The elderly, the mentally handicapped and others may just not be able to remember such a number. Furthermore, it is not unthinkable that a robber could not only take someone's card, but also force them into revealing their PIN number. Currently, the damages from this security shortfall have been minimized by daily limits set on the amount of funds that someone can access from their account in any given 24-hour period. At my own bank the daily limit is five hundred dollars. Thus, if someone stole my bankcard, and if they somehow managed to find out what my PIN number was, they could only do minimal damage before the theft was reported. Actually, in my case they would probably get a message from the machine telling them to dream on!

If we move toward a cashless society, where bank branches ceased to exist, these low limits would make it impossible to conduct normal business. Someone buying a house, a fridge or car would simply have to be able to access more than five hundred dollars at a time. As a result, planners say that a new way is needed to make sure that the person using a card is its rightful owner. The report of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank noted that "some alternatives [are] being considered such as signature dynamics and voice recognition [which] are based on nontransferable, biometric characteristics.

Biometric characteristics refer to physical qualities that are unique to the individual. Fingerprints are a perfect example. In addition to fingerprints, there are machines today that can verify a person's identity by the blood vessels in their eyes or hands, or by the tone and pitch of their voice. It is believed that these machines will replace the old Personal Identification Number as a means of making sure that the person presenting the card is actually the owner of the card. Under this system a person making a transaction would present their card and then place their finger in an electronic fingerprint reader, or a hand scan machine, or a retinal reader. The machine would then compare the person's fingerprint, or other identifying characteristic, to the one digitally stored in the card. It would thereby ensure that the person presenting the card was actually the owner of that card.

This transition is well underway. According to Benjamin Miller of *Personal Identification News*, “Biometrics will be a major part of our life by the year 2000.” Likewise, the aforementioned *U.S. News and World Report* article, concludes that many companies are betting that “consumers will be glad to give up their plastic cards and forget their pass-words and personal I.D. numbers in favor of system that reassures a unique physical characteristic.” The single problem with these systems is their extreme costliness. In one test system, being developed by a company called Identity System international, a smart card and a fingerprint reader are combined. The problem is that the fingerprint reader costs hundreds of times what the microchip in the card costs. You don’t have to spend too much time thinking to realize that by simply taking the chip out of the card and implanting it in the person, you would get rid of the only expensive part of system. In this way, you could be assured that the holder of the microchip, which holds all of the information anyway, would be the right person because the chip would be implanted inside their body. It would be rather difficult to casually steal someone’s hand or forehead and present it at the checkout stand of the local supermarket. Today, the technology for just such an implant exists. That technology, of course, is in the form of a microchip, much like the one presently used in smart cards.

Testing the Mark

Already, microchips are being implanted in animals for the purposes of fool-proof identification. The following article from *Cat Fancy Magazine* is descriptive:

If you refuse to allow your cat to wear an identification collar because of the possibility the collar might get caught on something and hang the cat, you might be interested in this new method of Identification Devices Inc. It’s an ultra thin microchip, which veterinarians will inject under the cat’s skin. The microchip emits a numerical or letter combination code (about 4 billion are possible), which is assigned exclusively to that cat....Its inventors believe that the widespread use of this technique of permanent identification could help save some of the thousands of animals euthanized each year by shelters that cannot trace the cat’s owners. (10)

Of course, the microchip is not only suitable for cats. Dogs are also being implanted. Likewise, horse breeders, cattle farmers, sheep farmers, and trout farm operators are also utilizing the new technology. Identification Devices, the developers of this microchip, say the following in their promotional materials:

Suppose you were to make a list of the technical advances that are quickly reshaping the way we live: micro miniaturization of electronic components, high-speed data processing systems, powerful new computer programming techniques and extremely sophisticated telecommunications devices as well as new methods of encapsulating delicate components so they function in unfavorable environments. Then consider how these innovations might be employed to solve the age-old problem of providing positive identification of PEOPLE, animals and equipment. That’s what the design specialists at Identification Devices did.... System I.D. transponders are encapsulated in an inert epoxy to protect the electronic circuitry during use. The specific epoxy chosen, of course, must be compatible with the intended application. Transponders implanted in animals, for example, have tissue-compatible coatings to prevent rejection by the body. The transponder is so small it is usually implanted in the animal with an ordinary syringe. And it is so durable it has a projected operating life after implantation of over 100 years.

Identification Devices boasts the capacity to handle a network of 1 million terminals. This is definitely more than enough to coordinate the tracking of cats, horses and fish. Furthermore, the company claims that “these innovations might be employed to solve the age-old problem of providing positive identification of people...” There is simply no question that the technology necessary to bring forth the prophecy of the Mark of the Beast is quickly falling into place. Like the cashless society, all that is really necessary is the acceptance of such an idea by the public.

Today, that acceptance seems to be at hand. It is coming for so many reasons that it is worth stopping to review a sampling of them.

Missing Children

In the decade of the eighties the enormity of the problem of missing children crept into our collective consciousness. Milk cartons and heart-wrenching television advertisements were a constant reminder that every day children were being abducted, abused and often killed. Such a drastic problem has led to equally desperate proposals of ways to deal with the problem. One of them is the invention of Dr. Daniel Man, a Florida-based plastic surgeon:

“A tiny homing device implanted behind the ear will help parents locate their missing children, says a plastic surgeon who developed the gadget using the same technology that led to cellular phones. The device, which emits electronic signals, could also help law enforcement officials find parolees and aid in the search for victims of Alzheimer’s disease who have wandered off,” said the developer, Dr. Daniel Man. Private industry and government agencies have expressed interest in the mini-beeper, which measures less than an inch in size. Man was awarded a patent last month for the device, which would work on an electronic energy system. The gadget emits a signal that could be monitored through a cellular system or possibly by satellite. Reaction has been generally positive.”¹¹

Tom Bergsma, the developer of yet another implant for children, admits that “without a doubt, this device would be the ultimate invasion of privacy because they [the authorities] would be able to find you anytime they want.”

However, he argues, that it must be weighed against the greater good. He says that “people are stealing our children and this device would make them responsible for their actions.”⁽¹²⁾

Prison Over-Crowding

Another highly publicized problem in today’s world is the great strains being put on the criminal justice system by the growing numbers of people behind bars. Report after report shows the crisis proportions that such overcrowding has caused. The idea of letting less violent criminals serve the time at home seems very logical:

In the Total Control Monitoring, Inc., system, the prisoner is required to wear an ankle bracelet which accompanies a cellular sending unit. If the prisoner wanders outside a designated radius, the sending unit emits a message to the monitoring device—operated by Brinks—who then in turn alert the correctional authorities. The sending unit can be tracked by the monitoring computer, and its whereabouts determined at any time, company officials indicated.”⁽¹³⁾

Chronic Wanderers

As Dr. Man noted, another problem in today's world are the elderly people or those with Alzheimer's disease who often lose track of their surroundings and just wander off.

We recently visited a nursing home to see how they dealt with the problem and found that the residents are now fitted with a wrist or ankle bracelet that activates an alarm if they wander off. Indeed, according to a recent report:

At the request of five federal agencies involved with the problems of the elderly, the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina is studying the efficacy of attaching small transmitters to chronic wanderers. ⁽¹⁴⁾

High Security Areas

Today, with the power of technology, a great deal of damage can be done by someone with only brief access to certain areas. Whether is it information, financial records, military secrets or nuclear facilities, security is the word of the day.

Employees working on restricted projects would have a transponder embedded in a tamper-proof badge. The unique identification signal emitted by the device upon command permits access to secured areas. It is also used to automatically log each person's movements in and out of restricted areas. Should unauthorized entry be attempted, the system immediately alerts security personnel." ⁽¹⁵⁾

Medical Emergencies

A recent newspaper article asked "What happens if your child is rushed to the hospital and you're not there to consent to treatment? The answer may be right at the kid's feet:

CritiKid provides hospitals with a child's medical history--and parents with peace of mind. It's a chip of microfilm with information about allergies, heart problems, or other existing conditions, along with a signed parent's consent form. It is laminated and attached to the lace or strap of the child's shoe. Hospital personnel remove the chip, read it with a microscope, magnifying lens or microfiche reader. More than 100 hospitals nationwide have adopted CritiKid, and more are expected to join ... ⁽¹⁶⁾

Gun Control

With the rise in crime, a growing concern has been in the area of gun control. According to a report in *USA Today*, "a personal smart card that every citizen would carry is just one controversial idea the Justice Department has to keep guns out of felons' hands." ⁽¹⁷⁾ The microchip, embedded in the card, would carry such data as criminal records. Gun dealers would check for information that would disqualify potential buyers. The Justice Department also suggested that gun shops install high-tech fingerprint scanners to immediately verify the identity of all gun buyers.

Prison Escapes

Finger matrix Inc., another high-tech security company, recently announced that it had received a \$108,000 contract to install a fingerprint-based identification system for people visiting inmates at the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas:

We have people here that have a history of violence and escape,” Leavenworth spokesman Dan McCauley said. “At any one time you have to figure that somebody is trying to plan some way to get out of this place, so your visiting becomes a security issue.” Visitors to the prison will insert a finger into a small scanner. A record of the fingerprint will then be stored on a computerized database along with the prints of other prison visitors. When you come out you’ll put your finger in the system again and it will say ‘Yep, that was you who went in and now you’ve checked out,’ “said Scott G. Schiller, director of investor relations for Finger matrix. “What they’re trying to protect here is that the wrong person doesn’t leave.” (18)

The New World Order

In the thirteenth chapter of the book of Revelation we are told that this “Mark of the Beast” system will be installed to help manage the New World Order. We know from prophecy that this new order will consist of a global society that will grow out of the Western democracies in general and Western Europe in particular. That is why a recent conference held in Barcelona, Spain was so significant. The conference was held under the theme “Borderless Borders” and was designed to address the problems of a “United States of Europe”. According to the promotional materials:

Card technology applications are being affected radically by the dramatic changes in a Western Europe in the process of uniting with an emerging, new Eastern Europe.... Issues which must be addressed include:

Identification: What information is necessary? Who are the keepers of the database? Will international passports be issued by individual nations or a central bureau, for example, in the European Community (EC)?

Security: How much identification is necessary to ensure a nation’s security?

Telecommunications: ...Who will make the decisions--government, business or a worldwide entity? Banking/POS: Why should integrated circuit/smart cards or debit cards replace cash? How much will identification and social services requirements drive these card applications?

There is little doubt here that the exact type of system spoken of in the Bible is now being openly discussed by world leaders. And, the connection of this economic system to the New World Order is unmistakable. International Card Technology Institute president, Arlen Lessin, explains: This is a very important conference--and not just because of the issues to be raised. The purpose of this conference is to formally and informally create a dialogue among the people who must make decisions about how we are going to live in an open world. We are not yet a global community. But that is clearly the direction in which we are heading. Borders will tend to blur and disappear on levels of economic, technological, political, military and even social activities. How can the integrity and security of a nation be maintained if people are free to cross from one nation to another? Of course, there must be some constraints, some means of knowing who is wishing to cross, some means of monitoring and/or identifying people from various nations.

What about the Outcry?

Not too long ago, the Gannett News Service carried a story about this coming electronic society. Although the report indicated that the technology was ready, it also noted that people were a long way from accepting it:

Here's a simple trick: Wave your hand over the computer code scanner at the grocery store checkout counter, and your bill is deducted from your checking account. The technology to accomplish [this] feat already is here ...said Tim Willard, executive officer of the World Future Society, a Washington organization that claims 27,000 members worldwide. But the will may not be. "Just suggest something like an implant in humans, and the social outcry is tremendous," Willard said. "While people over the years may have grown accustomed to artificial body parts, there is definitely a strong aversion to things being implanted. It's the 'Big Brother is watching' concept: People would be afraid that all their thoughts and movements were being monitored."⁽¹⁹⁾

Indeed, one would think that the possibility of such an intrusion, similar to the personal data base of George Orwell's book, 1984, would cause public outrage. But, it seems, that over the years, the public has been slowly weaned from their concern for privacy to total passiveness towards computerized personal profiles. A perfect example of this would be the transformation of the Social Insurance Number (SIN) in Canada. The original intent of the SIN card, issued to Canadians 18-years-old and over, was to ensure that Canadians were not defrauding the government by accepting undeserved unemployment benefits. However, as time wore on, Canadian citizens were asked by retailers, financial institutions, and credit card companies to give their SIN as identification. Even though Canadians were not required by law to divulge this number, eventually they were more than willing to use their SIN card as a legitimate form of ID.

The end result is that now the government has access to a personal profile on every Canadian citizen. They know where we work and they know where we have worked in the past. They know what fitness club we belong to. They know what credit cards we have. And, since it is now required by law for financial institutions in Canada to collect their clients' SIN, the government now knows what bank accounts we have, whether we have retirement funds, and whether we have a safety deposit box or not. But, this has not seemed to bother Canadians at all as no outcry has been raised. We just don't seem to mind that the government knows a great deal about us. Dr. Ann Cavoukian, the Assistant Commissioner for the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario actually admitted at a recent symposium, "the SIN has indeed become the de facto national ID of Canadians."

It is no different in the United States. The government's intrusion into our private affairs may be even more pervasive. The Social Security Number (SSN) is now used by government agencies, financial institutions and many other companies for IDENTIFICATION purposes. Most states require the number before issuing driver's licenses. The government's official collection agency, the dreaded Internal Revenue Service, now requires the number to be issued to ALL children over 2 years old, and soon will be required of newborn babies, too. Hilariously, the IRS wants the two-year-olds to sign the card to make it official. Humor aside, it is clear that this number is unlawfully being used for identification purposes, even though it was originally required ONLY for those accepting employment for the first time. The *New York Times* notes how far we've come in just a few short years:

Not long ago, Americans were still famous for detesting regimentation. In 1980, the idea of identifying aliens with Social Security numbers ignited outraged comparisons to concentration

camp tattoos. Robert Ellis Smith of the Privacy Journal worried about “a European mentality of submitting to inspectors who tell you that your papers are in order.” In 1982, the [New York] *Time's* William Safire called the idea “this generation’s longest step toward totalitarianism.” ...Americans once fiercely prized privacy, dignity and nuance identity. Now, obediently, they punch in their PIN’s and worship, cheerfully, at the touch screen altar of convenience. (20)

In this generation, that altar of convenience is worldwide. Fiber optics, satellites and computer databases have the potential to control the world in a way that boggles the imagination. Already, national identification cards are being used in eight of the nations that make up the European Economic Community. Official government policies to wipe out cash and checks are being followed in places like Denmark, Australia, Israel, Singapore and Thailand. High speed international communications systems have developed to the point where it is now claimed that “the world’s money follows the sun around the globe.” There is little doubt that the very technology to make the vision come to that the Apostle John saw, almost two thousand years ago, is now here. Two recent reports show just how quickly things are moving:

Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., recently drew up a \$1.75 billion plan to set up high-speed, high-capacity networks to link a U.S. supercomputer--“the information superhighways of tomorrow,” says Gore. Most supercomputer networks now run 2,000 times more slowly than the one he wants to see transmitting 3 gigabits, or 3 billion pieces of data per second by 1996. By comparison, an average home computer printer spits out 200 characters per second. The nation which most completely assimilates high-performance computing will very likely emerge as the dominant intellectual, economic and technological force in the next century,” Gore says. (21) IBM, MCI Communications Corp. and officials at a group of Michigan universities have quietly begun discussions with the federal government about creating a non-profit company that would operate a high-speed computer network that could one day reach every American home. The network would function as the nation’s [and the world’s] interstate highway system, carrying not just computer data but television images, telephone conversations and other forms of communication. (22)

Just One More Sign

When I speak about various prophecies in the Word of Yahweh, people often say to me, “it’s just a coincidence.” If there was just one or two vague predictions, I could understand that logic. But, that is simply not the case. The Word of Yahweh has given us a very clear, detailed picture of exactly what the world will be like in the days just before the return of Messiah. The prophecy of the “Mark of the Beast” is only one of these. As we have said, the evidence is clear. A simple analysis of the facts makes the conclusion almost inescapable—we live at the most expectant moment of history. As citizens of the 2000’s we have front row seats to those very events that will culminate with the return of Yahshua Messiah. In my new book are listed several dozen prophecies to summarize the evidence for you and to remind you that:

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty....We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of

Yahweh spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (II Peter 1:16,19,21).

FOOTNOTES:

- 1) Rev. 13:17
- 2) USA Weekend, 88/06/24-26
- 3) Interview for Mark of Beast video
- 4) Insight, 89/08/21
- 5) USA Today, 89/08/29
- 6) Re: Dec. 18 article, Time magazine
- 7) Lorain Journal, 89/07/12
- 8) U.S. News and World Report, 84/12/17
- 9) Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Economic Review March 1983
- 10) Cat Fancy magazine, October 1984
- 11) AP, 87/07/19
- 12) Michael Zeigler, Gannett News Service
- 13) Journal Record, 87/08/2 1
- 14) Omni, March 1987
- 15) ID Devices promo
- 16) USA Today, 88/01/22
- 17) USA Today, 89/06/28
- 18) Herald Statesman, 89/06/07
- 19) New York Times, 89/04/16
- 20) New York Times, 88/12/19
- 21) USA Today, 89/06/20
- 22) International Herald Tribune, 90/07/17

Assembly of Yah
2695 N 2409th Rd.
Marseilles, IL 61341
1 (815) 357-9926
E-mail askyah@pcwildblue.com
Internet: Assemblyofyah.com

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