

CASHLESS SOCIETY - HOW CLOSE?

The rush toward a cashless society picks up speed

by IRVIN BAXTURE, JR.

Two-thousand years ago the Bible prophesied concerning a time when people on earth would use a number in order to buy and sell. The prophecy states that this system will come into use during the one-world government of the Antichrist and immediately preceding the establishment of the kingdom of Jesus Christ upon the earth.

Such an economic system-has been absolutely impossible until the '90's. With the breathtaking acceleration of the computerization of our world, this electronic funds transfer system now appears possible by the year 2000!

The Social Security administration recently announced that, as of August 1, 1996, all new Social Security recipients are required to receive payment by direct deposit if they have a bank account. Receiving a check is no longer an option. By 1998 all who were receiving Social Security checks before 1996 will be forced to switch to direct deposit. By 1999 those who do not have a bank account will be required to open one - or receive their benefits in the form of a smart card. The U.S. Social Security administration will be totally cashless by 1999! When Social Security, one of the largest departments of the government, goes cashless and checkless, you can be sure the other branches of the U.S. government will take similar measures.

Starting this year, WAL-MART is requiring all of its vendors and suppliers to bill and to receive payment from WALMART electronically. Any who do not move onto an electronic funds transfer footing will no longer be allowed to do business with WAL-MART. Many other major corporations in America are presently taking these same steps toward a cashless, checkless operation.

Some people have thought that we are many years away from the prophesied cashless society; but the astronomical growth of the Internet and growing computer literacy around the world make the cashless society a very real possibility for the very near future.

Forces pushing the world cashless Cost-cutting

To process the average paper transaction (check or credit card) costs approximately one dollar per transaction. The average paperless electronic transaction costs about three cents. Some large banks process two million paper transactions per day. Converting to a totally electronic economy would save over one million dollars per day for some corporations! No wonder they are promoting the cashless society in such an aggressive way!

Most of us have had to wrestle with foreign transactions. U.S. banks charge a stiff fee to process even Canadian checks. There is usually a commission for converting from one currency to another. All of this is eliminated when foreign transactions are conducted electronically.- Credit card purchases made in a foreign country are billed in domestic currency with no commission charged.

Mailing costs represent major expenditures for many businesses. When all billing is done electronically, postage, envelopes, and billing forms can be eliminated, not to mention the huge savings in labor. Because of all these factors, businesses around the world are moving into the cashless society as quickly as possible.

Convenience

Have you ever needed change for a coke or a candy bar? In the coming cashless society, you'll never have that problem again.

Lines at the grocery store will move faster. There will be no more check approvals and no one taking forever to count out 67~.

You will never have to stop at the toll booth on the interstate again. The scanner will pick up your number as you go by and bill you at the end of the month.

If you need more money on your reusable credit card or on the implanted chip in your hand, you won't have to go to the bank or look for an ATM. You will be able to place additional funds onto your ship over the telephone.

If you're a business man, you won't have to wait for checks to clear or ever again hear the excuse—the checks is in the mail.

Crime control

If we did have a system where everyone had his own personal identification number by which he transacted -business, it seems it would certainly cut down on crime. If no one had any money, it would do no good to try to rob them. Bank holdups would be a thing of the past. There would be no more bounced checks or forgeries since there would be no checks at all.

Illegal transactions would be easily prosecuted since every transaction would be stored on bank computers. Drug dealers depend on the secrecy of cash transaction to operate. In the electronic funds transfer society, every transaction of a drug dealer or user would be traceable.

Terrorism

The fight against world terrorism can be so frustrating! The recent escalation of terrorist activity has caused counter-acting terrorism to become the number one priority for the leaders of the world.

What makes the struggle against terrorism so difficult is the anonymous face of the terrorist. Stopping terrorism so many times resembles trying to find a needle in a haystack. The terrorist can mingle himself into a crowd, plant his bomb, and then board the next flight to a country that will give him safe haven.

How can we deal with this terrible menace? Under the premise of combating terrorism, all air travelers must now present picture ID before boarding an airplane. Still it doesn't seem to be enough.

Many believe the time has come for a world ID system. If every person had a number which they used for buying and selling, this same number could serve as their global ID. Already, some frequent international travelers have chosen to register for the convenience of biomorphic identification when they enter and exit the country. At JFK airport in New York, travelers may place their hands on a biomorphic scanner for customs and security clearance. This establishes their identity and cuts the customs process time from 45 minutes to 15 seconds.

All of these factors make a cashless society sound quite attractive. Yet there are millions of people adamantly opposed to a numbered cashless society. Why?

Why not go cashless?

The 2,000-year old prophesy about this cashless society states that a number will be required to function in this coming electronic funds transfer system. In order to get your number, you will be forced to pledge allegiance to the New World Order and the one-world religious system. If you refuse to do this, you will be placed under economic sanction by the World Community and will be unable to buy or sell. If you do bow to this world system, you will become the object of the wrath of God and will be tormented with fire and brimstone forever.

The prophecy

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or

in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Revelation 13:15-18

Throughout the Bible it is prophesied that a world government will be formed immediately before Jesus returns to earth to establish His 1000-year reign of peace. A very powerful politician will gain control of this world government and will dominate the earth. This man is referred to as the Antichrist.

In his attempt to unify the people of the world, he will establish some form of global religion structured to encompass all the major religions of the world.

This prophecy in Revelation 13 speaks of a time when the Antichrist will use economic control to force political and religious conformity on the earth.

All of these prophetic events are developing right now. The move toward world government is demonstrated by the term "New World Order" and the term the "World Community." Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Germany, France and many other nations are right now serving together in the world government forces of the UN in Bosnia. Two-thousand Russian troops are presently serving in Bosnia under a U.S. commander. Can you believe it?!

In the fall of 1995, U.S. soldier Michael New refused to serve in the world government forces of the United Nations. He said, "I didn't take an oath of allegiance to the world government of the United Nations. I took an oath of allegiance to the United States and the U.S. Constitution." He was court-martialed and found guilty. His case is presently under appeal.

Plans to form a sister organization to the United Nations called the United Religions were recently announced (see article in this issue of Endtime). This is a giant step toward the global religion that will supposedly bring an end to religious strife.

Already the United Nations' primary tool in bringing the nations of the world under its control is economic sanctions. This tool has been used very effectively in Rhodesia, South Africa, Haiti, Bosnia and Iraq. When a nation refuses to conform to an edict of the UN, all member nations refuse to buy from or sell to that nation. By strangling the nation economically, eventually the disobedient nation is forced to its knees.

Revelation 13 states that, not only will economic sanctions be used against nations, but ultimately they will be used against individuals.

Many sincere people believe that the formation of one-world government, one-world economy and one-world religion is the path to peace on earth. They contend that, if there were only one government and one army on earth, the lone army would not fight with itself; there-fore, we would have peace on earth. This sounds pretty good until we ask one haunting question: What happens when an Adolf Hitler gains control of the world's only army? The global plan calls for all other armed forces in the world to be disarmed. Consequently, there will be no force to resist the tyranny of a global dictator.

Some will say that this scenario couldn't happen. But the Bible prophesies that this is exactly what is going to happen!

The Antichrist will gain control of the global government and will usher in the greatest time of religious and political persecution in the history of the world—a time which Jesus Christ called the Great Tribulation.

Is a cashless society technologically possible?

In the 1992 election campaign, President Clinton projected the vision of a super information highway on which all the people of America and ultimately the world would become connected electronically. The world is now moving toward the realization of that vision at breathtaking speed.

The growth of the Internet, referred to by many as the worldwide web, is nothing short of phenomenal. It is projected that you will be able to buy and sell anywhere in the world over the Internet within one year. The only obstacle to global Internet shopping right now is the need to insure that transmission of credit card numbers over the Internet is totally secure. Industry giants such as Visa, Master Card, Microsoft and others say that this problem will be solved within months.

The security of a cashless system centers on the ability of the purchaser to prove that he is who he says he is. Technology must provide a positive means of identification.

Many methods of identification are presently being explored. There are a number of possibilities. For many years fingerprints have been the most fool-proof means of establishing positive ID. However, most people have felt uncomfortable at the thought of being fingerprinted every time they make a purchase. Recently, machines have been developed that use biomorphics to scan your hand in order to establish identification.

Retinal scans are another method that is being used for identification purposes. The retinal pattern of your eyes is different than any other person on earth. This technology now works without the individual having to remove his glasses.

Probably the cheapest and most effective world identification system on the horizon is the implanting of a computer chip under the skin. A chip less than the size of a grain of rice can be implanted under the skin with a needle. This method has been used for some years now for identification of cattle, pets, and other animals. In Spain it is required by law that every pet be injected with the ID chip. This is also now true in St. Louis, Missouri.

Serious consideration is being given to using the implanted chip for ID in human beings. With a chip implanted, merchandise could be paid for by simply waving the hand over a scanner. Access to secured areas could be granted or denied using a simple scanning device.

In the *Springfield Daily News*, August 12, 1993, the following statement was made under the heading, 'Means of Identification in the future,' "Soon you'll be able to forget your personal identification number, or PIN, and just wave your hand in front of the cash register. Hand readers and optical chips that hold all and any sort of information about you are the up-and-coming technologies in the cashless society," said industry watcher Robert McKinley. "But with this convenience will come big concerns about privacy and how to protect it in the future," he said.

Popular Science, July 1995, carried an article "E-money" by Phil Patton. This is what it had to say about the coming cashless society: "If we had our way, we'd implant a chip behind everyone's ear in the maternity ward," says Ronald Kane, a vice president of Cubic Corp.'s automatic revenue collection group. Cubic is the leading maker of smart card systems for mass transit systems, highway tolls, parking, and other applications and one of a number of companies and government agencies pushing the frontier of smart cards—the money of the future. For Kane and his colleagues, the next best thing to an implanted chip is giving everyone a card—a high-tech pass with a memory that may, sooner than we imagine, replace cash in our wallets.

The article went on to state: Although we may not all end up with a chip implanted under our skins, the ever smarter cards of the future may be validated "biomorphically" by fingerprints or retinal readers.

The use of smart card technology is much further advanced in Europe than in the United States. In Europe, cashless systems already exist such as Denmark's Danmont and a British system, called Mondex, that keeps track of up to five different currencies. Smart cards are already well established there largely because of Europe's more centralized economies and the greater degree of government involvement and standardization.

The entire bank payment system in France, involving 22 million people, has been converted to smart card technology. Germany's health care system uses smart cards for patient information and billing.

Beyond smart cards are no cards at all—just numbers moving through computers and across phone lines.

Some major corporations are now requiring their employees to receive an implanted chip for access to high security areas.

"If we had our way, we'd implant a chip behind everyone's ear in the maternity ward."

"Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number is Six Hundred three score and six."

What will the mark of the heart be?

There has been much speculation about what the mark of the beast will actually be and how it will be implemented. Some have wondered if this will be a physical mark in the hand or forehead or if this could refer to the memorizing of a number in your head or the holding of a card with your number in your hand.

We may not know for certain at this time, but it seems that the mark will be a literal physical mark. We have a precedent in the actions of Adolf Hitler who was certainly a forerunner of the Antichrist. He forced Jews to be tattooed shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, with of star a number on David and their to wear the yellow star of David on their clothes.

The Bible tells us that the mark will be the name of a man, the Antichrist, or the number of his name. The prophecy says:

"Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

Notice that the prophecy says that we should count the number of the beast and that it is the number of his name. His name will somehow equal 666. Some have wondered if the Antichrist's first, middle and last names would all have six letters-for example: Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Another possibility is illustrated by counting the number of the name in the pope's crown. VICARIUS FILII DEI is Latin for Vicar of the Son of God. If the value of all the letters in this name which are Roman numerals is added up, it equals 666. V=5, I=1, C=100, A=No value, R=No value, I=1, U is inscribed as aV and therefore =5, S=No value, F=No value, I=1, L=50, I=1, D=500, E=No value, I=1. The sum of all these values is 666. We don't think that this is the answer since the pope will not be the Antichrist. However, whoever is pope at the time of the Antichrist will be in partnership with him and support him. Consequently, we may not be able to rule this out conclusively.

Now Ago numerology

In this time of new age, many books have been published explaining how to determine the numerological value of an individual's name. Perhaps this method will be used to count the number of the beast. Only time will tell.

I do believe that when the number of the beast is properly revealed it will be accurate and Irrefutable.

Will the Mark of the beast be worldwide?

It appears that the mark of the beast will only come into full force near the end of the Great Tribulation. Although it will dominate the world, there is scriptural proof that there will be places on earth where it will never achieve full control. In Revelation 12:13-14 it states:

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Notice that Israel will be persecuted by the Antichrist for three and one-half years. However, some of Israel will escape into a special place where they will be protected and nourished from the anger of Satan during this three and one-half year period. This lets us know that there will be places of refuge on this earth during the Great Tribulation.

The reign of the Antichrist is described in Daniel 11:21-45. During his reign he will fight at least four wars. If he is in total and absolute control, why is he fighting wars. Obviously, he has opposition. Right at the end of the tribulation period, Daniel 11:44 says: "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." It is obvious that the Antichrist is still experiencing opposition clear to the end.

Daniel 11:41 states that the country of Jordan will never fall under the power of the Antichrist. It says: "He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon." Edom is Petra in southern Jordan. The Moab mountains are in Jordan. And Ammon is Amman, the capital of the nation of Jordan. King Hussein has been a master at straddling the fence in Middle Eastern politics. It appears that he succeeds till the end.

Could a person take the mark unknowingly?

Many people have asked, Could I take the mark of the beast without realizing what I am doing? The answer is yes. If you are ignorant of the scripture, you could be led like a sheep to the slaughter, and millions will

How then can we prevent this from occurring? 1. Never allow a name or a number to be placed on or injected into your body. 2. Never pledge allegiance to the New World Order or the United Nations or any global leader. 3. Never join the ecumenical movement or affirm belief in a global religion or a global ethic.

Should we be taking steps to coun-

Jesus said, "Therefore take no thought, saying, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But righteousness; and all these things shall be added

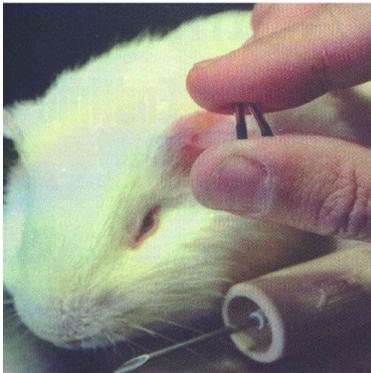
The main thing that we should be doing in the great commission given to us by Jesus. He is coming the coming kingdom of God. This is what

Many people are adopting survivalist God allows us to see in advance that pressure is steps to provide for this time will become prudent.

Thing: the Bible tells us to do

Jesus said in Luke 21:28, "And when these your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Paul said in Romans 13:11, "And that, knowing for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."



teract the mark?

What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his unto you. (Matthew 6.31-33)

preparation for those things that are coming is to fulfill commanded us to go TEACH ALL NATIONS con-

every Christian should be doing at this crucial time! techniques in anticipation of the Great Tribulation. If coming on our particular nation, then perhaps some

things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up

the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep:

Using prophetic development: to Reach the unsaved

Prophetic fulfillment is going to become one of the greatest witnessing tools ever placed in the hands of the church. When a temple begins to be constructed in the near future, when animal sacrifices are resumed in Israel, and when the cashless society begins to affect everyone of our lives, awareness of the accuracy of the Bible and the nearness of the Second Coming will cause people to come to God in unprecedented numbers.