

Session 11 Biblical Trends Related to Globalization (Dan. 12:4)

I. GLOBALIZATION

*We are on session eleven of a fourteen-session course called **Knowing the Biblical Signs of the Times**. There is quite a bit of information in the Scripture from the lips of Jesus, and the writings of the New Testament apostles and the Old Testament prophets that describe different trends and events that will all happen globally, recognized trends and events that all happen in one time frame, in one generation.*

Tonight we are looking at the trend of globalization. Now the idea that the world would function in any kind of unity economically and military, governmentally, culturally in many different ways and in many facets of culture, was unthinkable 2,000 years ago when the New Testament writers were declaring these things. These things were unthinkable even 100 years ago, and yet suddenly in the last forty, fifty, sixty years these trends have just exploded on a global level.

- A. Many nations will work together under the Antichrist's authority which will impact many areas of life—economics, military, government, religion, etc. The stage is being set today for this by the rapidly increasing integration of many areas of life by many different nations, i.e. by globalization.

³...all the world marveled and followed the beast [Antichrist]...⁷authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life... (Rev. 13:3-8)

First, our premise is the idea that we know where history is going: that one day there is going to be one man, the Antichrist, who has a global government. Now I do not mean every single nation will be dominated by him, but he will have a presence, and he will have an influence and many cases domination in the nations around the world. It was just inconceivable even 100 years ago that this could actually happen in real time with real people. We know it is in the Word of God, so we know that it will come to pass.

Revelation 13:3 says, "All the world marveled, all the world followed the beast." Now when you read and compare Scripture with Scripture, you find there is a great revival going on at this same time. So it does not mean every individual in the world, and it does not mean every nation is dominated by him. He has a presence and an influence in every nation, and he has worshippers in every nation. Verse 7 says that authority was given to him over every tribe and tongue and nation. Again he will have an impact, or at least an influence, and a domination in many places as well. In verse 8, we find that word "all" again, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him." Then praise God for the qualifier "except for the people whose names are in the Book of Life." We believe there is a great harvest of a billion souls coming to the Lord in those final years of natural history.

Well, the stage is being set today. The conditions for this to happen are recognizable today by the rapidly increasing integration of many areas of life in many nations. The term that is most commonly used is the term "globalization." It is a term that became popular in the mainstream in the 1980s.

- B. Globalization as a new term became popular in the mainstream culture in the 1980s and speaks of the processes by which the peoples of the world are beginning to function as single world society. It implies a worldwide interconnectedness of knowledge, products, media, economics, technologies, transportation, religion, peoples, military forces, and more in a way that is unhindered by national boundaries. Its goal is to facilitate the exchange of resources and ideas to improve lives by creating greater opportunities throughout the world.

Globalization is the process by which the peoples of the world in many different facets of life began to function together as one single world society. Again, it is not ever going to be 100 percent until the Lord returns, but there will be more and more global integration, cooperation, interconnectedness. Now that it is so common today, the growth of it does not strike us as odd. Fifty years ago, there was no thought that this could take place except for maybe by a few of the most progressive thinkers.

Globalization implies a worldwide interconnectedness of knowledge, but more than that, products, media, economics, technology, religion, etc. An interconnectedness that is unhindered by national boundaries is the unique thing. Number one, that so many people spread out all over the world could be connected is facet number one to look at or aspect number one. Then the fact that they would not be hindered by their national boundaries and many of these things.

The goal of globalization from man's point of view is to facilitate this cooperation of the exchange of resources, money, products, ideas, etc. so that people's lives would be enriched. The Lord is using this cooperation to see the gospel go forth and to see good things happening in His kingdom. The enemy is using this cooperation to set the stage for evil to spread on an unprecedented level.

- C. The most challenging issues facing the nations are international in nature, including the *global war on terror*, the *global financial crisis*, and *global environmental concerns* (pollution, clean water, etc.). The tension in the financial crisis is the global financial market without global rule of law. The crisis creates an atmosphere in which “global governance” and a unified global economy will be a more attractive option for finding solutions.

The most challenging issues facing the nations today are international in nature. For instance, the global war on terror, the global financial crisis that has been getting more and more intense from 2008 in the last decade and is intensifying, and global environmental concerns. One tension in the financial crisis is the fact there is a global market but not a global rule of law, so the market is global, but the rules are not global. So there is a crisis that is mounting up.

This crisis is creating the atmosphere around the earth for people to see the wisdom of a global government. People are beginning to see a global economy as an attractive option to bring a solution and a global government. Now it is never going to reach that in fullness before the Lord returns, but it is going to reach a level far beyond any other time in history.

- D. Global infrastructures are moving us from being nation-based to a globally unified expression, with one world technology, economy, trade, communication, religion, geopolitics, and military action.

We see global infrastructures, national and international infrastructures, of government, economics, trade, education. Many of these facets of life are moving from being nation-based to having a globally unified expression. We are seeing that happening at a very rapid pace.

- E. Globalization includes the manner in which finances, commerce, communication, religion, and geopolitics are converging, not in a nation-based context but as a globally unified expression.
- F. Globalization must overcome obstacles such as nationalism and religion. Policies will be created for the nations to work together without religious resistance, which might happen quickly in context to a nuclear strike by terrorists, an economic crisis, or a global plague needing global participation.

- G. In 2016, the number of people with internet access in their home is 3.3 billion. Of the top 10 internet sites in the world (measured by unique monthly visitors), 8 are American-owned companies including Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Yahoo, Amazon, and Wikipedia. Yet 80% of the users responsible for this traffic come from outside the United States, showing globalization in full force.

For instance, an example of globalization is seen in the internet. In 2016 the number of people that use the internet is over three billion. Eight of the top ten internet websites in the world are American-owned companies, but eighty percent of their customers do not live in America. That shows that globalization is really taking root. I mean eighty percent of the customers do not live in the nation where the company is founded and is run and was initiated. People obviously are seeing and participating in the global community. Again, that is not news today.

The part I want you to be struck by is how unusual this globalization is today compared to fifty years ago and how fast it is growing. For the folks that are my age—I am sixty—it is far more obvious to us. To young people it is just the normal thing, but for 6,000 years of recorded human history there was no chance of this, no thought of this development. So the fact it is happening right now at the same time that the events and trends that we have covered in the earlier ten sessions is huge. They are all happening on a global level at the same time in the same generation.

Of course the point of the Bible highlighting these trends—not just this globalization; that is one trend here in session eleven, but also those in the ten sessions before this—is because as believers we are, as I have said in each session, naturally stuck in the bubble of our own life and interests, challenges and concerns. That is normal and that is legitimate in many ways, but the Lord is saying, “There is a global narrative that I have. There is a global plan and storyline that is going on. I do not want you stuck, just fixated on the bubble of your own life. There is a bigger story.”

So when we see the biblical signs of the times, the ones that God wanted us to see, happening around the world, this large list, it gives us urgency. There is a bigger storyline that is far more widespread and dynamic on a global level than who likes us or how much money we have or how good we feel or how popular we are etc., how well our company is going. Again those are legitimate things to think about, but I do not want to be lost in that. I want urgency for the global storyline, the global narrative. When we study them, the signs of the times help us in that way.

- H. Globalization and the acceleration of good and evil are related to the unprecedented increase of travel and knowledge (via technology). They facilitate the collaboration and synergism of good and evil resulting in the gospel being preached in all nations and evil coming to fullness (Dan. 12:10).

***¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly...
(Dan. 12:10)***

Globalization is integral to both the positive and the negative trends that are going on in the nations. I mean it is both the positive—the gospel going forth—as well as the negative—sin going forth. Globalization is integral to that.

Look down and read this passage, Daniel 12:1-4. Here we see that globalization is related to the increase of two things, travel and knowledge. Now we are going to see in a moment that Daniel highlights travel and knowledge, an unprecedented increase of travel and an unprecedented increase of knowledge. These are the two tracks for globalization to run on. These are the tracks of globalization, and globalization is empowering or facilitating a tremendous increase of righteousness as well as a tremendous increase of wickedness. Both of

them will reach all-time highs in history because of massive numbers of human beings moving in the same direction and the synergism that happens with this, in a positive way as well as a negative way.

Now look at Daniel 12 because this whole prophecy is in Daniel 12. We are jumping towards the end of Daniel 12. In a minute we are going to look at verse 4. We can look at the end result of where this globalization is going. Many will be purified. You know there is a lot of emphasis on how wickedness grows, and that is mentioned next. Wickedness is not the only thing that is growing through the increase globalization. By the outpouring of the Spirit, by the pressures and the shaking in the nation, even the interaction of the Body of Christ and the synergism that is involved when the Church is falling together, it is all going to have an end result. The power of the Holy Spirit, worldwide pressure, and global unity in the body of Christ are going to result in **many** walking in purity, not just a few. It is not like there is going to be this little ragged remnant that barely holds on to the end. The angel told Daniel that we would see a large response to purity and to walking holy and clean before the Lord. Know that while that is happening wickedness will continue to increase in a very deep level.

II. DANIEL PROPHESED THE INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE AND TRAVEL (DAN. 12:4)

- A. A mighty angel assured Daniel of the triumph of God’s kingdom related to the Great Tribulation. It will be the most unique, powerful, violent, difficult, yet glorious generation in history. Jesus is sovereignly leading the nations into this time that will result in the glory of God filling the earth. There is coming a time of trouble that will result in an unprecedented victory for God’s people.

¹“At that time Michael shall stand up...there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was since there was a nation even to that time. And at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered...²Many of those who sleep in the dust...shall awake [the resurrection]...³...those who turn many to righteousness [will shine] like the stars forever...⁴seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (Dan. 12:1-4)

Let’s go now look at the verse where Daniel prophesies about this unprecedented increase of travel and knowledge. Again those are the two tracks on which globalization runs.

Let’s read the passage so you get the context, because if you do not see the context, you might miss the prophecies. The prophecy is in Daniel 12:4, where it says, “Many shall run to and fro.” Most all agree this speaks of travel and that the nations will be able to go from one place to the other on a global level and knowledge will increase. Typical to the prophetic scriptures, the Lord gives you just a phrase, but the very fact that a mighty angel is highlighting these two phrases is of great significance. You will see the significance of these two phrases when you see the context of which they are given.

Now look at this. Daniel 12:1, “At that time,”—he is talking about the final years of natural history, right leading up to the coming of the Lord Jesus in the clouds— “At that time,” those final years leading up to it, “Michael the archangel will stand up,” which means he will arise to action in a way that is discerned in the natural realm. He is not just going to stand up in heaven; he is already up in heaven. He is going to arise to action in a way that will make a discernible impact on the earth. That is exciting! Increased angelic activity is what it is talking about.

Then he goes on and says that there is going to be tremendous angelic activity and signs and wonders, but there is going to be great trouble, too. There is great positive, but it will be in context to great trouble, a time of trouble. The mighty angel tells Daniel that it will be trouble such as never was, since there was a nation, even to that time. In other words, the angel told Daniel that it is the trouble unique to any time in history. We will see in

a few moments that this is the very verse Jesus quotes when He describes the Great Tribulation. So we know this the Great Tribulation, since Jesus identifies it later as the Great Tribulation using this verse. The angel explains that it is not just going to be a time of angelic activity, but also global trouble. At that very same time, that same hour of history “your people”—the people of Daniel would be Israel—Israel will be delivered, the salvation of Israel. Israel will be delivered physically as well as spiritually. It will be the hour of Israel’s salvation. I mean that is historic! These are three very big significant realities.

He goes on to say that not only is Israel delivered, verse 2, every believer from history is going to be raised from the dead in the resurrection. Verse 3, then he tells us—and I really appreciate this elaboration—“and those who turn many to righteousness will shine like stars forever,” talking about in the resurrection. The part I like is that many are going to turn to righteousness in that hour; many, not a few. The beauty and the glory of Jesus is going to be magnified worldwide by the power of the Spirit.

Verse 4, then the mighty angel tells Daniel the prophet to seal this book, or protect this book, preserve this book, so that this information will be available at the time at the end when all these things happen. Then he says, “Many will run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

- B. Several significant things will occur in the same time frame—*Michael stands up* (indicating angelic activity and great miracles as many turn to righteousness; 12:1, 3), the *Great Tribulation*, the *salvation of Israel* (delivered spiritually and physically; 12:1), the *resurrection* (12:2), and *globalization* made possible by travel and knowledge increasing in an unprecedented way (12:4).

My point here is this: notice the five categories of very significant occurrences. Michael stands up; we will see in a moment that this speaks of tremendous angelic activity. The book of Revelation develops this idea of Michael arising and the tremendous activity of God and angels being manifested on the earth. There is the Great Tribulation, the salvation of Israel, the resurrection. Then he adds this which I believe is in line with the first four things that are of the greatest significance to human history, this prophecy of increased travel. It will be noteworthy. It will stick out. It will be obvious to everyone that the peoples of the earth are going to and fro. They are moving from one nation to another, from one city to the other. No time in history will be like this is the idea.

Then he says in a very measured way, “and knowledge will increase.” Most prophecies are like that; they just give you a phrase. There is so much behind the phrase because when a mighty angel appears in the natural realm and gives a phrase you can be sure there is a lot behind the phrase. The angel says that knowledge will increase. Here is my point: the increased travel and the increased knowledge are in the same context as angelic activity, the Great Tribulation that transitions the earth through the age to come, the salvation of Israel, and the resurrection, so we know that this prophecy is about something of significance to the magnitude that it fits in this list. It is not a small thing. I read Bible commentators, and they think that nobody really knows much about it, that there is a little bit of increase here or there. No, they are missing it. Look at the context in which this prophecy is given and that will give you a hint or an insight into how significant it is. It is of the order of the other four. Now the other four are more significant, but it is in that category of significance.

- C. ***Michael shall stand up***: Michael the archangel “shall stand up”—he will arise to action. This indicates that an unprecedented increase of angelic activity with supernatural miracles will be manifested in the end times. Michael and his angels will cast Satan and his demons out of heaven in the end times (Rev. 12:7-9). Great miracles occurred when angels were manifested in the book of Acts. This supernatural activity will impact many people who will turn to righteousness (12:1-3).

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the...dragon and his angels fought...⁹and Satan...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:7-9)

³...those who turn many to righteousness...¹⁰Many shall be purified... (Dan. 12:3, 10)

I do not want to spend too much time on this, but I love this passage so much. Let's look at these first four just a moment so that we can get the sense of the significance of the fifth one, which is the globalization through increased travel and knowledge.

Michael shall arise. When Michael arises to action, this is an action that is discernible and impacts the earth. This is not a heavenly action. It indicates an unprecedented increase of angelic activity which means miracles, power of God. John elaborates on this verse in the book of Revelation. He is describing what it is like when Michael arises. He is referencing what Daniel prophesied, the passage we looked at. Look at Revelation 12 where he saw a time in the future—this has not happened yet—when war will break out in the heavenly realm. Now we find out here it is not only Michael, but it is Michael and all of his angels. He is arising to do what? To confront Satan and every single demon in a direct, confronting way to overpower them and dislodge them from their place of influence in the heavenly realm. We know demons are the powers and principalities in the heavenly realm as Ephesians 6:12 tells us. They are going to be dislodged from their place of superior influence to a place of inferior influence. They are going to be confined to the earth. Michael is going to arise with all of his angels. I mean that might be billions of angels; we do not know. The host of heaven is vast, and we know it is the whole host. This is the confrontation that dislodges Satan in an historical way where he is confined to the earth in a position of far less power to affect the earth. He is affecting the earth, but he does not have the same amount of impact.

In the book of Acts—I do not remember how many times, seven, eight, nine times—when angels appear in the book of Acts, it always has a great dimension of miracle power. When an angel manifests, an earthquake comes, the prison doors open. Great miracles are associated with angels appearing, so that is a glorious thing.

- D. **Great Tribulation:** In Matthew 24:21, Jesus referred directly to the *time of trouble* (12:1) when He spoke of a *great tribulation*, such as has not been since the beginning of the world. He described this time as being so violent that, if the time were not cut short, no one would survive physically.

¹...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation... (Dan. 12:1)

²¹There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world... (Mt. 24:21)

It is the time of the Great Tribulation; that is the second significant reality that is being described by the angel. Here I referenced the prophecy of Daniel 12:1 with Jesus quoting it so you can read them together. Jesus quotes it directly. This is the most significant time in human history, where billions of people will walk in depths of darkness unknown in history, while multitudes will walk in depths of righteousness unknown in history in the same time frame. That is happening in the Great Tribulation.

- E. **Salvation of Israel:** The angel told Daniel that *his people would be delivered*—they will be delivered *spiritually* from sin and unbelief and *physically* from persecution and oppression.

- F. **Resurrection:** In the resurrection the saints will recover all that was lost in the persecution. The saints are emboldened by the certainty of the rapture, resurrection, and rewards (12:2-3).

The next trend is the resurrection. I have already mentioned it. It is the ultimate destiny of the saints. The human race actually comes into their ultimate destiny. The saints receive their bodies there, and the lost are declared as judged, but their final judgment awaits another time.

- G. **Globalization:** Daniel was told about two developments significant enough to mention in context to Michael standing up, the Great Tribulation, the salvation of Israel, and the resurrection—*increased travel* (to run and fro) and *increased knowledge*, making globalization possible.

⁴**“...many shall run to and fro [travel], and knowledge shall increase [information age].”**
(Dan. 12:4)

Then the fifth trend is this globalization. The point I am making is that this is not a small, little, peripheral, insignificant trend. The angel is mentioning it in line with these other very, very significant trends and events. Let's read it again, “Many shall run to and fro.” It will be recognized globally. It will stick out. It will be obvious, which I will show you in a moment. It is so obvious with a casual observance of what has happened in the last few decades. Knowledge shall increase, speaking of the information age.

III. SEAL THE BOOK

- A. Daniel was commanded to seal the vision, and then he was given two signs of the end-time times—an unprecedented *increased of travel* (to run and fro) and *knowledge* (information age). Today, we can clearly see the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy! Most major technological advances have taken place within the last 40 years—satellite television, cell phones, computers, etc.

⁴**“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro [unprecedented travel], and knowledge shall increase [information age].”** (Dan. 12:4)

First Daniel was commanded to seal the vision. Then he is given the two end-time prophecies that make a way for globalization to happen. Verse 4, after the angel talks about the angelic ministry, the Great Tribulation, the salvation of Israel, and the resurrection, he says, “Daniel, before I give you this next prophecy that is going to affect the nations of the world in those final decades leading up to these other four things, I want to give you this before I give you the prophecy.” This is also indicating the significance of this prophecy of travel and knowledge. He says, “I want you to shut up the words. I want you to seal the book up. I want you to preserve this document so they have it in that hour of history, so they are impacted by how significant it is.” That 2,500 years ago in the days of Daniel, God declared it before there was any chance that this would ever happen from human point of view.

Now we can see the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy, right now. I mean the last three, four, five, six decades. It is so apparent. The Lord wanted the Body of Christ to be able to be motivated by this information and to have a sense of urgency, an awareness of the hour they live in. Most all the major technological advancements of all of human history have happened in the last forty years. 6,000 years of recorded history from Adam and Eve, 6,000 years of history, yet almost all the major technological advancements happened in the last thirty, forty years. For 6,000 years, things just went kind of slowly, and suddenly these two realms of activity travel and knowledge advance. They are the two highways, so to speak, on which globalization runs.

- B. Two areas that greatly affect the economic, relational, and spiritual dynamics of the entire earth are international *travel* and *knowledge* including scientific, medical, communications, technology, etc.

These two areas affect economics, and they affect relational realities, spiritual realities, governmental realities, sin, righteousness. So much is affected by the increase of travel and knowledge because it brings human beings together. So sin increases at a whole other level, but so does the influence for good as well. Both of them go to a whole other level across the earth.

- C. **Seal the book:** To seal a vision can mean different things. It can mean to preserve it by writing it down and seeing it is protected and not changed by adding to or taking from it (Dan. 8:26; 12:4), or to hide its full meaning (Dan. 12:9), or to authenticate and fulfill what is promised in it (Dan. 9:24). The sealing of the vision here does not indicate concealing it, but rather *preserving* it so it could be read by many. The original document was closed up or put in a place to be preserved.

The angel told Daniel to seal the book, and we find that phrase or that idea, “to seal” a vision with three different applications in the book of Daniel. There are three different ways in which an angel used the phrase, seal this vision or this vision will be sealed. There were three very different applications of that same term, that same idea. To seal the book can mean to preserve it which is I believe is the meaning in this case. Preserve it by writing it down, making sure it is protected, I mean so that the document survives and that nobody adds to it or subtracts from it, that it is genuine and it survives through time so the people in that hour of history have it.

1. Daniel was in his mid 80s living in the Persian court in Babylon. He was called to make sure his prophecies were preserved until scribes were established who would copy them.

Now the reason this would matter is because at this time Daniel was in his eighties. He was living in Babylon in the Persian court in Babylon, in his mid-eighties. He did not have long to live. For a prophetic document of a Jewish prophet to survive—and considering he is eighty-five years old—he is not going to hand it off to a group of people without a lot of effort. The Persian court in Babylon was not going to have much value for that document.

So the angel said, in effect, “Daniel, it is really important that this information is not lost because it will impact My people because they will know there is a plan that is unfolding. They will see these two indicators in a way that creates urgency and clarity and understanding as to what is happening in the earth.”

2. The sealing of Jeremiah’s property deed was not to *hide* the contents, but to preserve it. Jeremiah made this transaction in presence of witnesses who signed the deed (Jer. 32:9-12)
⁹So I bought the field...¹⁰I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses...¹¹So I took the purchase deed, both that which was sealed according to the law...¹²I gave the purchase deed to Baruch...in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed... (Jer. 32:9-12)

IV. AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE

- A. I believe that Daniel 12:4 speaks of an increase of knowledge in general as well as an increase of the knowledge of Daniel’s prophecies. Some commentators limit their view of this verse to an increase of knowledge of the book of Daniel—I do not think that *captures the fullness* of the remarkable truth highlighted by this mighty angel.

Let’s look at the first idea, the increase of knowledge. It is not a little increase. It is unprecedented. The reason I say it is unprecedented is for two reasons. Number one, you will see when we look at the facts in a moment it is very apparent that the increase of knowledge is so dramatic there has been nothing like it. It is also

unprecedented because a mighty angel identified this in the list, in the category of these other four very significant things: angelic ministries, the salvation of Israel, the Great Tribulation, and the resurrection. The fact that it is in that group, in that context prophetically, tells us it is unprecedented and it is massive in its implications.

I believe the prophecy is speaking about knowledge in general. It does include knowledge of Daniel's prophecies. Some Bible commentators limit it to that, saying, "No, it just means knowledge about Daniel's prophecies are going to increase." I am sure that is included, but it means much much more than that.

- B. Commentators who see Daniel 12:4 as including an *increase of travel and general knowledge* include John Walvoord, Leon Wood, Richard DeHaan, Eugene Faulstich, James Coffman, Uriah Smith, Gary Fisher, Scott MacGregor, and many others.
- C. Knowledge currently doubles every 12 months, but soon it will double every 12 hours. "Until 1900 knowledge doubled about every century. By the end of World War II, knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today, on average, knowledge is doubling every 13 months. According to IBM, internet technology will lead to the doubling of knowledge every 12 hours." See the article by David Shilling (April 2013) *Knowledge Doubling Every 12 months, Soon To Be Every 12 Hours*.

This is startling, this is really startling, that right now knowledge doubles—I mean the sum total of human knowledge over 6,000 years—doubles every year, every twelve months. Twelve months from today in 2017 there will be twice as much knowledge—the sum total of knowledge in the human family—than there is today. This in twelve months.

The ones who study this and do research on it say it will not be long before human knowledge will double every twelve hours, I am talking about the sum total of human knowledge will double every twelve hours. You think, "Wait! That is not possible." That is why this is such a radical statement that the angel gave Daniel.

Again fifty years ago this was not even foreseeable. Until 1900 knowledge doubled about every century, something like that. By the end of World War II it doubled every twenty-five years. Today it is doubling every twelve or thirteen months; this data is from about a year ago. According to IBM—I have the article written there by this guy named David Schilling—according to IBM, internet technology will lead to the doubling of knowledge every twelve hours. You can read the whole article on the internet. It is quite eye-opening.

- D. Knowledge doubled from 100 BC to 1700 (1800 years).
It doubled from 1700-1900 (200 years).
It doubled from 1900-1950 (50 years).
It doubled from 1950-1970 (20 years).
It doubled from 1970-1980 (10 years).
It doubled from 1980-1988 (8 years).
It now doubles every 12 months.
Soon it will double every 12 hours.

Let's look at this again and break it down. It took 1,800 years for knowledge to double, the first time it doubled from 1000 BC to 1700. It took 1,800 years to double. The second time the sum total of human knowledge doubled, it took 200 years, not 1,800, only 200 years. The next time it only took fifty years. The next time only twenty years. The next time only ten years. Now only one year, according to the IBM and this research given in this article. You can go check it out. They say it is not far down the road that it will be doubling every twelve hours.

- E. Different types of knowledge have different rates of growth. For example:
 - Online information doubles every 6 months.
 - Biological information doubles every 6 months.
 - Corporate information doubles every 18 months.
 - Genetic information doubles every 18 months.
 - Technical knowledge doubles every 18 months.
 - Clinical knowledge doubles every 18 months.
- F. Over 80% of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today. The scientific revolution is the most obvious development in the 20th Century, including the discovery of X-rays, radioactivity, sub-atomic particles, relativity, quantum theory, even splitting atoms, and manipulating DNA.

Over eighty percent of all the scientists who ever lived in history, eighty percent of them, are alive on the earth right now. Eighty percent of all the scientists in history. The scientific revolution, which is a revolution of knowledge, is the most obvious development of the twentieth century.

- G. Each year about one million books are printed (that's titles, not copies), 25,000 newspapers are published (separate newspaper titles), along with 40,000 scholarly journals, 80,000 mass-market periodicals, and 40,000 newsletters.
- H. Over 3 billion people or about 40% of the world population has an internet connection today. In 1995, it was less than 1%. The first billion was reached in 2005, the second billion in 2010, and the third billion in 2014. There are 2.5 billion searches performed on Google *every month*, and there are currently over 150 million websites.

There are over three billion people who have internet connection today, forty percent of the earth. In 1995 there were only fifteen million who had internet connection, only fifteen million people, one percent of the earth, fifteen million people in 1995. By 2005 it went from fifteen million to a billion. In 2010 it went to two billion, 2014 three billion, so you can see the increase. With the internet knowledge is coming to every little tucked-away place in the earth, every little village of the earth. Right now there are over 2.5 billion searches performed on Google every month right now, every month. Today there are 150 million websites.

- I. A. Clem Chambers, in a Forbes article on Amazon's "Mechanical Turk" believes leading computer technology will be combined with artificial intelligence allowing collective problem-solving on a larger scale and the creation of vast amounts of data.

There is an article I have identified here from Forbes Magazine where they talk about the computer technology that is going to be combined with artificial intelligence, creating a whole other avenue or far more sophisticated way to solve problems in the earth.

- J. **Instant communication:** Satellite transmission & internet communication (Rev. 11:9).

⁹Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. (Rev. 11:9)

Well, the Bible gave a very clear indication of instant global communication, instant global communication. Back when John gave this prophecy, the people would not have thought of it. They just would have thought probably this was a poem or some kind of prophetic symbolism. Revelation 11 talks about the two witnesses, the two witnesses who are two prophets yet to come, who will prophecy in Jerusalem with great signs and wonders,

and the people from the tribes and tongues of the nations will all see them when they are killed and dead lying in the streets of Jerusalem. 2,000 years ago how were they to imagine two men are lying dead in Jerusalem and the people in all the islands of the earth being able to see those men in Jerusalem with their eyes? How did people interpret this 100 years ago before there was television or the internet or anything? It is just, well, I do not know, maybe they just see somehow. I would be curious to ask them. You know in the age to come I am going to ask some of those guys, “How did you guys teach that verse back there 100 years ago?”

Then it goes on in Revelation 11, the same passage, in verse 12, and it says their enemies looked on as they ascended, and their enemies are all over the earth. They see them ascend to heaven on a cloud. That is interesting: their enemies see them. We know here that John knew by the spirit of prophecy that the day was coming where people from all the tribes and tongues of the earth would be able to see events in Jerusalem. Again that is very obvious to us today.

I remember when Bob Jones gave me a prophetic word, the very first I met him in 1983, when he said, “You are going to do twenty-four hour prayer with singers and musicians,” which prophecy I did not really appreciate.

Some people have said, “Oh, that must have been amazing.”

I said, “It was weird to be honest. I thought, ‘What?’”

He said, “And when you do this, people all over Asia in the rice paddies are going to watch it.” This was just thirty-three years ago when he told me he saw Smartphones. This was inconceivable to me and the people I was hanging out with thirty-three years ago. He said, “They are going to have unplugged TV sets all over the rice paddies in Asia.”

I said, “Unplugged TV sets?”

He said, “That is what I saw. I saw it in their hands with pictures, full color, watching the singers and musicians all throughout the rice paddies.”

I said, “Get that man out of here!” Not really. But I was not impressed with him at all when he told me this stuff. I said, “Unplugged TV sets in rice paddies?”

“Yes.”

“Cool.” I mean I am picturing a big TV set with the cord and they are taking it to the rice paddy, and they are trying to plug it in somewhere, but somehow it works supernaturally or something.

You know we received the story the other day of a number of young people who were watching us in Asia. We received the testimony of about fifteen or twenty of them, and they could not afford a laptop, but they could afford these very simple cell phones. They were in the rice paddies watching what was happening here, with no knowledge of that prophecy. They were just giving the testimony they were at out working in the rice paddies.

Well, it is really obvious today, but even thirty-three years ago that was so bizarre. I just cannot imagine what the people of John’s day thought when he said this or even what people 100 years ago thought this was when they studied this prophecy.

- K. The mark of the Beast will be a public mark on people’s right hand or forehead. It will be used to regularly identify the people who commit to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:16-17). A worldwide system of economics and technology will be necessary for the legislation seen in Rev. 13:16-17.

¹⁶He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark... (Rev. 13:16-17)

Another prophecy of John—we all know the prophecy—is when the False Prophet causes all to receive the mark of the beast. It is not “all” in the “100-percent sense” but it means in all the areas of the earth there will be people brought into this persuasion. They will receive the mark of the beast upon their right hand or their forehead. Without this mark they will not be able to buy or sell. So that means there will be a cashless society; it implies that. It also implies a world government for this to be enforced. It implies some kind of technology where the information is in the body of people. Again 100 years ago it was like, “What does this mean? Okay, a mark, and how do the people over here know or even enforce if someone over there is buying or selling? How does this work?”

- L. The *mark* of the Beast implies the existence of modern technology, a cashless society, and a one-world economic system. Today’s new imbedded chip technology and a global, cashless society make this possible for the first time in history (Rev. 13:16-17).

So the mark of the beast—that system and the ability to enforce it worldwide—means there has to be an integrated economic system and an integrated political system. It implies technology. Today everybody who reads this prophecy and takes it at face value assumes it has to do with implanted microchips, some kind of implanted chip in the hand or the forehead, something like that, although I have no doubt it will be far more sophisticated than what we have today. It will be far more advanced as a few decades go by, if it is that much time or maybe longer, I do not know. The technology is increasing so rapidly. We can see the semblance of it, the early stages of where this might go.

- 1. The *mark* will be one’s personal access to the global economic system. Those who refuse this mark will not be allowed to buy or sell the necessities of life. They will be viewed as criminals of the state who are guilty of the death penalty.

Then, of course, the mark of the beast would be the personal access to the global economic system. I mean we see Smartcards now with information, which has to do with security, economics, identification, and health, all those kinds of information, many many things. Of course you know about security issues and identity theft; they are trying to solve that problem. They are coming up with, “Well, put the information in your body somewhere so somebody cannot steal your number.” All that is being discussed right now around the world in a pretty aggressive way. It may take a while before it goes to another level, but it will not take very long. I am sure of that.

- 2. The *mark* will probably be contained in a microchip. The ability to enforce the mark system worldwide implies implanted microchips, a cashless society, and a one-world economic system. These systems must be developed and refined before the Antichrist unveils his evil.

These systems must be developed and refined before the Antichrist is in place. We can see a movement with positive motivation behind much of it very clearly progressing towards these systems in the last ten, twenty, thirty years in a way that was un-thought of 100 years ago, let alone 1,000 years ago.

- 3. Microchip technology itself is not evil, but it gives us insight into how the *mark* could operate. I assume that the *mark* of the Beast will be far advanced beyond today’s technology.
- 4. The technology of biometrics highlights each person’s unique biological characteristics.

V. AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE OF TRAVEL

- A. The unprecedented increase of knowledge has made the unprecedented increase of travel possible.

It is the increase of knowledge that has made the increase of travel possible. If knowledge does not increase, then the technology for the travel is not going to increase.

- B. For 6,000 years, until the beginning of the 20th century, the horse and carriage was the most modern form of transportation. By horseback and horse-drawn carriage, the fastest man could travel was about 25 miles per hour. Travel under these conditions was limited to 1,000 miles per person per year for those who traveled often. There were very limited changes in travel for almost 6,000 years!

For 6,000 years until the beginning of the twentieth century the most modern form of transportation was horse and carriage; that was the most modern form for 6,000 years with very little improvement. Bigger horses and better wheels, you know grease the axle a little better. The improvement was so minimal. The fastest that man could travel on land was twenty-five miles an hour. If there was the ship on the sea and there a big storm came, they could go faster, but for 6,000 years that was about as fast as man could travel— twenty-five miles an hour. The limit that even the most aggressive travelers could travel in a year would be about 1,000 miles. I mean people who were really involved in travel as a part of their occupation and a part of their lifestyle, a 1,000 miles was their maximum. That was really aggressive, and they could only go twenty-five miles an hour.

- C. Today, a space shuttle can travel at 18,000 miles per hour while in orbit.

Now the space shuttle with a man in it can go 18,000 miles an hour. So in the last 100 years the speed at which a man can travel has gone from twenty-five miles an hour to 18,000; that has happened in the last 100 years.

- D. The British Virgin Group is developing commercial spacecraft to provide spaceflights to tourists.

- E. In the 20th century, transportation with the automobile, trains, and airplanes increased the distance traveled per year from 1,000 miles to 25,000 miles per person per year (for those who travel often). In the last 100 years men increased the speed of their travel from 25 miles per hour to 18,000 miles!

Today for a person who is involved in travel as a part of their lifestyle and occupation, their average traveling total is 25,000 miles a year. I do not mean the guy with the world record, but I mean a guy that travels often. I can get on an airplane to go a couple thousand miles wherever, such as Los Angeles and back. So 25,000 miles is a very small amount, but compared to 100 years ago it is significantly greater. The increase is dramatic when you really study it and look at it.

- F. In the 1800s, a Pony Express rider took about 20 days to travel from NYC to San Francisco. Today, someone can travel from NYC to San Francisco by plane in 5 hours.

In the 1800s, a Pony Express rider who carried the mail took twenty days to travel from New York to San Francisco. Today you can go from New York to San Francisco in five hours.

There was a new invention in 2010/2011—I do not know what you call it; it is not a plane—they called it the Falcon Hypersonic vehicle. You can look it up on the internet. A Falcon Hypersonic vehicle can travel 13,000 miles an hour. It could go from San Francisco to New York City, not in five hours, but in twelve minutes, though it is unmanned. It existed. It was not perfected, but it did exist. The goal was to build something that could get anywhere in the earth from anywhere in one hour. Of course the circumference of the earth is 25,000 miles. It can go 13,000 miles in one hour, so it could go anywhere in the earth in one hour. That is remarkable.

- G. In 1890, Nellie Bly completed a record trip around the world in 72 days.
In 1924, an airplane flew around the earth in 15 days.
In 1933, Wiley Post made the first solo flight around the world in 7 days.
In 1962, John Glenn circled the earth in 12 hours.
- H. Worldwide there are over 35 million flights a year (100,000 a day) with 5 billion passengers. In 1914, just over 1200 passengers flew commercially. By 1935, the number of passengers reached one million. In 1995, it reached one billion. Today, there are over 5 billion passengers a year.

Just to show the increase of travel today, there are thirty-five million flights a year globally, 100,000 commercial flights a day. In 1914, just over 1,000 people flew commercially 100 years ago, just over 1,000 people. Twenty years later in 1935, it was a million people. Thirty years after that, 1995, it was a billion people. Twenty years later after that, five billion people a year were flying commercially, five billion. So in 100 years it has gone from 1,000 a year to five billion a year. That qualifies as an increase of travel that is unprecedented.

- I. Travel & tourism generated over \$7 trillion and 284 million jobs to the global economy in 2015.

VI. MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

- A. **Holograms:** involves projected images which can be interacted with. Holographic technology can transmit three-dimensional images that move. Holographic telepresence records a three-dimensional image in one location and shows it in another location, in real-time, anywhere in the world.

I do not want to spend much time on this, but it just kind of gets us our minds out there just as a little teaser. There are volumes of information on this on the internet, and I just want to push you out there. This is where knowledge is going: holograms. There is a whole science of holograms that is developing rapidly and changing even the definition of it, involving projected images.

With this technology you can transmit three-dimensional images. You could have a hologram of Wes Hall who led ministry time here, and a hologram can appear 1,000 miles away right now and appear to be talking to them in three-dimensional form. Now there is a lot more work to do on these, but they are increasing greatly.

1. Ian O’Connell, a developer of hologram technology, wrote, “One of the main uses we envisage is celebrity cameos at conferences or concerts. This technology will allow people to appear live and take questions from the audience. Musicians we’re talking to want this technology to provide live cameo performances from stars at their concerts.”

Ian O’Connell is a developer of Hologram technology. He wrote to explain where the industry is going, “We envision a day where celebrities can have a cameo, appearing at a conference or a concert on the other side of the world, but in a way that it looks like they are really there.” So this is where the technology is going according to the people in this field of science and technology. They are saying the man that is not really there, but through the three-dimensional image of him, he can interact, answer questions live for Q&A, etc. Some of the musicians he mentions in his article that he is talking to, they want to have a top singer or musician or whatever in the earth come and be a guest at their own concert. That is the guy wants to do his own concert, but he also wants the number one singer to come and make a guest appearance through a hologram. It would seem real to the people in the crowd.

That is where knowledge is going. Of course the deceptive nature of that is huge. We cannot even imagine how that could be used for evil. I could see how it could be used for good, but I can see as well how it could be used for evil.

2. Today's 3D projection systems can produce static holograms with excellent depth and resolution. New technology combines motion with an impression of genuine solidity.
 3. Researchers are developing a full-color system to capture the human body capable of smooth and realistic movements.
- B. **Virtual reality:** This technology completely immerses the person wearing a headset in an alternate, 360-degree, 3D-environment, virtual world with sound and motion-tracking with either live action or computer-animated action.
1. It transports the wearer to another environment—they escape the real world—to engage in games, movies, sporting events, and travel. It blocks the real world out and is used in private.
 2. Virtual-reality technology will allow people to surf or fly a helicopter or do many other things without leaving their home. This will revolutionize the way people live, play, work, and learn. For example, surgeons will be able to practice a surgery, using a holographic image of the patient, prior to conducting the surgery.

Now you understand how virtual reality works; I mean we all do a little bit. We are in the very early stages of all this. In five and ten years this will be so much more sophisticated. In twenty years and thirty years, by the time that some of you have children and grandchildren, where will this technology be? This is where knowledge is going in technology. Again the angel told Daniel watch for these two things and the globalization that comes out of it is the implication.

Well, in virtual reality you put a headset on, and you have this alternate 360°-turnaround environment of a virtual world. You wear the headset and you can be anywhere, flying in a helicopter, jumping off a cliff, doing anything you want anywhere. It is all seemingly real. You could be surfing in the middle of the ocean, with the big waves and the water or whatever, right there in a room in your house where you can move around, with nothing in the room so you do not trip over anything.

I have tried one of those little helmets with the technology. People who are progressive in this said to me, "Hey, we would love you to show you our new product."

I put this stuff on, turned all around and there I was in a place far away at a Paul McCartney concert. I walked back to the sound booth. I said, "I am really looking at the guy! How did you do that?" I was walking around like this, and then I took it off and everybody in the room was laughing at me because I was walking around like, "Hi Paul! Long time, no see!"

This is going to revolutionize the way people live. Again things like this were implied in what this angel told Daniel about knowledge going to increase. I think of just the understatement of that! I mean "increase," are you kidding?

- C. **Augmented reality:** This technology enhances what we see via smartglasses that overlays 3D graphics on to the wearer’s view of the real-world environment. It adds layers to the real world. Wearer remains engaged in the real world. It keeps the wearer’s hands free and uses glasses rather than headset. It designed to be used in public and to enhance social interaction.

Augmented reality is unprecedented. It is different than virtual reality. In augmented reality you put the glasses on, but you can still see the world around you. You put the glasses on, I put the glasses on, and I can still see you. It is not like we are lost into another world. We see each other, and we talk, but with those glasses on there is a whole other set of things that are happening depending how you program them.

We could be playing a volleyball game together right here without any volleyball in reality, knocking it back and forth, if we had the same program on. So I can see you, you can see me, but we have a whole other world of reality programed into the glasses. That is very opposite of virtual reality.

In virtual reality you are escaping, you are doing it in private, you are “living” far away, but you do not actually move. In this augmented reality you are interacting with people, but there are all these other dimensions that you are doing together if you have the same program. You could go skiing together, or those kinds of things is what some of the researchers are saying. You do not get any exercise out of it, but you do not pull your muscle either.

- D. **Artificial intelligence:** intelligence exhibited by computers capable of intelligent behavior. It can perceive its environment and takes actions to maximize its chances of success. It is the science of making intelligent machines—computers capable of reasoning, planning, learning, processing, communication, perception, with the ability to move and manipulate objects.

Artificial intelligence is that science of making machines intelligent because of internet technology. Machines are given the capacity of reasoning, the appearance of reasoning, planning, processing, learning, and communicating, but they are machines. Now we know sci-fi movies that show this, but scientist say that it is really moving in that direction.

- E. **Robots:** machines guided by a high-tech computers—industrial robots, medical operating robots, patent assist robots, and microscopic nano-robots. They are being developed with artificial intelligence to make decisions. Robots can work in extreme environments such as outer space or the bottom of the sea. They can take the place of humans in dangerous environments or in repetitive or difficult manufacturing processes, and can resemble humans in appearance, behavior, and cognition.

I am talking here about robots with artificial intelligence. Though they have a human appearance, though they have what appears to be flesh, underneath it is steel as it is a robot. It is unthinkable where these could go in terms of darkness, but every one of them has an element that could be used in a very powerful and good way.

- F. **Drones:** aircrafts that are remotely controlled. They can be used in warfare, policing, surveillance, aerial filming, as well as for drone racing.

Well, we could go on and on. I just wanted to say this, that, in the last twenty, thirty, forty years of science, travel and knowledge are exploding so fast. The fact that this has never been done in history ever and that it is happening the same time with all the other trends happening as well is remarkable.

The reason I wanted to really emphasis this tonight is that a lot of believers look at this prophecy and think that it is just travel to and fro and knowledge, so no big deal. I say, “No, do not dismiss that so quickly. Look at the context of which this is in: the resurrection, the great tribulation, the salvation of Israel, and the global activity

of Michael the archangel with signs and wonders. This is huge. This is God shouting from heaven, and He tells the prophet to make sure this prophecy does not get lost as it is that important for His people at the end of natural history. He wants them to know this.

So when I see this stuff, it encourages me. I say, “Lord, not only are You the sovereign, but You planned it all from the beginning. You are in control. All of these indicators are happening on a global level together”—not all of them but almost all the signs of the times are happening for the first time on a global level in a way that is discernible—“What meaneth Thou this?”

There is a storyline unfolding that is bigger than our money struggles or our money breakthroughs. We might have breakthroughs or impact or lack of impact or popularity or lack of popularity. There is a bigger storyline than all of that. Again, the enemy wants us stuck in that bubble of our own struggles where we are not a part of the big narrative of what Jesus the King is leading His Church in right now.

Amen! Let’s stand.

Lord, we say yes to Your leadership. Lord, we love the Word of God. Lord, we say we want to be a part of whatever You are doing in the nations that is unfolding in these decades that are ahead of us.

Again, nobody knows when it is going to come to a head, but I tell you it is certainly escalating when you put this together with the other trends that we covered the last ten weeks.

I want to invite anybody who would like prayer tonight to come forward, not just related to this because this is mostly it is pretty academic, but again it does stir you up if you really understand the implications of it. I do not want to limit just to that, but if you have a need you would like prayer for, for your heart, for your body or maybe you are saying, “Lord, I want to be a messenger of this. I want to be a person that grasps the biblical signs of the times. I want to grasp them. I want to see what You see, and I want to be a messenger of this,” if you would like prayer for that or for anything that is on your heart, I want to invite you to come forward.

Lord, we say let us see what You see and feel what You feel. Lord, release Your glory. Holy Spirit, we invite Your presence. Lord, I ask You by the Holy Spirit to come and mark our lives, come and touch our hearts. Lord, we ask for a clear assignment. We ask for clarity.

Some of you are crying out to the Lord, “I want clear assignment from Your heart in this season of my life.”