

## The Final Countdown – Modern Technology

“One day, an English businesswoman explained to her doctor that she was always breaking wind. At board meetings, during interviews, in lifts and on trams. It was impossible to control.

Then she told her doctor, ‘But at least I’m fortunate in two respects: they neither smell nor make a noise. In fact, you’ll be surprised to know that I’ve let two go since I’ve been talking to you.’

Well, at this the doctor reached for his pad, scribbled a prescription, and handed it to her.

‘What’s this for?’ she asked reading the prescription. ‘Nasal drops?’

‘Yes,’ replied the doctor. ‘First we’ll fix your nose, then we’ll work on your hearing.’”

Now that lady was in for a big surprise wasn’t she? She thought everything was just fine when in reality she had some serious problems. But unfortunately, she’s not alone. You see, many people in our society today **also think** that everything in the world is just fine, when in reality they’re actually headed for the **ultimate surprise**; that of being left behind. Not only that, but they will also be catapulted into the seven-year Tribulation that is coming upon the whole world.

And folks, the time of the Tribulation is not a party. It’s an outpouring of God’s wrath upon a wicked and rebellious planet. In fact, Jesus said in **Matthew 24** that it would be a time of greater horror than anything the

world has ever seen or will ever see again. He also said that unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race would be destroyed. But God is not only a God of wrath; He's a God of love as well. And **because He loves you and I**, He has given us many warning signs so that we would know when the Tribulation could be near and that Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is rapidly approaching. Therefore, to keep you and I from experiencing the ultimate surprise of being left behind, we're going to continue taking a look at **The Final Countdown**.

Last time we looked at the **#10** sign on **The Final Countdown**, which was **The Jewish People**. And there we saw that God lovingly foretold you and I that when we see the Jewish people returning to the land, becoming a single united nation with a powerful military, blossoming as a rose in the desert with a currency of the shekel and preparing to rebuild the temple, that this would be an indicator that we are in the last days.

But that's not the only sign that God has given us. The **#9** sign on **The Final Countdown** is none other than **Modern Technology**. So just what are these specific prophecies being fulfilled today concerning **Modern Technology**, revealing that we could be in the last days? Well, I'm glad you asked. The **1<sup>st</sup> End Time Prophecy** concerning **Modern Technology** is that **There Would Be A Great Increase of Travel and Knowledge**.

**Daniel 12:4** “But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end. Many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.”

Many scholars see this passage as **strictly** referring to people rushing here and there, **increasing their knowledge of prophecy** in the last days. Which is exactly what we see today, do we not? Then there are those who see this passage **strictly** referring to people **traveling all over the earth** with an **explosion of information like never before**. Which is **also** exactly what we see today, do we not? Therefore, I think that it’s not necessarily one or the other, **but actually both**.

So, specifically, just what kind of **Modern Technology** has arisen to enable this prophecy to come to pass? Well, I’m glad you asked. The **1<sup>st</sup>** way that **Modern Technology** reveals that we could be in the last days is by an **Increase of Travel**. You see, when Daniel wrote down the words of this prophecy, the mode of travel had been basically the same for thousands of years. It’s only **in this last century alone** that we’ve seen a major change in transportation.

For instance, the fastest that mankind could travel for thousands of years was about 30 mph via horseback. From Adam to Alexander the Great to Abraham Lincoln, transportation pretty much stayed the same. For instance, at the turn of the century in New York, the major traffic concern

was **dead horses!** Each year there were about 15,000 horses dying from exhaustion, beatings, or accidents. And believe it or not, they had their own air pollution too. How's that you say? Well, only from a **million pounds** of manure produced every day! That's right, people quickly learned to keep their windows closed during the summer. But by and large, the major means of transportation for thousands of years was the horse.

That is, until now. **All in the last century alone**, we have gone from the horse to the horseless carriage; the car. We've gone from a top speed of 30 mph to literally hundreds of mph. And in **just a few decades**, we now **rush here and there** an average of 14,000 miles per year, with an estimated **1 Billion** cars on the road by 2025.

Oh, but that's only by land. Thanks to the invention of the airplane, **which also occurred in the last century**, the world has become a much smaller place. For instance, the first flight by the Wright brothers was only 120 feet. Had they flown from the back of a Boeing 747 they wouldn't have even made it to first class. The first plane had limited seating. But a Boeing 747 can carry more than 400 passengers, fly 8,300 miles without refueling, has 6 million parts, 171 miles of wiring, 5 miles of tubing, and a tail the size of a six-story building.

And because there are so many people traveling today, the industry is making it even easier and faster to **rush here and there**, just like the Bible said would happen. For instance, you can not only order your tickets online, but also print boarding passes from your own computer. And for those of you who worry about your loved ones flying, **worry no more**. Thanks to the Internet, you can follow a flight in transit, graphics and all, observe the speed and altitude it's traveling, and be told when it has arrived.

Oh, but that's not all. Because of this new travel technology, you can go down to your local store and get fresh crabmeat from Thailand, or have a thoroughbred horse shipped to you from New Zealand. You can now get fresh flowers from South America, a genuine New York City pizza delivered anywhere in the world, and send a package from Japan in the afternoon and have it in Washington by the next morning.

Oh, but the friendly skies are not the only place we like to **rush here and there**. You see, the airplane paved the way for **space travel**. Now we can fly around the planet in eighty minutes. We not only went to the moon and back, but now our eyes are on the planet Mars. And people, keep in mind that this is **in the last century alone!** Do you get the feeling that things are being sped up? Somehow, Star Trek doesn't sound so foreign anymore, does it? Speaking of which, did you know that **teleportation is no**

**longer a myth?** That's right, in the past couple of years, scientists have successfully teleported light particles over a few miles. It would appear as if nothing is holding us back from being able to **rush here and there**, wherever and whenever we want.

That is, except God. You see, the sad thing is that this explosion of modern travel technology has made us arrogant and overconfident like the Edomites of long ago **who also tried to escape** the boundaries of Almighty God.

**Obadiah 3-4** "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, Who will bring me down to earth?' Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD."

You see, even if we can one day **arrogantly boast** that we don't need God because we can **rush here and there**, even to the edge of the stars, God will one day, just like the Edomites, bring us down. When? In the last days.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> way that **Modern Technology** reveals that we could be in the last days is by an **Increase of Knowledge**. When Daniel wrote down the words of this prophecy, the amount of retrieving and sharing knowledge was severely limited. We didn't even see the invention of the printing press until a few centuries ago. Oh, but look at us today! **All in the last century alone**,

just like the Bible said, we are experiencing nothing short of an information explosion! In fact, let's take a look at some information on information:

1. The total store of human knowledge is now doubling every 8 years.
2. 80% of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today.
3. Every minute 2000 pages are added to man's scientific knowledge.
4. The scientific material produced in 1 day would take 1 person 5 years to read.
5. About 1/2 million new books are published every year.
6. Since 1970 computer technology has developed so fast that if the auto industry had developed at the same rate, you would today be able to buy a Rolls Royce for three dollars and you could fit 8 them on the head of a pin!
7. A weekday edition of any major newspaper has more information than the average person living in the 17th century would have come across in a lifetime.
8. Thanks to the Internet, 1,000's of international papers are at your fingertips.
9. Every day, the equivalent of over 300 million pages of text is sent over the Internet with millions of sites.
10. About 1/2 of all medical knowledge is outdated every 10 years and in some scientific fields, such as biotechnology, the cycle is less than 6 months.
11. There are now wristwatches that wield more computing ability than some 1970s computer mainframes.
12. Ordinary cars today have more intelligence than the original lunar lander.
13. The majority of the world either has a television or access to one.

And speaking of the advent of worldwide television, **in the last century alone**, we can see **for the first time** the fulfillment of this passage of Scripture concerning the death of God's faithful two witnesses during the Tribulation.

**Revelation 11:9-10** "For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The

inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.”

Now imagine when the Apostle John was writing this. It must have seemed like an incredible fantasy **for the whole planet** to simultaneously watch two dead bodies, rejoice over their death, and even send gifts to each other. That is, **until now**. Due to the advent of television and global satellite technology, you and I can **simultaneously** watch anything we want, can't we? And now with the Internet, we can even send gifts to **literally anyone** on the planet at anytime. Just like the Bible said! When? In the last days.

The **3<sup>rd</sup>** way that **Modern Technology** reveals that we could be in the last days is by an **Increase of Unrest**.

**2 Timothy 3:1,7** “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. Always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”

You see, the Bible also warned that in the last days, not only would we be traveling like never before and acquiring information like crazy, but we would also **see an increase of unrest**. Why? Because we would become a people who are always learning yet are never able to acknowledge the truth, leaving us in a frustrated and restless state. And folks, is this not exactly what has happened to our society? We are being told today that the more we acquire this **new technology**, the more time it will save us, so we can spend even more time **rushing here and there**. Then, if that wasn't bad



enough, we are being told that the more we can learn from this **increase of information**, the more peace it will supposedly produce in our lives.

But is this true? Have we really saved more time and created more peace in our lives with all this new technology? Absolutely not! We have actually become a society on the brink of disaster! And this is exactly what the **secular experts** are saying. Even though we have the most highly funded educational system in the world, we are producing the most confused, ignorant and violent children ever. Rates of depression have been doubling every ten years and suicide is the third most common cause of death among young adults in North America. Fifteen percent of Americans have had a clinical anxiety disorder and serial killers are now commonplace.

How can this be? It's simply because we are always learning yet never able to come to the truth! You see, **the truth is** that the more we fill our lives with so-called timesaving devices, the more rushed we feel. In fact, we are in so much of a rush that "we tap our fingers while waiting for the microwave to zap our instant coffee." Think about it! **The truth is**, these devices that are supposed to save us so much time so that we can rest more, are actually making us **more restless**. In fact, one researcher made this comment. See if it sounds familiar:

"This century's mad dash of innovation has produced the most frantic human era ever. We phone. We fax. We page. We e-mail. We race from one

end of life to the other, rarely glancing over our shoulders. Technology, mass media and a desire to do more, do it better and do it yesterday have turned us into a world of hurriers.

Stop and smell the roses? No more. Instead, we have a world of 7-day diets, 24-hour news channels, 1-hour photo, 30-minute pizza delivery, 10-minute facials, 2-minute warnings, and Minute Rice. Fast food. Fast computers. Fast cars in fast lanes. VCRs with 5 fast-forward settings.

Sound bites and the rat race and instant coffee. Get rich quick. Live fast, die young, leave a good-looking corpse. Run on empty. Just do it. Places to go, people to meet, planners to fill, files to download, bills to pay, planes to catch, frozen dinners to nuke, web sites to surf, kids to pick up, stress to manage, and speeding tickets to pay.”

One guy said, “It’s significant that we call it the Information Age. We don’t talk about the Knowledge Age. Our society is basically motion without memory, which of course is one of the clinical definitions of **insanity**.”

We have advanced beyond our wildest dreams technologically, yet we are still spiritually bankrupt about the **true meaning of life**. And it’s all because we have been tricked and seduced by a **restless** rat race society! You see, the problem of being in a **hurry all the time** is that you never take the time to stop and think about what is most important in life. Therefore, you will never find the truth. And that’s exactly what the devil is up to.

“One day the devil called a worldwide convention of his evil demons and said this. ‘We can’t keep the Christians from going to heaven, but we can keep them from forming an intimate relationship in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So here’s what we do

Let’s steal their time, so they can’t gain any strength in Jesus Christ. Let’s distract them by keeping them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent

unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds. We'll over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice.

We'll entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, the VCR, and their CD's going constantly in their homes. And we'll see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays music constantly jamming their minds to break that union with Christ.

We'll fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers and pound their minds with the news twenty-four hours a day. We'll invade their driving moments with billboards and flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering promising false hopes.

We'll even get them to be excessive in their entertainment or recreation and send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies so they'll return exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week.

And even when they meet for spiritual fellowship, we'll involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion. Why, we'll crowd their lives with **so many things** that they have no time or energy to seek power from Christ.

It was quite a convention in the end. And the demons went away eagerly causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there. Don't forget what 'busy' means. B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke. Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge."

I'll say it one last time. The problem of being in a **hurry all the time** is that you never take the time to stop and think about that which is the most important in life. And because of that, it's not only a sign that you're living in the last days, but that you've been lassoed by satan's yoke and therefore, you will never find the truth because you're just too busy! Wake up! Instead of worshipping the one True God, we have **bowed to the idol of**

**technology**. And the sad thing is that the truth about life is right before us, if only we'd stop long enough to listen. You see, we don't need to travel halfway across the world for truth. In fact, we don't even need that latest computer gizmo to understand it, nor spend a dime to receive it. Why? Because the truth about a **restful life** has been right under our noses all the time, in the words of Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 11:28** "Then Jesus said, 'Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'"

People of God, please don't be fooled into thinking that by **rushing here and there** and by **increasing your knowledge** is where you'll find rest. Because if you do, you will not only remain restless, but you may one day wake up to find yourself in the **greatest time of unrest** the world has ever known, the Great Tribulation. Just like the Bible said. When? In the last days.

And believe it or not, even with all this amazing evidence pointing to the signs of Christ's soon return, some people still refuse to admit the truth and are in certain danger, like these people:

"One day a group of Florida senior citizens were sitting around talking about their ailments when one person said, 'My arms are so weak I can hardly hold this cup of coffee.'

'Yes, I know.' Replied another. 'My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee.'

Then the person with the loudest voice of the group piped in, ‘Oh yeah, well it’s gotten to where I cannot hear anything anymore.’

Then a fourth person nodded weakly in agreement, ‘I know what you mean, I can’t turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck.’

‘Well, that’s nothing,’ claimed another ‘my blood pressure pills make me dizzy.’

‘You think that’s bad,’ said another person, ‘Why I can’t even remember what I’m doing half the time. If I don’t make myself a note I forget what I am trying to do in the first place.’

Then an old wise man of the group winced and shook his head saying, ‘I guess that’s the price we pay for getting old.’

Then there was a short moment of silence and one woman cheerfully announced, ‘Well, it’s not that bad. Thank goodness we can all still drive.’”

Now those people didn’t want to admit the truth, did they? And because of this they were not only a danger to themselves but to other people as well. And yet the Bible says that this refusal to admit the truth would be commonplace in the last days, just like it was with Noah.

**Matthew 24:37-39** “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days before the Flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the Flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.”

People of God, I hope you’re not one of those who are too busy partying and acting like nothing will ever change. Because if you are, you might wake up one day and discover that **you’ve been left behind**. And you

know what? God doesn't want you left behind. Because He loves you and I, He has given us the warning sign of **Modern Technology** to show us that the Tribulation **could be near** and that Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is rapidly approaching. Jesus Himself said this:

**Luke 21:28** "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Like it or not folks, we are headed for **The Final Countdown**. We don't know the day or the hour. Only God knows. The point is, if you're a Christian, it's time to get busy. There's a war going on and each of us needs to find something to do to serve the Lord while we still can. Folks, it's high time we Christians speak up and declare the good news of salvation to those who are dying all around us. But please, if you're not a Christian, give your life to Jesus today, because tomorrow may be too late! Just like the Bible said!

---

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

"Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

---