



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group (5-week Series)

Perspectives of God | Educating our Minds | Warnings for Life

Lesson #4: Technology advancement in preparation for the rise of the Antichrist

Series taught by Chris Alexander | February 29, 2024

Series Overview

Life today is changing at a breakneck pace. Never before have we seen so many different technologies and the impact they're having on how we think, act, and make decisions. In our hands and pockets, we have devices that literally allow us to track family members, see and talk to anyone in the world at any time, and obtain information in seconds on every subject imaginable. Even though we have access to practically unlimited information and knowledge, never has Biblical illiteracy been so high. The average American can't recount Bible stories like Creation, The Fall, Noah, and the Tower of Babel that were practically known to every school child in the 1950s. We all realize this is part of Satan's overall plan to move the hearts of men away from the mind of God. Satan has distracted Believers, especially men, to stop being the leaders God we've been called to be at home, in our neighborhoods, the office, and church.

The 5-week **Life in the Pew** series is sure to change your perspectives on the world around us and challenge us to study with greater intensity Biblical prophecy and truths, using the lens of Scripture to view current events and technologies in a new way. The goal of this series is to help us better understand God's plan for our lives and the urgency for sharing the Gospel of Jesus with a nation and world that desperately needs Him.

Series Schedule

Provided below is the schedule for the 5-week **Life in the Pew** series.

- Lesson #1 on February 8: Biblical overview and understanding the Prophetical Timeline
- Lesson #2 on February 15: Satanic activity and his impact on directing the nations
- Lesson #3 on February 22: Exploring world history considering the Biblical ancient empires
- **Lesson #4 on February 29: Technology advancement in preparation for the rise of the Antichrist**
- Lesson #5 on March 7: Living with new perspectives built on the power of God

Lesson #4 Overview

In some regards this is going to be the most interesting and engaging week in our 5-week series. We'll be talking about science and technology and their impact on our daily lives and our lives in the future. It's also important to considering the role technology will play in End Times and the rise of the Antichrist. Where appropriate, I'll do my best to integrate Biblical passages into the discussion.

Before diving into this lesson, I'd like to provide a bit of a disclaimer. We are living in a very exciting time from a technological standpoint. Biblical writers like Daniel, Paul, and John could not have even dreamed of where we are today. In preparing for this lesson, I have re-read several End Times books that were written in the late 1980s and mid-1990s. At that time, we had no idea how far computer technology, the internet, satellites, the cellular network, and the widespread use of computers would take us. Today, even a 3-year-old child can operate an iPad! The dark side of this is it's easy with advances and uses of technology for our levels of fear to increase. COVID brought this out in a way we've never seen previously. It's critically important that we "interpret the times" through the lens of God, His sovereignty, and use this time as an opportunity to share the Gospel with a fearful people in need of hope.

Provided below is the table below is the framework for this lesson. Where appropriate, I've tried to apply Biblical passages to provide additional context for what God might be saying to us.

No.	Topic of Interest	Biblical Passage
1	Science and Technology (perspectives, Carl Jung, etc.)	1 Corinthians 1:20, Colossians 2:8
2	Communication (internet, satellites, cell phones)	Revelation 11:1-12
3	Currency (credit cards, digital, valuation, commerce)	Revelation 13:11-18
4	Course Tracking: Dones (seeking and destroying)	Matthew 24
5	Fine Tracking: Artificial Intelligence, facial recognition, chips	N/A

In the lecture I will go into far greater detail, but provided below are a few thoughts and comments related to the above Topics of Interest.

Science and Technology: Throughout world history, science and technology have sometimes been at odds with the church, especially with some of the legalistic views taken by the church that were in opposition to reality (i.e., round earth, Heliocentrism, etc.). In many of today's universities, Christianity is viewed with skepticism and seen as an "opiate to appease the masses." More recently, public freedoms and civil liberties were sacrificed with forced shutdowns in the name of "science." For many, science has become their god and we're living with the consequences.

Communication: Communication and being connected has become a central (and unfortunately vital) part of our everyday lives. How many of you were stressed with the widespread loss of our AT&T cell phone network? I still think there is something behind that event which no one is discussing. Our ability to access information, including videos, has changed the way we interface with those around us, how we learn, and where we get our information. Knowledge is instantly available, although the source of that knowledge is often beyond our control.



Currency: For those of us 50 years and older, we've seen a massive change in how we purchase goods and services. Can you imagine your mother needing a plumber to fix a toilet and going to some "lightweight electronic box" in her purse, searching for a plumber based on local recommendations, scheduling the arrival of the plumber without talking to anyone, and using that same lightweight electronic box from her purse to pay the plumber? The best, and worse, is yet to come. We are at a point that within days our entire world could go to a single monetary system. Within our lifetimes we'll likely see the end of cash.

According to a Pew Research Center survey released late last year (2023), more Americans are going cashless, with about 41% saying they don't make any of their purchases in cash in a typical week — up from 24% in 2015. Digital apps like Venmo, Apple Pay, and digital assets like cryptocurrency have gained steam over the past decade.⁽¹⁾

Tracking: In addition to general technology evolution, advances in communication and commerce are now permitting "big brother" to track us, our habits, and even predict what we're going to do (i.e., remember the movie, *Minority Report*, where police predicted crimes before they were committed?). This is scary beyond description. Even on my cell phone I have facial recognition that allows me to log onto my phone and another level that permits me to log onto my banking apps. Listed below are some specific technologies that are "changing the game" for us.

- Drones – I have a drone that I purchased for less than \$1,000. It can practically fly itself, record 4k video, has radar that prevents it from running into trees, and can be programmed to fly specific routes and land at my feet. Large drones can be fitted with armament for battle.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) – in one sense AI is amazing. Our ability to program software and predict trends using data is amazing. However, today's computational power will eventually lead to destructive behaviors and erode many of the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. The antichrist will use AI to his advantage.



Questions for Discussion

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:20 and Colossians 2:8.
 - a. In what ways have science and technology replaced God's role and authority in American society?

 - b. What do the above Bible passages tell us about God and how we should trust him when it comes to things relates to science and technology?
2. With this lesson being focused on science and technology, where we have seen it used for good and where has it been used for destruction?

Good:

Bad:

3. Read Revelation 11:1-12. What events take place in this passage and what role might technology play?

4. Read Revelation 13:11-18.
 - a. The Mark of the Beast has always been of great fascination to those interested in prophecy and End Times events. According to this passage, what is the purpose of this mark?

 - b. In your lifetime how has purchasing goods and services changed?

 - c. How might the purchase of goods and services change in the future?
5. Read Matthew 24. In your own words, describe the events of this passage. What specifically do we observe in looking at verses 15 through 25?

Resources

1. <https://www.marketplace.org/2023/04/21/what-would-happen-if-paper-money-became-obsolete/>
2. *Racing Toward The Mark of the Beast*, Peter and Paul Lalonde, Harvest House Publishers, 1994.
3. *En Route to Global Occupation*, Gary Kah, Huntington House Publishers, 1992.
4. *The Demonic Roots of Globalism*, Gary Kah, Huntington House Publishers, 1995.
5. *Final Signs*, Ed Hinson, Harvest House Publishers, 1996.
6. *Your Face Belongs to Us*, Kashmir Hill, Penguin Random House, 2023.

Bible Passages

1 Corinthians 1:20

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Revelation 11:1-12

¹I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ²But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. ³And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and "they stand before the Lord of the earth."^[a] ⁵If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

⁷Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. ⁸Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. ¹⁰The 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.

¹¹But after the three and a half days the breath^[b] of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

Revelation 13:11-18

¹¹Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. ¹⁴Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Matthew 24 (The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times)

24 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ²"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

³As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

⁴Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed.

Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,'^[a] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

²² "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³ At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

²⁶ "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹ "Immediately after the distress of those days
"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'^[b]

³⁰ "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth^[c] will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.^[d] ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

³² "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it^[e] is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,^[f] but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ ⁴⁹ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹ He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 24:15](#) Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11
- b. [Matthew 24:29](#) Isaiah 13:10; 34:4
- c. [Matthew 24:30](#) *Or the tribes of the land*
- d. [Matthew 24:30](#) See Daniel 7:13-14.
- e. [Matthew 24:33](#) *Or he*
- f. [Matthew 24:36](#) Some manuscripts do not have *nor the Son*.