

Kingdom Report

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The Convergence of Tech Power and Holy Spirit Power

There are times in the history of Civilization and the history of the Kingdom of God when a convergence of knowledge and power create new realities that create new possibilities. The 2020's is such a time....for humanity and the Kingdom of God

By way of illustration I refer you back to the year of 2007 when Steve Jobs and Apple introduced the iPhone to the world. In 2007 it was 3% of new phone sales. In 2016 it was 81%. And it revolutionized the world.

When it was introduced this is what Steve Ballmer the CEO of Microsoft had to say: "There is no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share. No chance..." Not unusual a comment as his boss Bill Gates had this to say in 1994 about the internet: "It's important that internet expectations aren't cranked too high. The total number of users is still very small..."

Bloomberg had this to say "The iPhone's impact will be minimal. It will only appeal to a few gadget freaks. Nokia and Motorola have nothing to worry about."

Bill Gates should have known better. He should have recognized both the internet and the iPhone as the kind of productive platform that allowed people to work on similar to the platform he created with Windows operating system. a worldwide common productivity platform that everyone can work on.

What is common to all these world changing platforms is the convergence of multiple technology breakthroughs that make for a phase shift of increased productive power by allowing many people to contribute their work and network their ideas with others.

In the case of the iPhone there were major developments in 5 streams of technology that converged at the right time to create an entirely new concept of what can be done with a hand held instrument that seems to be a telephone but in fact is so much more. And so you could not value it properly as a high priced telephone but you had to see it as a low cost productivity and entertainment platform.

The 5 converging technologies that converged and that Steve Jobs the visionary could see were:

- 1) Computing power: Transistor amount and density were increasing 41% per year.
- 2) Data Storage: Hard disk storage costs of \$ per bit were lowering 50% every 18 months.
- 3) Digital Imaging: The price of pixels per \$ were dropping 59% per year (which wiped out Kodak and all other film camera companies before they could wake up)

- 4) Network Capacity: The cost of transmitting a bit of information was dropping 50% every 9 months.
- 5) Batteries: The cost of lithium ion batteries were of \$ per kWh was dropping 20% per year.

And as these 5 technologies continued their advance after the introduction of the iPhone in 2007 that allowed Apple to come out every 2 years with new improved models of the iPhone until today Apple is the most valuable company in the world at \$2,2 trillion.

Last week I introduced you to the concept that the medieval monastery movement from about 500 AD to about 1100 AD absolutely changed the course of the history of civilization by creating the concept of Europe as a Christian civilization. It as well as the Reformation that built on this civilization platform of the monks are the answer to the question that famed British historian Niall Fergusson asked "Why the West and not the Rest?" As in why did Western Europe speed ahead of the rest world from 1600 onwards?

I want to take this idea of converging streams allowing new operating systems a bit further by way of illustration and then I want to apply to what I believe is going to happen in the decade ahead.

Let's go back to my Monastery Movement analogy:

They formed teams of monks that would go into new barbarian regions of Europe and choose out a place of waste land and there they would lay out the Monastery. They then turned this area into a productive region where food was being produced, education, ministry, production of tools and clothing and products and books. And the operating system of that guided the production was the gospel of Christ in action. It was preaching the Word by living and working the Word and thereby drawing people into a new way of life. Drawing them into "the way of the Lord" instead of the way of their barbarian practices.

So to say, you had a hardware platform, the Monastery and you had a software operating system, "the life of Christ lived out in the world".

Labour was important but they came with much more. They came with the best technology of the era and improved on it. They came with skills. They came with plans for productive work. They came with the love of Christ, the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here is the important point about how the Monastery Movement laid the foundation for Western Christian Civilization in a barbarian Europe and I want to apply this insight to our coming Reformation 2.0:

They came into a barbarian world of tribal conflict, ignorance, and looting as a means of economic advancement and carved out a space and demonstrated a new way of life through a new way of faith through a new way of work and progress. And they changed the world.

Now let me apply this principle of convergence to the exiting decade of the 2020's and share with you what I see:

Throughout the evangelical church around the world I see a large body of believers who have been "churched" and taught by great ministries and are Spirit filled and enthusiastic for the Kingdom of God. And a large portion of them have this inner conviction of.....ok I get it, God wants to use me, I have destiny, I have power....but what is the task?

I see a huge technological revolution ready to change the world in incredible ways.

I see the convergence coming of an army of Spirit filled people who want to be world changers converging with a host of technologies that can change the world.

Now let me give you a short synopsis of what I believe and what others believe will be the great top breakthroughs now breaking out in this decade that will change the world and are the tools ready for us to change the world.

What I want to emphasize here is the critical importance of these technologies is not the idea of how they can make the existing world system better but how they enable God's world changers to decouple from the world system and create a whole new parallel civilization based on the "ways of the Lord" or a demonstration of how a Spirit filled civilization functions to heal the nations.

I am only going to give a brief description but I want to dig down deeper on this in coming blogs to flesh out the road map of possibilities of the new Promised Land ahead of us. But here goes....

1) The Transport Revolution

By 2030 50% of all cars manufactured will be electric vehicles. Tesla is leading the charge and the technology but a multitude of other manufacturers are following in China and Europe. These vehicles have 1 million mile lifetimes, the energy comes from your roof top PV panels. 10% of the economy of every advanced nation is the car industry in terms of oil, car parts, service, manufacturing etc and the need for continuous wearing out of engines and cars to make more cars. This blows out millions of jobs in auto manufacturing which cars will increasingly come from automated factories and far fewer cars needed to be produced each year.

Implication: Independence for you and me from the international oil cartels. A lifetime car. And if you want a new look, you unbolt the top off the electric platform and replace with a new bolt on car look.

2) Artificial Intelligence

This is advancing by leaps and bounds with the incredible advances in chip density and software algorithms. Tesla unveiled its recent Dojo artificial intelligence super computer that they built themselves from their own massive computer chip design. Others like Google, Microsoft etc are doing the same.

Tesla will soon solve "FSD" full self driving automation which their Dojo is learning from the camera cams on 1 million Tesla cars.

Implication 1: FSD in trucks and taxis will be the start which means that 1,2 million interstate truck drivers in America do not have job security. Millions of taxi drivers

and Uber drivers can be replaced by "ride call" automated taxis. Privately owned vehicles in cities are not needed. Millions of parking lots not needed. Amazon delivery will be by automated delivery vehicles. Therefore obtaining manufactured goods from factory direct to consumer will be easier and cheaper.

Implication 2 Neural Network AI: The folks at Deep Mind perfected the ability of AI to not be built using step by step instructions like how to play chess and millions of "if this then this" instruction sets to tell the AI what moves to make...this type of AI was good years ago when it beat the world chess champ with IBM's super AI. Now a new level of AI has been reached with "neural network" technology where the AI teaches itself anything from first principles. The new AI tech of Deep Mind was given 100,000 chess games to analyze then played itself hundreds of millions of times the day they started it up and the next day was able to beat any player in the world.

This new AI technology will be deployed in what is known as "artificial general intelligence" which means that it is generic to start with and the AI can train itself to understand any particular field of human expertise with enough starting information.

Implication: Future call centers will be AI voices closely matching human voices and understanding the questions being asked as well as the answers needed.

There goes tax consultants, finance and insurance consultants, expert engineering specialists in all engineering disciplines, most repetitive office routines etc.

3) Energy

There is a revolution now coming and accelerating in this decade which will produce clean and abundant cheap energy that is environmentally clean. This is the small modular nuclear reactors now being commissioned. I will highlight just one company that is in the forefront of this revolution. The Canadian company Xenergy (www.x-energy.com). I do so because they were started by a group of South African nuclear engineers who developed the "pebble bed modular nuclear reactor technology" at Eskom and then in 2008 when the government shut down the program they took the tech to Canada and have now perfected the technology and are rolling it out starting with American military orders. Go to their website and get excited about the future!

Implication: They offer two nuclear reactors running on pebble nuke fuel. The XE-100 and the X-Mobile.

The X-mobile is delivered to site where needed in a 40 foot shipping container as a full nuclear reactor producing electricity of 1 Mwe (one million watts) for three years before refueling needed. Think about a new Kingdom community in Africa that needs electric power to function. Off grid, immediate, high density clean power for local industry development.

The Xe-100 model is a 80 Mwe standard model for city power needs that can be clustered into 4 units for 320 Mw of power. They are built to last for 60 years. And delivered on site.

Here in South Africa with a failing national electricity supply from a corrupt public utility, think about your town or municipality with its own electricity supply that is cheap and built to last 60 years and immediately available for construction and installation!

And there are numerous other companies like Xenergy with a range of different technologies, my favourite future being molten salt fluoride thorium reactors, but that is another story for another time.

4) Communications

When scripture says in Isaiah 11:9 *"...the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."* ...then I must assume that the Lord wants a means of technology roll out that will enable the whole earth to be showered with readably available knowledge for all to access anywhere at anytime.

This revolution is now upon us. Fibre optic lines transmit the internet all over the world. 3G and 4G and now 5G Wifi signals broadcast this data far and wide. But the next step to reach all the unreached places on the earth is universal satellite technology that will beam it from space. Elon Musk and Space X are now launching a network of satellites that will by the end of the decade amount to 42,000 with already 1000 up in space. The download speeds will be 50-100 mbs which is incredible seeing as I am very happy with my current 6-8 mbs.

Implication: There is not a country or place in the world in which knowledge of all sorts will be freely available. It is like having an international mega-library of human knowledge sitting on your desk top. Any subject and any process you want to learn is now available to you.

The implication for independent communities who want to do their own schooling now can offer high quality video teaching seminars.

Another implication: Schooling can now be implemented independently of national school systems. Financial systems of banking and money and trade transfers can be organized independently of national and international systems. Phone and messaging can be conducted independently from national telecoms.

For the Kingdom of God the telecommunications revolution will accelerate the spreading of the gospel as never before in history.

5) Biotechnology

The biotechnology revolution is only now getting started in a big way. The computer evolution was based on the ability to manipulate 1's and 0's in massive coding operations run on processors and stored on memory and interpreted on screens in letters, pictures and sounds.

The biotechnology revolution is based on the recent discovery of how to easily and cheaply decode the genome sequences of DNA as a first step and then as a second step easily and cheaply cut and snip those gene sequences to write new gene codes to produce new chemicals.

In my area of study "precision fermentation" is just one incredible breakthrough. That is the ability to change the genetic code in yeasts to produce different proteins. It will mean in future very cheap protein for animal feed instead of millions of acres of soybeans, it will mean the cheap manufacture of the proteins and fats in milk which only make up 3% of milk the rest being water, so we can soon replace cows and produce genetically identical milk from restructured yeast. And we can produce ethanol and butanol for cars as renewable fuels for those not wanting to go the electric route.

And a multitude of therapeutic drugs and cures for diseases are coming this decade.

Implication: The technologies are developing the same way as the computer revolution: The enormous rooms of big boxes were replaced by desk top power. The future biotech labs will do the same. Small communities will be able to produce drugs, enzymes, etc as needed and when needed.

Here is my take on these tech breakthroughs and the coming decade.

I saw this picture that futurist Tony Seba produced of New York 5th ave in 1900 and 1913. In 1900 the street was crowded with horses and carriages and one lone car. In 1913 the street was crowded with cars and one lone horse carriage.

The future is coming faster than what we think. The future is also better than what we think. We the people of God have the ability to create the future that God wants on this earth. That is why we are taught to pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

All the tech tools I have described above are going to be available to all people on planet earth. They are tools that can create new communities, new civilization structures, new ways of doing things that allow for independent communities. Nation states are not delivering the services that people need, corporations rise and fall.

There is only one certainty we can depend on as we plan the future. The Kingdom of God has come and we have the right and authority from God to be world changers in a changing world. Why run to prophets to ask about the future. The best way to predict the future is to create the future. And we already have God's intention as to what kind of future He wants...so lets just get on with it.

The next great step for the church is to learn 'the ways of the Lord' for our new Kingdom civilization. We have the tools for the job. Now we need the design. And that means we need to start a serious conversation among all those of us who are ready to build a new world.