

The Post-Rapture Loss of Technology

The Bible has a lot to say about what the world will be like after the rapture. One of the things it hints at is that in the post-rapture world, modern technology will no longer exist. It seems that at some point after the rapture it will become lost and the world will revert to a much more primitive state.

One of the most obvious places where this can be seen is when Gog invades Israel. That battle will take place after the rapture and before the tribulation. In that famous battle, Gog will invade Israel while riding *on horses*:

Ezekiel 38:3-4: “And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.”

Ezekiel 38:15: “And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army.”

What weapons will they be wielding? Swords and shields and bows and arrows, which the Israelites will burn once the battle is over:

Ezekiel 39:9: “And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: 39:10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn

the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.”

I realize that people usually assume that modern technology *must* exist when this battle takes place, and therefore they interpret “horses” to refer to tanks and “bows and arrows” to refer to guns or missiles. However, that's not what the text says! If that battle will be fought with modern weapons then God could have remained silent about the weapons Gog will use (instead of *specifically* saying they will be the weapons of the ancient world). Most of the prophecies God gave against nations don't mention weapons at all. This passage is one of the rare exceptions. God specifically says that Gog will invade Israel with horses, shields, swords, bows, and arrows.

Is it possible that these are modern weapons? No. Israel is going to spend years burning these weapons *because they're made of wood*. The reason they're going to burn them is because when this battle takes place the Jews had been burning wood for fuel. That means this battle takes place in a world that doesn't have electricity anymore.

This isn't the only passage which teaches that modern technology doesn't exist in the end times. God told Isaiah that when Babylon is destroyed in the end times, it will be wiped out by an army equipped with *bows*:

Isaiah 13:17-20: “Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eyes shall not spare children. And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.”

This prophecy has never been fulfilled. It's true that the Medes conquered Babylon in the days of the prophet Daniel, but they didn't destroy the city. Instead they moved in and reigned over it. Babylon then passed from one conquering nation to another. It was never utterly destroyed in a moment, the way that Sodom and Gomorrah were. God was telling Isaiah about the ultimate destruction of Babylon during the tribulation, which is also discussed in Revelation:

Revelation 18:10: "Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come."

Revelation 18:21-23: "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."

When is Babylon going to be destroyed in a single hour (as Sodom and Gomorrah were)? At the end of the seven-year tribulation. That's when it will be destroyed once and for all, and will never rise again.

When an angel told Daniel about the wars the antichrist will wage during the tribulation, he said they would be fought with ancient weapons like chariots and horsemen:

Daniel 11:36-37, 40: “And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. ... And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

God told the prophet Zechariah that some of the battles of the tribulation era will be fought with slings and stones:

Zechariah 9:15-16: “The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.”

God also told Zechariah about end-times battles that will be fought with horses and horsemen:

Zechariah 10:5: “And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.”

Zechariah 12:4: “In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.”

Zechariah 14:15: “And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.”

The problem with dismissing all of this as symbolic is that *these passages don't use symbolic language* to describe these weapons. It would have been easy for the text to say “the riders rode on something that had the strength of horses” or “the weapons were as fast and deadly as slings”. But that's not what they say.

Until the modern era, people read these passages and interpreted them to mean exactly what they say: the battles will be fought with chariots and horses and swords and bows and arrows. The reason people don't interpret it that way anymore is because wars are no longer fought with those weapons. However, *we must let the text speak for itself!* It's a terrible mistake to ignore what the text actually says and decide that it *must* mean something else due to factors that have nothing whatsoever to do with the text.

This isn't the only evidence that modern technology won't exist in the end times. For example, take this famous passage:

Matthew 24:41: “Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”

What are these two women doing when the Lord Jesus Christ returns? They're grinding at the mill. That makes a lot of sense in a world without modern technology, but it makes no sense in a modern context. These women are living in a world where flour has to be ground out at a mill with millstones! This isn't depicted as something strange, but instead as something people will commonly be doing in those days. Why are they using millstones to grind flour? Because technology is gone.

In the book of Revelation, the apostle John gives us a list of the valuable treasures that Babylon will sell to the world in the end times. That list is more evidence that civilization has reverted to a much more primitive state:

Revelation 18:12-13: “The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.”

Notice the passage says that in the end times, fine linen and purple linen will be items of great value! That's not true in the modern world, but it will be true in those days. Another item listed as something of great value is *cinnamon*. That makes sense in a world without modern technology, but it's certainly not a valuable commodity today. (There's also a mention of horses and chariots, which lines up with what we've seen in other passages.)

Do you know what else is found in the great and mighty city of Babylon— the richest and most powerful city in the end times? *Millstones*:

Revelation 18:22: “And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;”

The Bible is painting a clear picture of a world that doesn't have access to modern technology anymore. Even rich and powerful cities are using *millstones* to grind flour! The world of the end times has horses, chariots, bows, arrows, and swords. It's

a world where fine linen and *purple cloth* are considered expensive luxury items on par with gold. Even cinnamon is considered a valuable commodity!

How is the great city of Babylon lit? Not with electricity, but with candles:

Revelation 18:23: “And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.”

How do we know that these end-times battles are fought with actual, flesh and blood horses? Because an angel commands birds to eat their corpses:

Revelation 19:17: “And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”

If birds are eating the corpses of the horses then they must be actual horses – not symbols for tanks.

It takes a lot of effort to ignore all the details of these passages and reinterpret them to be talking about modern weapons and modern warfare. I believe taking that approach (which is very common today) is a major error. God could have written these passages to describe modern warfare or modern weapons. He also could have omitted all mention of weapons altogether. He could have described a modern society, but He didn't. Instead He told us over and over again that our modern world is about to come to an end, and our technology is going to be lost (and it won't be regained before the millennium).

This has enormous implications. It means that at some point between now and Gog's invasion of Israel, technology will disappear and nearly everyone in the world will die. This is very serious because the modern world requires technology to function. If modern technology is lost then nearly everyone in the world will die. It's not possible to support 8 billion people with primitive technology! (It's entirely possible that the rapture will trigger this global calamity.)

It's not clear if technology will be regained before the millennium ends. The book of Zechariah tells us that in the millennium, horses will be used in Jerusalem for transportation:

Zechariah 14:20: "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, Holiness Unto The Lord; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar."

There's one final point I want to mention. Some people may object to all this and say that technology *must* exist during the tribulation because the whole world will see the dead bodies of the two witnesses when they're murdered in Jerusalem:

Revelation 11:8-10: "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."

In the modern world it's easy to explain how the whole world could view the dead bodies of the two witnesses during the three days when they're dead. However, how could this be fulfilled in a world that doesn't have a global communication

network?

This is an interesting passage because there are *many* verses (in both the Old and New Testament) which indicate that modern technology won't exist in the end times. This passage is the only exception that I've found.

There are a few options. The first is that the text says that people from many nations will see the dead bodies. However, it doesn't say that those people will be in other nations when they see the bodies. It's possible the reason they're seeing them is because they're in Jerusalem at the time. Even in the ancient world people traveled to Jerusalem from distant lands to do things like celebrate the Passover. People assume that these individuals are in their homeland when they get the news, but that may not be the case. Perhaps the people who celebrated the deaths of the two witnesses were those who were in Jerusalem. (After all, only Jerusalem is cursed with an earthquake when God raises the two witnesses from the dead.)

A second option is that perhaps most modern technology was lost, but some things survived. Perhaps long-range radio transmissions are still possible, and that will be used to spread the news. That type of communication can be done with primitive components. (You don't need a smartphone to send messages via radio.)

A third option is that perhaps the global spread of this news was something accomplished by the antichrist and his false prophet. The book of Revelation warns us that he'll be able to perform astonishing signs and wonders. This may be one of them.

It's probably impossible for us to know this far in advance how it will be fulfilled. However, I do believe the evidence is clear that modern technology is about to be lost, and it won't be regained before the tribulation ends.