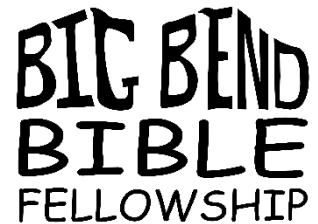


Artificial Intelligence

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For Discussion: AI anxiety as computers get super smart (news.yahoo.com, October 31, 2023)

AI anxiety as computers get super smart

From Hollywood's death-dealing Terminator to warnings from genius Stephen Hawking or Silicon Valley stars, fears have been fueled that artificial intelligence (AI) could one day destroy humanity.

<https://news.yahoo.com/ai-anxiety-computers-super-smart-012829761.html>

China's spy agency claims 'gene weapons' that target specific races are being developed by 'certain' countries

China claims terrorists have 'armed' themselves with AI-created genetic weapons that target specific races. Ministry of State Security released a statement on WeChat announcing that 'certain' non-governmental organizations recruited Chinese 'volunteers' to collect biodiversity distribution data under the guise of biological species research.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12694501/Chinas-spy-agency-claims-gene-weapons-target-specific-races-developed-certain-countries-erie-warning.html>

What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to a computer system that thinks, reasons, and learns in the same way as a human being.

- This has long been a theme of science fiction—the droids from the Star Wars films are thinking, reasoning, emoting machines.
- Fictional AI often takes on a villain's role, such as HAL 9000 from 2001: A Space Odyssey, the machines of The Matrix, Skynet of the Terminator series or the character Ultron from Marvel Comics.

Artificial intelligence has the idea of a technological singularity, the point at which manmade creations overtake humans in terms of reasoning ability, problem-solving, and self-development.

- Despite hopes and fears to the contrary, there is no reason to think that true artificial intelligence is even possible.

Why do people think we are close to the artificial intelligence singularity?

- Many note how industrial robots are faster and/or stronger than people.
- Calculators can perform operations with perfect accuracy and in much less time than a human being.
- Computers, can store, recall, and manipulate data far more efficiently than can a person.
- AI proponents point to computers that have beaten humans in contests such as chess and Jeopardy.
- The Large Language Model generative AI systems appear to have the creativity of humans.

Is artificial intelligence a blessing?

- Enables graphic designers, writers and programmers to be more efficient and produce more.
- May be used to justify universal basic income because machines will generate wealth that is shared with people freed of the burdens of work.
- This will be a tool that amplifies human beings, not replace them.
- Promises to automate weapons of war making them more lethal with fewer humans involved.
- The goal is for AI to benefit humanity, solving long-intractable problems such as climate change.

Is artificial intelligence a curse?

- Loss of jobs... companies would reap profits of improved efficiencies, leaving those out of work to fend for themselves.
- Fake news and deepfakes have been around for years but generative AI raises fears of rampant online deception.
- Elections run the risk of being won by those most adept at spreading disinformation. If no one knows what's true and what's not, it's all over.
- Generative AI makes it easier for scammers to create convincing, personalized phishing.
- Might be used to predict the actions of criminals before a crime is committed; brings to mind Minority Report.
- Used to develop more lethal bio-weapons.
- Removes the human factor in warfare to increase the potential for more dangerous escalation.

- AI could become so smart that it could seize control from humans.
- AI systems often produce unintended, unprogrammed results: they often lie.

Why would artificial intelligence lie?

This reveals that there may be something else at work here other than machine intelligence...

John 8:44 – *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

If demons can possess humans, animals, and Ouija boards, why not machines appearing to have human-like capabilities? Brandon Holthaus has referred to AI as a digital Ouija board.

- Many involved with developing AI systems have claimed they don't really know how they work as well as they do.

What does the Bible have to say about the role of artificial intelligence?

Satan lacks the characteristics of God but he mimics Him and thus needs to appear omniscient & omnipresent. He has a lot of help with other fallen angels but these demonic helpers are being augmented with technology...

Revelation 13:11-15

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

¹²*And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

¹³*He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.* ¹⁴*And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.* ¹⁵*He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

v11 – Who is this beast coming up out of the earth?

This is the False Prophet who causes earth-dwellers to worship the Antichrist (*beast rising up out of the sea*).

- The term False Prophet is used in of Revelation 16:13 where he is the source of one of the unclean spirits enticing the nations to gather at Armageddon.

- We also see the False Prophet along with the Antichrist being the first to be cast into the lake of fire per Revelation 19:20.

What is the significance of the beast from the earth versus the beast from the sea?

The sea is used in Revelation to symbolize the Gentile nations while the earth symbolized the land of Israel... the heart of the earth is the land of Israel.

- So, it is likely that the Antichrist is a Gentile while the False Prophet is a Jew.

Who then are the key players in the religious system of the Tribulation?

- The unholy trinity... Satan, Antichrist, and False Prophet.
- Satan is not very creative; he has to mimic God so he raises up his own substitute for Christ and the Holy Spirit

How is this false prophet described?

He looks like a lamb – a wolf in sheep's clothing representing himself as a man of God
Speaks like a dragon – speaks as Satan

v12 – What does it mean the deadly wound of the Antichrist is healed?

Just as Jesus Christ came back from the dead, Satan's human representative appears to also come back from the dead. This will be some sort of deception... the Antichrist will not really come back from the dead; it will only appear like he did. Satan is not very creative; he has to copy what the Lord has done.

Zechariah 11:17 – *“Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded.”*

v12-14 – What does the False Prophet do?

- He acts in the authority of the Antichrist (is empowered by Satan) when in his presence (Satan probably possesses the Antichrist but not omnipresent)
- He causes earth-dwellers to worship the Antichrist as God
- He does miraculous signs such as fire coming down from heaven
- He deceives the earth-dwellers
- He makes an image of the Antichrist to facilitate earth-dwellers worshipping him

What is the significance of the False Prophet being a Jew?

It could be this False Prophet claims to be Jesus Christ who warned us about rampant deception during the Tribulation and that...

Matthew 24:24 – false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

It is likely the false prophet represents himself as Jesus to convince apostate Christians that the Prophet Mohammad had it right... the Bible was corrupted but the Koran is true so they should worship al Mahdi (the Antichrist) [as Moslems expect to happen].

v15 – What is the purpose of the image of the beast?

It is likely a machine that will determine whether or not people before it do indeed worship the Beast... it automates the process because the Beast is not omnipresent.

- People worshipping the Beast may be expected to kneel and bow before the Image of the Beast and the machine vision would be able to detect that.
- The technology for machines to analyze gestures and speak is readily available today.

What will happen to those who fail to worship the Beast?

They will be killed; most will probably be martyrs for Christ...

Revelation 20:4 – Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands

What does it mean that breath will be given to the Image of the Beast?

It will appear to be alive... like artificial intelligence appears to be sentient (able to perceive or feel things).

What is the significance of the Image of the Beast being described immediately before the Mark of the Beast?

The False Prophet is also the one instituting the Mark of the Beast... it is likely that people must pass the Image of the Beast worship test before they receive the Mark of the Beast. It is all about demonstrating allegiance to the Beast to be able to participate in the economy and buy groceries.

Do we in the church have to be concerned about being dragged before the Image of the Beast?

No, this is something Tribulation saints will have to deal with but not Church Age saints.