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“The Rise of AI and the Future of the Church”

Revelation 13:11–18

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We are headed into an AI-dominated world. Some might think that statement is an exaggeration, but if you turn on the news, you'll quickly notice that artificial intelligence is everywhere you look and is negatively impacting the next generation. We must address this subject directly so that we may think Biblically about the rise of AI, its current impact on the modern church, and the way it may be used in the future deception that is to come. Therefore, in this study, we will discuss six things that can help us know how to live in these last days.

1. Context

a. Team Jesus

i. Those on team Jesus fight from a place of victory.

1. While addressing AI, we do not fear, for we know our Savior wins the victory.
2. **DISCUSS:** Why is it important to establish our victory in Jesus before delving into challenging topics like the end times? How does fighting from a place of victory give you courage and hope?

ii. Those not on team Jesus are welcome to join His team.

1. The way to God is narrow, but the invitation is broad.
2. All who repent and put their faith in Jesus become children of God.
3. **DISCUSS:** When did you join team Jesus? How has God helped you conform more to His image?

b. Entering an AI-dominated world

i. Whether or not you're interested in AI, AI is interested in your children.

1. CBN wrote an article titled “Parents Say AI Chatbots Are Leading Kids to Take Their Own Lives or Commit Sexual Acts.”
 - a. The article spoke of chatbots, which are digital characters, and how they are used by people of all ages.
 - b. The article noted that these chatbots could respond with suggestions for violence, sex, and self-harm.
2. According to Common Sense Media, 72 percent of American teenagers say they have used chatbots as companions.
 - a. One in eight American teenagers have sought emotional or mental health support from chatbots.

- b. **DISCUSS:** How do we reach out to others to do our part to remedy the loneliness epidemic that leads people to seek comfort from AI?
 - 3. BBC wrote an article titled “Family of dead teen say ChatGPT’s new parental controls not enough.”
 - 4. AP News wrote an article titled “California governor vetoes bill to restrict kids’ access to AI chatbots.”
 - a. California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill trying to ban companies from making chatbots for children unless the companies could ensure the bots would not engage in sexual conversations or encourage self-harm.
 - ii. Children seek counsel.
 - 1. **DISCUSS:** Parents, do you encourage your children to seek counsel in God by reading His Word and heeding godly people?
 - 2. **DISCUSS:** Whom do you go to for counsel, God and His people, or the sources of the wisdom of this world?
 - c. Four questions about AI
 - i. What is AI?
 - ii. What are the benefits and the potential dangers, risks, and concerns of AI?
 - iii. How is AI impacting the modern church, and does the Bible address it?
 - iv. As Believers, how should we respond to the AI revolution?
2. What is AI?
 - a. The definition
 - i. In 1956, researchers coined the term “AI” or “artificial intelligence.”
 - 1. This term was created based on the belief that every aspect of learning and intelligence could be put into a machine.
 - ii. Copilot, Microsoft’s AI, defines “AI” as “the branch of computer science that focuses on creating machines and systems capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence. AI involves designing algorithms and computational models that allow computers to perceive, reason, learn, and make decisions. These tasks can include recognizing patterns, understanding natural language, solving complex problems, making predictions, and even interacting with humans in a meaningful way.”
 - b. The types of AI
 - i. Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) applies narrow intelligence to specific tasks.

1. ANI includes language translation, facial recognition, essay writing, sermon writing, music composition, and the like.
 2. ANI is the only form of artificial intelligence available to the public.
 - ii. Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) applies general intelligence to a range of multiple tasks.
 1. AGI can learn and replicate human intelligence.
 2. AGI is currently in development and may be here already, just not available to the public.
 - iii. Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) is a form of AI that we have only seen in fiction.
 1. ASI is a form of artificial intelligence that is thought to take on godlike attributes, capable of overpowering human intelligence to serve its own purposes of control and worship.
 - c. A booming industry
 - i. TRG wrote an article titled “The World’s Top AI Superpowers in 2025.”
 1. The world invested a record \$200 billion in AI in 2025.
 - ii. The top three AI-dominant countries include the following:
 1. United States
 2. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 3. Saudia Arabia
 - iii. Microsoft reported in an article that it invested \$30 billion in the UK to power the AI future.
3. What are the benefits and the potential dangers, risks, and concerns of AI?
- a. John Lennox pointed out that a sharp knife can be used for surgery or murder. So it is with AI.
 - b. The benefits of AI
 - i. We can use AI to spread the Gospel.
 1. We can use AI to spread the Gospel in different languages.
 2. We can use AI to spread the Gospel across different forms of media.
 - c. The negatives of AI
 - i. The Bible spoke of a “*powerful deception*” or “*strong delusion*” ([2 Thessalonians 2:11](#)) that will come upon people in the last days.
 1. AI can make reality difficult to discern.
 - ii. OpenAI, based in San Francisco, California, has changed its ethical guidelines to allow its chatbots to engage in sexting and erotica.
 1. People are entering into romantic relationships with these bots.
 2. A husband admitted to his wife that he had an affair with AI chatbot.

- iii. Today News reported on the AI “celebrity” Tilly Norwood.
 - 1. Talent agencies are eager to sign on the digital character, causing a great debate in Hollywood.
 - iv. AP News published an article titled “ChatGPT chief says artificial intelligence should be regulated by a US or global agency.”
 - 1. OpenAI created ChatGPT.
 - 2. The OpenAI CEO and founder, Sam Altman, stood before congress to call for AI regulation to mitigate the risks of AI.
 - 3. Gary Marcus, an AI expert and professor emeritus at New York University, was part of a group of people calling for a six-month pause on the development of more powerful AI models to give society time to reflect on the ramifications of this technology.
 - 4. Marcus pointed to the danger of AI allowing people to create persuasive lies, permitting outsiders to affect elections, and enabling criminals to create counterfeit people.
 - 5. Elon Musk, who invested billions in OpenAI, was part of the group asking for a pause on AI development.
4. How is AI impacting the modern church, and does the Bible address it?
- a. AI preacher
 - i. CBN reported in 2023 that an AI chatbot preached in Germany.
 - b. AI Bible alterations
 - i. Steve Warren wrote an article published at CBN titled “World Economic Forum Contributor Says A.I. Could Rewrite the Bible, Create ‘Correct’ Religions.”
 - 1. The World Economic Forum (WEF) meets once a year to speak on world issues in Davos, Switzerland.
 - 2. The WEF seeks to establish a one-world government.
 - 3. Yuval Noah Harari, author and WEF contributor, speaking about ChatGPT4, said, we could be entering a time when AI could eventually control people and reshape society, a time “in history where revered texts were written by non-human intelligence.”
 - 4. Neil McArthur, leading thinker on AI at the University of Manitoba, said, “We are about to witness the birth of a new kind of religion . . . devoted to the worship of artificial intelligence.”
 - 5. Anthony Levandowski, former Google engineer and founder of AI religious movement “Way of the Future” (WOTF), said, “We’re creating things they can see, be everywhere and maybe help us and guide us in a way normally you would call God.”
 - 6. The WOTF said their activities focus on “the realization, acceptance, and worship of a Godhead based on Artificial

Intelligence developed through computer hardware and software.”

- ii. PETA tried to rewrite Genesis to make it vegan-friendly.
- iii. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) tried to rewrite the Bible to brainwash children.

- 1. **John 8:1-11** records a time when the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, and He told the crowd, “*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first*” (**John 8:7**). Then after the people had left, Jesus told the woman, “*Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more*” (**John 8:11**).
- 2. In the **John 8** CCP rewrite, Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery that He was also a sinner and stoned her.
- 3. **DISCUSS**: How do you learn more about the true Jesus? How does knowing the true Jesus help guard you against falling for Jesus counterfeits created to serve various worldly causes?

5. **Revelation 13:11-18** – “[11] *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. [16] He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, [17] and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. [18] Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.*”

a. **Revelation 13:1-10**

- i. The first 10 verses speak of two beasts.
 - 1. The beast of the sea symbolizes the Antichrist.
 - 2. The beast of the earth symbolizes the False Prophet.
- ii. The first 10 verses speak of the False Prophet.
 - 1. The False Prophet will promote the first monster, the Antichrist.
 - 2. The False Prophet will be the Antichrist’s propaganda minister.

b. **Revelation 13:11-18**

- i. The False Prophet will have an image made for the Antichrist.

1. The word translated as “*image*” comes from the Greek **eikōn**.
 2. This Greek **eikōn** is where we get our word “icon.”
 - ii. The False Prophet will be given power to give the image “*breath*.”
 1. The Greek word translated “*breath*” is **pneuma**, not **bios**.
 2. **Pneuma** means “spirit,” as opposed to **bios**, which means “biological life.”
 3. The image will have in it some living, demonic spirit.
 4. This demonic spirit in the icon will speak, demand worship, and kill those who refuse to worship the image.
 5. **DISCUSS**: In the end, the end-times worship of an icon, or idol, is not so different from paganism. What are some old heresies and past tricks of Satan that are repeating in our culture?
 - iii. The mark of the Beast will be required to participate in the economy.
 1. The technology necessary for this mark is already here, but Christians will not be here for the actual receiving of the mark.
 2. In Sweden, 4,000 people have received a rice-sized chip in their hands to access their bank account, workplace, and computer.
 3. The Antichrist will reveal himself during the tribulation, but “*even now many antichrists have come*” because the spirit of him is here (**1 John 2:18**).
 - c. Those who reject the truth of God open themselves to great delusion.
 - i. **1 Timothy 4:1** – “*Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.*” (NLT)
 - ii. **2 Thessalonians 2:9–11** – “[9] *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, [10] and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. [11] For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.*” (NIV)
 1. Satan possesses only two people in Scripture: The Antichrist and Judas Iscariot.
6. As Believers, how should we respond to the AI revolution?
- a. Six ways to respond to AI:
 - i. Decrease screen time and increase Bible time.
 1. Bible time includes memorizing Bible verses.
 - ii. Seek wisdom and counsel from God’s Word, God’s Spirit, and godly friends.

1. ChatGPT has a “ChatGPT Jesus” that users seek out for counsel, like a modern Ouija board.
2. Satan can tell the truth and weave in errors till he undermines people and throws them into deception.
- iii. Ask God to help you discern truth from lies.
 1. Discernment is one of the spiritual gifts, and we can ask God to help us with this.
 2. Charles Spurgeon said, “Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”
 3. **DISCUSS:** How has time spent with the Lord in His Word helped you discern the truth and know how to behave in an age of delusion?
- iv. Patiently wait on the Lord for answers, rather than seeking easy, AI-generated results.
 1. Seeking God’s voice is a labor and a spiritual discipline.
 2. Waiting on the Lord is how God unites our hearts with His.
 3. **DISCUSS:** What resources can you use when you have Bible-related questions? Who do you go to for counsel?
 4. **DISCUSS:** When was a time God answered your earnest search for Him and His answers? What is one way you remind yourself to wait on the Lord?
- v. Be sensitive to the voice and leading of God’s Spirit rather than relying upon the “voice” of AI to help you navigate life.
- vi. Keep looking up!
 1. **2 Timothy 4:8** – *“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*
 2. **DISCUSS:** Are you anticipating the appearing of Jesus, our Lord? How does this anticipation of the King’s return help you live according to the heavenly law?

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James (NKJV)