

August 2026

Dear Brethren:

One of the biggest topics of our day centers around artificial intelligence (AI). AI is the *buzzword du jour*, repeated ad nauseam in articles, videos, news reports, and general discussions about the future of technology. Efforts by world governments and international commercial enterprises to "win the AI race" have become feverish. Billions of dollars are being poured into development of controversial AI data centers, consuming massive amounts of power, water, and other community resources, all for the sake of the exponential increase in computing capacity.

In the last century, new technologies were often hyped to consumers using jargon such as, Transistorized, High Fidelity, Living Color/Technicolor, Dolby Surround Sound, Turbo Hydra-Matic Drive, Fuel Injection, Factory Air, Steel-belted Radials, Solid State, All-Electric, Plug & Play, and High Resolution.

Today, the go-to marketing buzzword is "AI." Everywhere you turn, products are being marketed as "AI Powered," including TVs, smartphones, laptops, kitchen appliances, washing machines, home security systems, robot vacuums, and even pet feeders. AI is the rage.

With all of that in mind, is artificial intelligence really such a "big deal," and if so, what, if anything, does it have to do with religion in general, and God's people in particular?

Imagination, Problem Solving, & Morality

God created our natural minds with the capacity to increase knowledge exponentially over time (Daniel 12:4). In the account of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel, God revealed something about the intentional capability that He created within man for acquisition of knowledge, experiential learning, and accomplishment:

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now *nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do* (Genesis 11:5–6) [emphasis mine throughout].

This confirms that God gave man *the ability to imagine, the capacity to reason out solutions to his problems*, and then *the prowess to accomplish those predetermined goals*. This is a distinctive hallmark of the human mind, as distinguished from the mental capabilities of all other classes of creatures that exist upon this earth.

There are certain animals that exhibit seemingly "intelligent" traits—and scientists bent upon substantiating evolutionary theory love to tout these qualities—but none of these abilities truly compare to *the gift of human consciousness*. An ape can use a stick to dig for termites, or employ a rock as a hammer to crack open a nut. New Caledonian crows can bend wires into hooks and solve certain multi-step puzzles that seem to require planning and insight. An octopus can open jars, use coconut shells as mobile shelters, and solve escape puzzles with apparent cunning. But, nevertheless, all of these are examples of *limited God-ordained instincts and created capacities*. These creatures can achieve practical results efficiently within their given domains, but this does not compare remotely to the vast capabilities that God built into the human mind.

Mankind possesses a unique, *higher-order intelligence* that includes abstract reasoning, the ability to reflect upon past actions and to apply long-range creative potential, and a *self awareness, coupled with free will*. These powers are all augmented with the existence of *a moral conscience*. Human beings are naturally confronted by mental impulses about good vs. evil, even if those impulses become overridden by their selfish desires. They easily can and will wind up, "having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:2). No other creature even cares about such morality or has the capacity to be sorry about choices of right vs. wrong. The human mind truly stands apart by God's design. If we behave like animals, it is only because we choose to squelch our God-given sense of morality!

But, what does any of that have to do with artificial intelligence (AI)? The fact is, the very same mistake that scientists make in assessing animal intelligence is being made by many today in proposing the ability of machines ultimately to match or even to surpass our human capabilities. Even as certain animals might seem to mimic our cognitive powers, machines today merely mimic *certain human capabilities* without actually equaling our *true intelligence*. This, we soon will demonstrate.

History of Human Advancements

Human history is replete with the accumulation and multiplication of amazing technological advances. Progressive examples from ancient times include the creation of tools/weapons (bronze and iron), harnessing mathematics, and understanding advanced astronomy. From the medieval period, developments included gunpowder, the printing press,

and then expanded global commerce by sea. Our modern era ushered in an industrial revolution producing steam engines, electricity, artificial lighting, refrigeration, automobiles, and airplanes. By the mid-twentieth century, creation of the first transistor accompanied the beginning of an *information age*, with early computers, satellites, space exploration, and the architecture for an eventual *digital revolution*. By the beginning of the twenty-first century, the internet, cellular technology, and smartphones became baked into our daily lives. Fast forward to today, and now it is all about AI.

But, what actually is this thing called *artificial intelligence*, and what are the legitimate prospects for it and the next technological leap? In the future, might machines finally cross that threshold to become intelligent?

Can Machines Become Sentient?

Mankind has created so many giant leaps in technology—increasing that pace exponentially every year—that many are claiming that it is only a matter of time before our machines become smarter—more intelligent—than are we. Why do they think so?

In the past, man's improvements in technology were akin to adding new—additional—tools in a toolbox (calculators, cars, phones, computers) to help us solve problems and do our own jobs better than before. Breakthroughs happened seemingly one at a time, within distinct industries. Each new era built upon the last one, with adoption of new technologies taking decades. But AI feels more like a next-generation leap which enhances or automates thinking, discovery, and creativity across *all domains, all at once*. AI tools are helping to discover hidden connections in vast data sets that permit the ability to synthesize and generate results at "a superhuman scale."

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) are the terms used by those who believe that machines will soon become as smart or smarter than humans. They believe that the human brain is merely an advanced computational machine, emerging from 86 billion neurons and electrochemical processes. They believe that there is no fundamental barrier to replicating (and improving) this same function in silicon, soon surpassing the human brain with faster iteration, perfect memory, and parallel scaling.

They claim that every past supposedly "impossible" cognitive task for machines—such as playing chess, programming, or generating images—has fallen. So then, the logic goes, it is only a matter of time before the next big barriers between machine and human intelligence also fall. AI machines are helping make new technological leaps measured in months, not years. At the current rate of expansion, how could these machines fail eventually to surpass human intelligence? That is the rationale.

What They are Missing

None of this discussion about the history of technology takes into account the existence of an invisible Creator God, who made all that exists in heaven and on earth:

The wicked [anyone cut off from God for any reason], through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: *God is not in all his thoughts* (Psalm 10:4).

The atheists believe that all that exists in our ordered world today merely manifested itself over billions of years by fiat—a happy accident. They believe that life suddenly emerged out of basic elements without any *purposeful Life Bringer*. If you believe in this kind of mindless evolution, then it only makes sense to believe that this same accidental process will continue to balloon into the future. If the existence of man was accidental, then the evolution of the technologies spawned by man might equally take on a life of its own.

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life (Job 33:4).

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing *he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things* (Acts 17:24–25).

The Creator God is the only Being who can create life out of inert elements. There is no capacity in any creature—including man—that can ever make a living being from nothing. And by extension, there is no creature made by God who can himself then duplicate the equivalence of the human mind! Life itself and the characteristics of a sentient existence are products of *a proprietary process controlled exclusively by God*. No man can ever hijack that kind of God-power to produce life or intelligence. When God said (Genesis 11:6) that *nothing would be withheld from them*, He was not saying that He had created man with the capacity to make himself into God. No, the exclusive powers of God to create life *and intelligence* are part of the God domain. It is not even remotely possible for man—even by accident—to cross that barrier through his own advancing technologies.

Human beings have long fantasized about possessing the ability to create life—just like the monster of Dr. Frankenstein—or else to create computers that will ultimately become "self-aware" (The Terminator, I-Robot, etc.), but this will only ever be a fantasy. Our invisible enemy—Satan the Devil—lies to human beings about his own given powers, and then also encourages us to believe lies about our potential powers. In every case, this line

of reasoning involves an attempt to breach the barrier—the distinction—between God and all that God has created, in order to make ourselves equal with Him. The concept is insidious to the core.

The True AI Potential?

There is no doubt that the creations of man continue to amaze, especially as new technologies advance at an ever-accelerated pace. We finally seem to be closing in on the kind of science fiction future that was predicted way back in the 1950s. Video phone calls, robot servants, self-driving cars, wristwatch communicators, and voice-activated entertainment monitors are already standard fare. But, AI is taking us to the next level, to a world where machine assistants respond to voice commands, access infinite amounts of data on demand, and carry on conversations with us like real people. If those kinds of capabilities are not the same as "intelligence," then what are they?

Think about "the old days," as you entered a public library, looking for research information on a particular topic (perhaps for a school assignment). The library is filled with rows and rows of books from floor to ceiling. How do you even begin to find the specific pieces of information you are seeking out of all of that sea of data? Well, you begin with the card catalogue, a big set of drawers filled with small index cards, each card representing a single book. You search the inventory of all books by either author name, book title, or else by topic. To search by topic, you flip through the cards until you find book titles and descriptions that *seem to be relevant* to your project. You then go and retrieve those particular books from the shelves and flip through them to see if you can find the specific information you are seeking. It can be very laborious and time consuming!

But, what if your local library happened to have *a very experienced and helpful librarian* on staff? You ask her to help you with your project, and she immediately knows where to go to find the books that will be most helpful to you. She quickly aids you to find the specific volumes you need, and you access the ideal material in a fraction of the time!

AI (for many of us) is like that perfect librarian assistant, who quickly helps us to find the exact information we are seeking, putting it at our fingertips within seconds. The AI tool, in essence, has "read" every book published in the world and retains every nugget of information from those books. We simply ask it for information and the AI assistant provides a concise summary, including citations from the original source material. The AI tool "remembers" the questions that we have already asked it, so that we can refine our search by redirecting questions or else asking it to augment past replies. It provides *a seeming conversation* with us, helping to refine our results. Without having to pick up a

single, tangible book at all, we have just accessed the answers to our questions from those very same books, and we have done it in a matter of seconds.

Still, none of this is equivalent to human intelligence. It is still merely an advanced computer that is able to access and retrieve vast amounts of information and customize it into output that we desire. If that begins to seem like an intelligent being, it is really no different than the trained animal that begins to manifest "human-like" traits. But, never be deceived that this is heading for "self-awareness." It is not!

These tools are not limited just to accessing previously published books. They can also analyze and generate images, videos, and other media, and can even combine text, images, audio, and video together for richer understanding. These are all examples of *knowledge access and retrieval*. Other key areas of AI utility include: Generative AI, Agent Applications, Robotics & Embodied AI, and AI for Science & Discovery. This is just a very brief summary.

Large Language Models (LLMs) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) now make it possible to overcome previous language barriers, enabling translation, writing aids, and code generation between any human language source worldwide. In essence, the very limit that God imposed originally upon mankind in the days of Nimrod to "slow down" man's drive to build the Tower of Babel—His confounding of their languages—has now been *completely overcome* in our day! You can now communicate with anyone around the world using AI language tools. Human beings can once again coordinate together with virtually no barrier or restriction.

Ominous Aspects of AI

Is it possible that all of this means that mankind is back on track to destroy himself once again? Yes, indeed! For every potential "good use" of technology that man has created, those tools also have been used consistently for evil. The more powerful the tools, the greater potential danger for misuse. And because of the insidious nature of mankind in rebellion against God, it is certain that any new technological advances will be used to accentuate that rebellion.

Nimrod sought to create an amalgamated society of all peoples, where the masses were controlled by just a few. It was a collective (communistic) model of society, making all people dependent upon their overlords for safety and sustenance. By confounding the languages, God interrupted that drive toward a one-world government and sent peoples to their *assigned national domains* upon the earth according to those new language groupings.

Today, however, people can travel anywhere they want on this planet in a matter of hours, and communicate with each other using AI tools. Information is being largely controlled by a cabal of "managers," and the people are ripe for oppression through digital banking restrictions, public monitoring and other advanced surveillance systems, all powered by AI. Nimrod would have been jealous! It is just one more proof that mankind is set on a trajectory of self-destruction, and the clock is ticking toward that inevitable end.

The Real Threat to God's People

If not for the promised intervention of Jesus Christ, we would indeed destroy ourselves, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, *and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed* (Luke 17:26–30).

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And *except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved*: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened (Matthew 24:21–22).

The real threat is not the machines *becoming sentient* and then attacking us. No matter how advanced these creations of man become, they will never become "intelligent." The intelligent mind of man is a creation of God, and man can never copy God's creative power.

No, the real danger to man will always be himself, under the influence of an invisible enemy who seeks our destruction. Our AI-powered machines are speeding us toward the kind of oppressive control and exploitation that has been prophesied, but the root source of evil is still the selfish, adulterous, idolatrous inclinations of man. Concerning that powerful governmental force prophesied for the very last days:

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (Revelation 13:15–17).

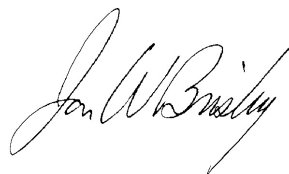
Do not get hung up on thinking that the physical act of using a digital currency, or any other AI-empowered technology is "the mark" that will keep you out of God's Kingdom. That is likewise part of the lie intended to distract you! The only thing that will keep you out of God's Kingdom is *violating His revealed Laws of right vs. wrong*. Paying for my food with Caesar's currency, whether paper bills or an AI-powered debit card, is not a sin! But failing to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days for fear of being jailed (for example) could indeed become an unpardonable sin, if we fail to repent of giving in to that fear.

Now *the just shall live by faith*: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:38–39).

Failing to obey God because of fear of the consequences of human overlords is your real danger. They will use these advanced AI tools as part of their striving for dominion, but the machines are not the enemy. It will always come back to those Satan-inspired human beings behind the curtain.

If you understand the difference between true human intelligence and artificial intelligence, you will be that much more empowered to recognize true threats in the last days and be sure to access the power that God has granted you to prevail against every enemy.

Yours with love and devotion in Christ's Holy name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jon W. Brisby". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jon W. Brisby