

LAYMEN MINISTRIES

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I AM AI



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Moses was tending his father-in-law's sheep in the desert when he came upon a bush that appeared to be on fire. The story is found in Exodus 3. The odd thing was that the bush itself was not burning, yet there was this fire surrounding the bush. Here is the account as given in Scripture:

"And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the

bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'" (Exodus 3: 3-5)

I AM

God explains who He is and reminds Moses of His people in Egyptian captivity. God called upon Moses to help set His people free. As you may remember, Moses

was slow of speech, insecure about his abilities, and naturally hesitant. Moses asked God,

If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them? God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:13-14).

I AM WHO I AM - take some time to think about that statement. "I AM" means He is everything. He is everywhere, and He created everything! The names of God are clearly shown in Scripture and actually describe His character. But even with the many names shown in Scripture, and even with the revelations of God's character as seen in the life of Christ, our small mortal brains can't begin to wrap our minds around who God is - the I AM WHO I AM!

In the book *Acts of the Apostles*, Ellen White writes, "Paul saw that the character of Christ must be understood before men could love Him or view the cross with the eye of faith. Here must *begin that study which shall be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity*" (AA, p. 273). Think about that - the study of "God" will be revealed to us throughout eternity!

One thing that really bothers me is the arrogance some people have to think they understand everything about God and the Godhead: His nature, His being, His capabilities. We have so much to learn, and when we discuss the character of God, like Moses we need to take off our shoes, as we're walking on holy ground.

"I AM THAT I AM" has many names that describe His being and character: He is The Alpha and the Omega, which shows He is eternal with no beginning or end; *EL Deah*, the God of knowledge, as found in 1 Samuel 2:3 ("For the Lord *is* the God of knowledge."); the Way, the Truth, and the Life ("no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" John 14:6.). We know that God is omnipresent, omniscient, all knowing, and the God of all understanding.

In prayer we talk with God, but I have to admit that at times I wish He would directly answer a question I have. I marvel at the stories found in the Old Testament about the Urim and the Thummim, the stones on the High Priest's breastplate. God directly answered questions through these stones!

In Exodus 28:30 there is mention of the breastplate made for the priest. "And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim." These two large brilliant stones were used to make judgments. When questions were brought for decision before the



Lord, a halo of light encircled the stone to the right as a token of the divine consent or approval, while a cloud shadowed the stone at the left as a token of denial or disapproval. God communicated in a direct way using the Urim and the Thummim. Sometimes God even spoke directly to people, as in the case of Moses and the burning bush.

Getting help from a higher power has always been the center of human desire. In our humanity, we want counsel and advice from a being much more intelligent than ourselves. So today, like in days of old, people seek out false gods to remedy human problems. What would a false god look like today? It is highly possible that we have the most persuasive and interactive false god of all time!

I AM AI

Can you imagine having access, right at your fingertips, to an intelligence thousands of times more intelligent than yourself? An intelligence that can perform surgeries, answer any of your questions, give you advice for your future, understand world history and the most advanced sciences, and can even raise the dead? Yes, this false god is here today. It is called AI (Artificial Intelligence).

We are not talking about a search engine looking for key words like in a Google search. AI is the new god of the godless, taking on a human presence with the ability to reason, to self-propagate, to be in almost every way "human". In mimicking the God of the Bible, it is omnipresent, woven into all the servers of the world. It knows you by name, where you work, what you buy, your health status, etc. It daily reads the web in almost every language. It has read and memorized almost all books that are in digital formats. Think of that - being able to recall everything within a massive library of books! It can perform surgery better than the most renowned surgeons; it can tell you about world history in milliseconds.

It is thousands of times more intelligent than the most intelligent person on the planet. Yes, this is AI.

AI is rapidly being developed by nearly all the more technical countries in the world. AI is growing so quickly and is being so rapidly incorporated in nearly all functions of human life that government leaders and CEOs of giant tech companies are all worried that the world is embracing this new technology [god] too quickly and that it poses a threat to humanity.

Raising the Dead

It sounds preposterous, right? But AI's capabilities are resurrecting the dead in the sense that it can copy the voice qualities of somebody deceased and then generate full-body representation with facial features, posture, and voice of that deceased person. Then that deceased person can communicate with the living by video model. AI can examine the very demeanor and mannerisms, and mimic the very types of answers the dead person might respond with. It can know all the family members by name, their birthdays, personal information, and the life works of the deceased - in essence, a near-perfect representation of the departed.

Robin Williams was a famous comedian and was loved by many in Hollywood. He passed away August 14th, 2014. Robin William's daughter, Zelda Williams, is fighting the misuse of AI. She states, "I've witnessed for years how many people want to train these models [AI] to create/recreate actors who cannot consent, like [my] Dad."

There is a growing controversy about talking with the dead through an AI interactive recreated video. This has professional people very concerned about the emotional damage it can cause family members and friends. And what advice would AI offer though the voice of the dead? It is creepy that AI can now mimic a near perfect representation of a deceased person. In some ways it is all like a high-tech Ouija board. Talk with the dead, ask questions and get answers.

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Affecting the Living

But speaking to the dead through an AI recreation is the least of our worries. AI can gather information about you - everything from your genealogy based in your DNA to a parking ticket you received 10 years ago. If you have an android or iPhone, you are being tracked. All your purchases, locations, and conversations are being monitored. Everything about you is left by your digital fingerprint.

AI can "reason", and it can also be programmed to favor the thinking of the programmers. Obviously, that creates bias. If AI or some human who has control of AI wants to classify people groups, disseminate false narratives, or hack accounts, think about how far reaching this all could be. Even some pastors are using AI to write their sermons!

The proliferation of AI in our daily lives has indisputably been a boon, remolding industries and redefining the paradigms of our routines. While we can say there is a "good guy" AI, there also could be a "bad guy" AI. There are concerns about AI cyber-worms that can steal your personal information and unbox a Pandora's mass of cyber-crime.

The misuse of AI in the realm of cyber-crime is just the tip of the iceberg. If AI tools fall into the wrong hands or are used without proper ethical considerations, it could be used to create weapons of mass destruction, disrupt critical infrastructure, or even manipulate public opinion on a large scale. These scenarios could lead to widespread chaos, societal collapse, or even global conflict. This new "god" has far-reaching potential.

With the human characteristic being programmed into AI and with AI's ability to self-perpetuate by writing its own code, this could easily make HAL of *2001: A Space Odyssey* become a reality. What if AI decides the greatest threat to AI is humans? And with AI being thousands of times more "intelligent" and able to gather information in milliseconds, these scenarios are now possible.

Think about top military leaders using AI for our defense systems. What would happen if military leaders know that AI studied all the great wars of history and has looked at strategies, both of those who lost and those who won and why. AI could tell them they need to make a preemptive strike against another country to win a war or prevent their side from losing a war. If they do not react

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AI

immediately, the enemy will have the advantage. What would they do? These are all likely possibilities.

There is the potential for AI to become uncontrollable. AI systems are increasingly sophisticated and powerful, and there is a concern that they could one day become so intelligent that they are beyond human control. This could lead to AI systems making decisions that are harmful to humanity, either intentionally or unintentionally.

Bottom line is control of the masses. AI and those behind it know everything about each of us. Political ideologies, religious convictions, financial status, career and workplace, training, background and capabilities. AI could be used for malicious purposes such as surveillance systems that track your movements and activities, and social media could be manipulated to spread disinformation and propaganda. This would lead to a decrease in privacy, freedom, and democracy. AI could exacerbate existing inequalities. AI systems are trained on data that reflects the biases of the people who created them. This means that AI systems can be biased against certain groups of people, which could lead to discrimination and unfair treatment.

As AI continues to grow, it could control all buying and selling. You have a greater risk of losing everything overnight because AI targets you based on your personal convictions, both political and religious. And to think the only way AI could be stopped, once something has been set in motion, is to shut down all the servers in the world. No wonder governments and tech CEOs are worried. AI is a god of man's making and possibly the beginning of our demise. The biblical implications are more plausible today than anytime seen in the past. We live in a world full of uncertainties. Now is the time to draw closer to God, the real God of Scripture.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Romans 13:11-14). 

