# AI: The Future or the End?
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As you can tell, we had a good time at VBS. I can't name everybody that helped. But some of the main people that were kind of the leads and some of the areas, Pilar was leading our craft team and she had held different helpers every night. Yeah, give her hand. Of course, Linda was at the door welcoming and greeting everybody, getting everybody registered. We had an excellent kitchen crew, which is what I needed more of. So we had to Philip and Denise and Erlinda and Johnny and Maria were all helping in the kitchen. Lilia led the stories over there, and she had different people come in to tell the stories every night. Tomas did an excellent job with the games outside in the heat. Pastor took most of those pictures you saw. I did a few, Destiny did a few. But most of those pictures came from pastor. And he was always willing to fill in in the games, too. If I needed one more, he was good to go. We had a good time. We had a good time. Lots of other people helped, in many, many ways. And we certainly appreciate it. Yeah, I did a few things. So you know, we had a good time. And I really believe that the prayers that we prayed for a month really worked because about 70% of those kids are not affiliated with this church. So we really reached out into the community and brought in some of the kids. And so that was great.

And just real quick, here's some of the things we studied day one was how to share Jesus's light when it feels dark. And that was about Jesus's birth. Day two was when people don't get along, shine your light. And that was the story of Zacchaeus. And then we can live in harmony. Day three was when good things happen, shine Jesus's light. And that was Jesus entering Jerusalem on the donkey. Did you like our donkey? You didn't have to clean up after that donkey. So that was that was a big, big bonus. Sergio was very creative there. Day four, when people are sad, shine Jesus's light. Jesus was caring for his mother during the crucifixion. And the last one was when people need help shine Jesus's light. And that was Philip helping the Ethiopian. And that's what the little cart with the chariot was for. So we had a good time. We had a good time.

But we're not here to talk about VBS today, we had a good time. We're here to talk about something else. AI is it the future? Or is it the end? Is this scary? Some people think it's scary. And you know, it's  interesting, unless you live under a very

large rock. You've heard about AI recently it's been in all the news, things like chat GPT, which is a language AI, there's Dalle, which is a graphics API. There's Lumina five, which is a video AI There's sounddraw, which is a music AI. And there's others. They all seem to kind of hit the news at once and hit us at once. And we're kind of worried about this. Right? Give me an amen. If you've been a little bit worried about this. So, you know, we hear some of these people saying, you know, scared about this, you know, is this the end of humanity as we know it? Because we've all watched Terminator and we know what happens at the end of that. So what are we going to do? I'm going to start out with the end.

We can't expect AI to spread Jesus's light and love for us. We need to do that ourselves. There are some things AI just can't do. Or some things that AI will never do. I think this is one of them. Okay. And I think that gives us some hope. Some things but let's let's talk a little bit about AIs. We're all familiar with AI is because we've watched the movies and the TV shows right? Space Odyssey 2001. HAL. Anybody here... Anybody here besides me old enough to have seen that? Oh, some of us, okay, like eight of us HAL was the the computer that was supposed to run the spaceship on the way to Jupiter. And he decided that the humans were a threat to his mission and was trying to kill the humans. And a bad news when you're in the middle of space, right? So we know that. We know the movie IRobot with Will Smith. So I'm a little bit newer, right? And the robots are everywhere, and they're supposed to take care of us and they have rules and laws, to to help them protect people and not to harm people. And Will Smith is the cop that doesn't believe it. And then the evil computer gets hacked and they you know, things go awry. And eventually order is restored after an epic battle. But it leaves us with some haunting questions. Again, going back a few years, some of you might remember War Games with Matthew Broderick. Would you like to play a game? Yeah, let's play thermonuclear war. No, let's not! Right?! Almost starts a nuclear war, hacking into computer just trying to play a game. And of course, the most famous of them all Skynet takes over after it gets released into the wild and become self aware and decides that humans are a threat. And the war begins between machines and humans.

Now, that's often how the future is depicted in our sci fi movies. It's dark, it's dreary, it's scary. Things have gone wrong. But it's not always that way. There's some exceptions. We have Data on Star Trek. Data was one of the good guys

pretty pretty capable robot Android. In fact, if you watch the series Star Trek The Next Generation, you know that he is granted as a form of artificial life and he has all the rights that any human being would have. Of course, there's all the bots in Star Wars R2D2, CP3O and BB-8 and others and I see the kids going [shaking their heads]. Right, we know those ones. And of course, we can't forget the transformers with Optimus Prime is here to protect us right from WHO? The evil Decepticons. Come on people. Philip, you knew it, right? Not even close? Man, you guys. I always thought that the name the Decepticons for the evil was was pretty humorous.

But you know, we've been dealing with this AI for a while. And I wanted to talk just a little bit about what what these mean, and what are levels of AI. So you can look this stuff up online. And there's kind of different versions of it. But generally, we kind of believe that there's about seven stages of AI evolution. So I want to talk about them a little bit talk about where we are, we're not gonna spend a lot of time on this. Number one is rule based systems. rule based systems you're very familiar with. This is your programmable thermostat. Right? When it gets hotter than such a such degree turn on the AC when it gets colder than such and such a degree turn on the heat. Just a bunch of rules. Pretty simple, pretty easy. Second is context aware AI's. You might know this, most of us interact with this every single day. Google search bar, how do I and it starts guessing. Right? It's context aware, it's guessing. Now, if you had typed on day one of the Russian Ukraine war, if you had typed "where is" it would have guessed Ukraine. Because everybody was searching for that. When I did it during getting ready for this, I typed where is it says is my phone. So I guess that's what everybody's searching for right now. I didn't know you could ask Google where my phone is. But I guess there's some phones, you can set that up and it can tell you that. But the next one is domain specific expertise. We're familiar with these. You've heard about the machines that play chess and beat the expert. Right? But that's all it can do is play chess. And it's usually a huge, huge, huge computer. So Big IBM mainframe got multiple people running it, so it can beat one guy at chess. And while it's kind of interesting, not super practical. There are other machines kind of like this, there's some machines that are working on cancer research. And that's all they do is work on cancer research, they fold proteins and are looking how that affects the cancer cells. Then we get into reasoning machines, these are machines that you could

carry on a somewhat normal conversation with and that would respond. Okay, chatGPT, that we've heard a lot about kind of falls into this a little bit. Okay. After that we have self aware or artificial general intelligence machines. This is kind of the beginning of sci fi right here. These are the machines that can think for themselves that can do things for themselves, they would appear to be completely autonomous. After that is artificial super intelligence. These are machines that would be more intelligent than humans, in every single category, we might be able to use these kinds of machines to solve problems that we haven't been able to solve, like world hunger, or global warming or whatever right? Problems that humans haven't been able to solve, they might do. So it's believed that if we ever get to this level, machines might be able to make machines, and those machines would still be smarter than humans. Last, we have singularity and transcendence. This is one, we've all gotten implants in our heads, and we can connect to the internet and to each other. And we all just wouldn't even have to talk to each other anymore. We just beam thoughts to each other. Now, I should point out that about 50% of the experts in the world don't believe we will ever get to self aware systems and artificial general intelligence. They believe about 50% of the experts think that's impossible. Now there are people working on this in labs, but none of this is real yet or anything. It's all science fiction movies and things that people are working on. And the one thing you should be aware, so if you've watched Terminator, you know that at the end, Skynet gets released, and it propagates itself to all the machines in the world and starts running become self aware, that's impossible. Because these artificial intelligence machines require a certain kind of computer to run on, they are not going to run on your Macintosh or your Windows 11 machine and become self aware. So the wrong kind of machine. Okay, like trying to put a Honda transmission into a Dodge truck, it's not going to fit doesn't work. Okay. So, you know, that's, that's great sci fi stuff, but it's not really very real.

And so where we are kind of here now is we're, we know, level one, the rule based systems, video games are rule based systems, lots and lots and lots of rules, but they're rule based systems. We have context aware, we know that Google search, we know the chess games. Now we're starting to get into these kinds of machines that we can talk to chatGPT many, you've probably heard the chatGPT. And what can it do? It's called a generative AI, because it can generate output. It

can it can make something. Go google search can't do this. So I decided to do a couple quick tests. I went to ChatGPT and said, Give me three paragraphs on why it's a good idea to change your oil regularly. I figured that'd be pretty easy. And sure enough, it generated three paragraphs of why you should change your oil. Took it about 15 seconds. Nothing earth shattering. I could have written those same paragraphs myself. Not in 15 seconds. I don't type quite that fast. But you know, it did it. So what are these kinds of AI is good for? People are using them right now as a way to usually generate ideas. So if you're a social media manager, you may say hey, ChatGPT give me 10 ideas for social media posts this week. Or if you're a real estate agent, you might say hey, ChatGPT I've got a four bedroom house with two baths and an updated kitchen write an ad for me, okay? If you're lazy and your pastor or minister, you might say, hey, write a sermon for me. I've tried it you, you don't really get a very good sermon out of it. Okay? It was okay. But it really wasn't very interesting. It was kind of flat. There was no good stories. It. It logically made sense. I guess I've heard worse sermons and points in my life, but it certainly wasn't anywhere near the top. Okay.

So this is the kind of stuff we can do. But there's issues with this, because chatGPT was trained on data from the internet. Can you believe everything you read on the internet? No. So now we're relying on chatGPT to kind of figure out what's right, what's wrong, what's satire, or a joke that's not real, and it doesn't always get it right. You've got to be very careful when you check. And if you're, you know, some of you that are in school might be going, Hey, this is beauty. I'm never writing an essay again. Because I'm just going to ask ChatGPT to give me my report on Harry Truman, and I don't have to do it. The problem is that your teacher wants you to cite your sources. Right? You've got to write your bibliography and your footnotes and, and chatGPT doesn't do that, then you can't just do that and turn it in because the teacher go, this is not acceptable. If don't you didn't cite your sources. That might give you some ideas that might help a little bit. And so that leads us to some questions in our society about copyright. Right? I've got to cite my sources, if I use something, and if I'm not doing that I'm using ChatGPT is am I violating the law? So we've got some, some rules and some laws we have to think about. And it just it goes on and on. It's a complicated thing. But what you should know, is that what we have right now, for AI, it's called a language model. You can talk to it and kind of regular text. Like I could ask him to write me a poem about

butterflies in King James English. And they would do that. Will it be a good poem? Probably not. It might it have some ideas that you could take and then generate your own poem? Maybe? Maybe? Okay, I asked one of the song ones to write me a song. It's nothing I would ever listen to. Okay, and maybe they'll get better. But that's kind of where we are. They're good for ideas. They're good for getting us started. They're good for helping out lists of stuff. They're good for doing research. It's kind of almost like Google search on steroids. Right? It can go do the research for it like Google search does, but it also puts it together. Okay.

So that's kind of where we are currently. And so the question is, is this the future? Yes, this is the future. This is what's going to happen. Now, interestingly enough, when we have thought about robots and AIs, what kind of jobs do we think usually will go first blue collar or white collar, blue collar, right? The robots will do all the blue collar work. But what we're seeing with these new AIs is that's not true. They're taking the white collar jobs. This is part of the reason the Writers Guild here is on strike. Because they're worried about people just do an AI and writing their own movie or play or whatever. It won't be long until we'll be able to make humans on a video screen, that video screen that look very real. If you've played a video game recently, they're amazing. And with a little extra processing, and a little more work, they can generate videos of humans that are almost indistinguishable from real humans. So you might be able to have a a movie that's got all artificial actors in it. Okay, now, and people say well, that has all kinds of implications, and it does. But let's be honest, if I'm going to the movies to watch people on a screen, do I care if those people were real people? Or if they're computer generated? You might not, you might not right. We've all watched animated movies with cartoon characters that aren't real. We've all watched Superman. And I know he can't pick up a locomotive and throw it at the bad guys. That's not real, right? But would you come to church, and watch Pastor Chris, an artificial Pastor Chris, on the screen, generate the message. He wrote the message, he sat in his office, he worked hard. He wrote the message. He fed it into this thing that generated this artificial Pastor Chris, and made a video and put it up. Would you come here and sit in the building and watch that? No. Why? Because we come to church to get a personal connection. We don't go to the movies to get a personal connection. Right? In fact, you go to the movies and hope nobody will talk to you. Right? Turn down the lights. And y'all be quiet

because I want to watch. Right? So there's different things that are going to happen here. And will there be some church that puts an artificial pastor on the screen and says, Look, we did it, yes, somebody will do it. But I don't think that's going to be the wave of the future. Because it just, there's no personal connection there. Okay.

So that leads us to the last question, is this the end? And part of me wants to say yes, because I think every generation wants to say this is the end. Just you know, but I don't think it is. You remember when robots were coming into the auto manufacturing business? And we were all worried that this was the end robots are going to take all our jobs don't have anything to do? Has your life changed that much since robots started making cars? No, in fact, the quality of my cars improved. We bought a car once I kid you not. My dad bought this car when I was in college. And you could tell that two different people worked on the different sides of the car. Because the person working on the passenger side did a good job. The person that worked on the .... the driver side did a good job, the passenger side person was having a rough day. And it just was not the same quality of the other side of the car was. Robots don't have rough days. Right? So, you know, these are the kinds of things that we can we think about, I think that there will be AI in the future, but I don't think it's the end. Okay. Things may change. I don't think we're ever gonna get to the point where AI is chasing us and we're hiding in caves in Toledo. Okay.

Open your Bibles with me to Revelation chapter one last book of the Bible. Revelation chapter one, verse seven. We're gonna look at two verses here real quick. Revelation, chapter one, verse seven, thank you. Give me an amen when you get there. It says, Look, he is coming with the clouds and what every eye will see Him, even those who pierced him and all the peoples on the earth will mourn because of him. So it shall be a man. When Jesus comes, who sees him? Every eye everyone! Is that the kind of language that you would use if there was 28 people left on the earth? Because you know, AI had killed everybody else. No, you'd say the last few straggling people that survived. Hey, but it says everybody's going to see him. That means there's people here. And in fact, Revelation is full of all kinds of people. The great city of Babylon has fallen what's Babylon full of? people! Talks about the 144,000 people. When the angels are coming out the Three Angels

Message it talks about Going to all the people over the earth. There's people on the planet. Skynet does not take over and hunt us all down. Amen.

Real quick, one more, Acts chapter two, verses 14 to 21. Now Acts is right after the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John Acts. This is the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit's poured out. Everybody's talking in tongues, from people that weren't involved in the experience, it looks a little crazy. And so Peter is going to start talking to them here in verse 14, says, Then Peter stood with the 11 raised his voice and address the crowd, fellow Jews, and all of you who live in Jerusalem. Let me explain this to you. Listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose it's only nine in the morning. No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel, and it begins to quote the prophet Joel. And I want you to notice how many times it talks about people, all the people, the young men, the old and the whatever, okay. Just in the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all the people you're sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams, and even my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days and they will prophesy. I will show wonders. To who? The cactus the robots, no to people in the heavens above, and signs on the earth below. blood and fire and billows of smoke, the sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord, and who everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Amen. People are on the planet. We don't have to worry about Skynet, or the robots and iRobot taken over. Now, will there be catastrophes and wars? Yes. Yes. Will there be spots on the planet that may be inhabitable? Yeah, that's already happened. Don't go live in Chernobyl right now. Right? So that's okay. But you know, in general, the world is going to be here, the people are going to be here. We know this. God tells us this.

And I think what this boils down to is trust. Where's your trust? Do you trust or mistrust as the case may be in humans and their ability to make AI? Or do you trust in the Word of God? I don't know about you. I'm gonna put my trust in the Word of God.

So here's a reflection. Are you worried about things you can't control? Or are you trusting in God's word? I hope it's God's word.

Challenges. I'm gonna give you two challenges here today. One, learn a little bit about chat GPT and see what the hype is about. You can go to chatGPT, you make a free account, you can just start typing into it and see what it says it does ask you to write to a poem. And you'll see how horrible it does.

I ask you to, you know, some you want to do you can get it right. Play with it a little bit. Number two, put a little extra effort into human connections and relationships, because people point other people to Jesus, amen. You remember my favorite saying? It's God's job to judge. It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict Jesus's job to save. I don't have to do those three things. It's my job to one. Love, love. And when I love somebody, I'm going to point them to Jesus.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, Lord, help us not to be scared of the unknown and the things in this world that that look like they can be scary and look like things could go wrong and just Lord, help us not to worry about those things. Give us the peace. Because we know that you are in control. And we know that you are not going to let the planet die. We know there's hard times at the end, Lord, but you will be with us and you will make sure that the human race survives. Lord, help us to have courage. Help us more than ever to be the kind of people that point other people to you. Be with us now. In Jesus name, Amen.