

Introduction .....1  
 One Red Dragon + Two Beasts = Three Counterfeits .....2  
 Welcome, Son of Desolation! .....5  
 AI and the Coming Antichrist .....7  
 AI Porn and Digital Passports .....9  
 Conclusion .....19

**2026 Brave New Year: Deception and the Last Days, Part 8:  
 Welcome, Son of Desolation! (Revelation 13:11-18)**

Pastor Gene Giguere

<b>Introduction</b>
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1) Good morning, Church!

Well, we’ve come to the end of our short series on *Deception and the Last Days*.

And last time we took a casual walk through the entire Tribulation Period, which will be the time of earth’s greatest deception.

That’s because that time will be governed by the Antichrist and his kingdom upon the earth.

This morning I’d like to return to where we started – technology.

I want to look at the technology we’ve seen develop right before our eyes and how it will allow the Antichrist to do precisely what God’s Word promised – some 2,000 years ago – he would do.

I also want to show you how the greatest minds of our age – Christian and otherwise – *are coming to the same conclusion*.

2) Well, kidding aside, just as the writers of Scripture predicted, deception is all around us today.

*Deception* will prove to be the enemy's most effective weapon in the Last Days.

And AI is taking analog deception and jettisoning it out into the digital age.

It increases in efficiency with each passing day, and I believe it is setting the stage for the appearance of the Antichrist.

## One Red Dragon + Two Beasts = Three Counterfeits

1) The **Book of Revelation** describes Satan in a number of interesting ways.<sup>1</sup>

Most interestingly, he is called “a great red dragon” (**12:3**) who “swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth” with “his tail” (**12:4**).

At this time in history, Satan is free to roam the earth as he pleases. Remember **Job 1:7**?

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<sup>1</sup> In this vision, there's another interesting symbol closely associated with the red dragon: a “woman who was about to give birth” (Revelation 12:1). She is “clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” – and she “was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth” (Revelation 12:1-2). And the Bible says, “the dragon [Satan] stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child, he might devour it” (Revelation 12:4)! This woman represents Israel, and the child she is about to give birth to is Jesus, the Messiah. The dragon standing “before the woman ... so that when she bore her child, he might devour it, is Satan (Revelation 12:4b). He hates Jesus (the Child) and His mother (Israel) with a passion. We'll see more on this in a few minutes. And, *very importantly*, what happens next explains why the world has such a supernatural hatred for Israel! “And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman [Israel] who had given birth to the male child [Jesus Christ]” (Revelation 12:13). Immediately after the devil is confined to the earth in Revelation 12:12, he begins to vigorously pursue Israel in Revelation 12:13! Thus, the recent increases in instances of Antisemitism we've been witnessing lately are the logical precursors to the awful persecutions of Israel which will occur during the Tribulation Period. Today, as we've seen, much of the unsaved youth of our country has blindly climbed onboard the devil's Antisemitic train! At that time, one will have to risk his or her life to help a Jew – those whom Jesus referred to as His “brothers.” In the judgment that will occur immediately after the Tribulation, when Jesus returns to the earth, *the genuineness of the faith of these Tribulation saints will be shown by whether or not they tried to help the believing Jews during the Tribulation*. Jesus promised, when He returns at the end of the Tribulation, He will judge all those who have survived it. Q. What will be the criteria of that judgment? A. How they *treated the Jews* who were being persecuted in the Tribulation! Matthew 25:34-40 *is almost always applied out of context*. While the sentiment that we should help the ‘least of these’ is true of every age, the context here is the post Tribulation Judgment of the nations by Jesus. During the Tribulation, many Jews will become *believing Jews* – Christians. The 144,000 – as we saw last time – will *all* be Jews. The Rapture of the Church and Jesus' Tribulation Delta Force [TDF] – the 144,000 Jewish evangelists – will finally convince them that Jesus was indeed the Messiah Israel had been waiting for. And, again, at this time, one will have to risk his or her life to help a Jew – those whom Jesus referred to as His “brothers.” And so, *the genuineness of their faith will be shown by whether or not they tried to help believing Jews during that time*.

“The Lord said to Satan, ‘From where have you come?’ Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it’” (cf., **Job 2:2**).

But, while he can travel between heaven and earth at will, Satan will be confined to the earth in the *second half* of the Tribulation, the time we call the GREAT Tribulation. We find the account of that in **Revelation 12**.

Now, John’s description of Satan’s confinement to earth is immediately followed by a description of *two beasts* that will rise up – one from the sea and one from the land.

Together with Satan (the red dragon), they will make up a counterfeit-trinity that will govern the earth during the Tribulation.

- 2) The First Beast John describes (**Revelation 13:1-10**) is the Antichrist, the *Pseudo-son* – he is called here the “beast rising out of the sea.”

We’ve already seen him as a political leader; now we meet him as a Beast.

“[To this Beast], the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority” (**Revelation 13:2b**).

This Antichrist will be assassinated mid-way through the Tribulation and will rise again from the dead in a mocking imitation of Jesus (**Revelation 13:3**).

And the “whole earth” will marvel and follow the Beast.

And they will worship both the Pseudo-father [the red dragon] AND the Pseudo-son [the Antichrist] because he had been raised from the dead.

“And they worshiped the dragon [the counterfeit-father], for he had given his authority to the Beast [the counterfeit-son], and they worshiped the Beast, saying, ‘Who is like the Beast, and who can fight against it?’” (**Rev. 13:4**)

**Revelation 13:5** says that this Beast will be “allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months [the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period, or the Great Tribulation].”

Notice: though it may appear otherwise, God is still very much in control (He is the One who is *allowing* and *disallowing* things)!

The Beast is also “allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain” (**Revelation 13:7-8**).

- 3) Then, John describes a Second Beast, the False Prophet, the *Pseudo-spirit* – who is seen here “rising out of the earth” (**Revelation 13:11-18**).

He is the Pseudo-spirit who will lead the world in the worship of the Antichrist.

John tells us that this Second Beast “exercises all the authority of the First Beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the First Beast, whose mortal wound was healed” (**Revelation 13:12**).

It has miraculous powers.

He is the Pseudo-spirit who will lead the world in the worship of the Antichrist.

“It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, <sup>14</sup> and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the Beast it deceives those who dwell on earth ...” (**Revelation 13:13-14**).<sup>2 3</sup>

So, just as the Holy Spirit leads true believers in the worship of Jesus today, the False Prophet, the Pseudo-spirit, will lead the world in the worship of the Antichrist, the Pseudo-son.

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<sup>2</sup> He will be allowed to “give breath to the image of the Beast” – to *animate* it (Revelation 13:15). And it will cause “all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name ... his number is 666” (Revelation 13:16-18).

<sup>3</sup> Now, these are among the most fascinating portions in all of Scripture; we’ve studied them in detail in past years (the messages are online at <https://harvestcommunity.net/sermon-book/revelation/>). What we want to see this morning though is that John is describing a counterfeit trinity that will rule over the earth during the Great Tribulation. And so, after describing Satan, the Pseudo-father, in Revelation 12, John described the Pseudo-son and the Pseudo-spirit in Revelation 13. This is the coming Pseudo-trinity of the Great Tribulation. *Satan* Himself will masquerade as the Pseudo-father; *the Antichrist* will act as the Pseudo-son; and *the False Prophet* will serve as the Pseudo-spirit.

## Welcome, Son of Desolation!

- 1) Jesus Himself talked about the coming of this Antichrist and the terrible period of the Great Tribulation in **Matthew 24**.

He talked about “abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel [the Antichrist, the First Beast], standing in the holy place ...” (**Matthew 24:15**).

He said, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be” (**Matthew 24:21**).

And He said, “immediately after the tribulation of those days ... [the earth] will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (**Matthew 24:29-30**).

- 2) The Apostle Paul gave us further information about this Antichrist.

He described him as “the man of lawlessness ... the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God ...” (**2 Thess. 2:3-4**).

And that his coming “is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” (**2 Thess. 2:9-10**).

And he also reminds us that “the Lord Jesus will kill [him] with the breath of his mouth and [will] bring [him] to nothing by the appearance of his coming” (**2 Thess. 2:8**).

So, Jesus, Paul and John all rhyme as to this lamentable coming world leader.

- 3) But of special interest to us this morning is the prophecy that the Antichrist and his cohort will have the ability to “cause all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead” (**Revelation 13:16**).

And that “no one [will be able to] buy or sell unless he has the mark” (**Revelation 13:17**).

*How* this will happen, and *what form* this marking will take, have been the source of endless speculation.

But we shouldn't miss two important points here:

‡ *First*, we shouldn't miss John's emphasis on *the access* the Antichrist will have to the inhabitants of the earth!

He will have access to “all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave” (**Revelation 13:16**).

‡ *Second*, we shouldn't miss John's emphasis on *the control he will have* over the inhabitants of the earth!

“NO ONE” will be able to “buy or sell unless he has the mark” (**Revelation 13:17**).

Friends, until our own generation, neither of these things have been possible.

The idea that one person could have such access and control over “ALL” the citizens of the world was – up until now – impossible to comprehend.

No one could possibly have possessed the ability to freeze assets and resources, or to restrict commerce in this way.

Even I [confession ahead!], an admitted luddite am a virtual cashless citizen.

My payroll is direct-deposited, I rarely carry more than five dollars in my wallet, every purchase I make is on the credit card, and we pay the bill in full at the end of each month.

Now, this is certainly *convenient*, but that convenience comes at a cost.

Every purchase I make, and every place I purchase it, is recorded – it is a permanent matter of record.

If it's at a gas station, or a brick-and-mortar store, there's a time stamp on the transaction that will exist until Jesus comes – where I was, what I bought, when I bought it, and how I paid for it.

Furthermore, I was probably video recorded doing so – and with recent advancements in AI face-recognition technology, that information would be VERY helpful to a totalitarian government.

So, Big Brother is not only ‘watching you’ (ala George Orwell), it’s filming you, tracking you, recording much of what you do, and compiling the records of it!

- 4) Now, I’m nobody. But it does make one wonder what interest anyone would have in keeping a record that I bought a shovel from ACE Hardware on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 in the morning and paid for it with my Mastercard ending in 5467, but there you have it!

Convenience comes at a cost – *the loss of privacy*. But *everyone loves convenience*.

And, mark it down, shlub though I am, if my very limited assets were suddenly frozen by the government, I’d be in BIG trouble.

*How would I pay my bills? Keep my home? Purchase food.*

A scenario like this – prophesied by a commercial fisherman some 2,000 years ago – was unimaginable even 25 years ago.

## AI and the Coming Antichrist

- 1) So, how might these ancient prophesies be realized by a soon-coming Antichrist?

In a word, through *technology*.

In two words, through *Artificial Intelligence*.

I think we all know that much of what we type into our computer is tracked.

DuckDuckGo, an alternative search engine which claims *not* to track us, has an ad running right now urging us to switch to them from Google because EVEN IN INCOGNITO MODE Google still tracks us.

In 2026, friends, the illusion of privacy is very much that: *an illusion!*

We've seen court case after court case where a person's Google searches have been presented as evidence.

So, let me ask everyone within the hearing of my voice, if your search history was exposed, Christian, *would you be embarrassed?* Would you be *ruined*?

Could somebody *blackmail* you if they had access to your keystrokes?

*How much would you pay – what would you give – to keep your search history secret?*

Sin is never freedom folks; it is *slavery*.

We have to keep ourselves pure – and free from deception. The devil is always laying traps for God's people. Don't be his chump!

Well, the Bible is clear that when the Antichrist emerges, he will shut off access to finances to any and all who do not comply with his program.

Now, money is difficult to trace, but digital transactions are not.

And, I know you know that *everything has changed*.

2) There are entire countries on the verge of going completely cashless.

While no country is 100% cashless today, several are remarkably close.<sup>4</sup>

Norway, Sweden and even China!<sup>5</sup>

And so, these ancient prophecies seem fresher today than when they were written!

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<sup>4</sup> Here and below: <https://corepay.net/articles/cashless-countries/>

<sup>5</sup> In Norway digital payments account for roughly *98% of all transactions* as of 2026. Sweden, as late as 2025, Sweden was officially declared the world's "first cashless country" – most places – *even churches* – only accept digital payments. China too – no surprise here to me – is leading the way in mobile payments among large countries. China uses QR codes for everything from luxury shopping to street food. Most University college campuses are now cashless.

But, like Al Jolson used to say, “*You ain’t seen nothin’ yet!*” Because with AI, losses of privacy and personal autonomy are about to soar into the stratosphere. *How?* Well, I’m glad you asked! Do you remember back in the first message of this series I talked about how OpenAI is launching AI pornography? Well, *that’s how*.

## AI Porn and Digital Passports

- 1) As we mentioned in our first sermon in this series, Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, announced recently that ChatGPT would begin allowing “erotica for verified adults” set to start very soon (the original target date was December of 2025).<sup>6</sup>

This new technology will be more than temptation; it will be temptation *personalized*.

AI erotica won't merely *entertain* sin – it will *engineer* it.  
The spiritual consequences will be catastrophic.

- 2) But, be that as it may, I think we can all agree on one thing.  
Children *must* be protected, right? Yes. Absolutely, they must!

And that has opened up a perfect smokescreen to require more and more intrusive verification.

A BBC article from this past September reads:

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<sup>6</sup>He defended this by saying, “We are not the elected moral police of the world.” What began as a tool for knowledge and creativity now risks becoming a factory for temptation – and the spiritual consequences will be catastrophic. Artificial Intelligence has already blurred the lines between reality and illusion. But AI-generated erotica will go further – offering people simulated lovers, ‘custom’ fantasies, and seductive conversations designed to satisfy fleshly cravings rather than strengthen the heart. This is not freedom. It is digital slavery dressed up as personal liberty. When machines start whispering to lonely souls, what happens to the sanctity of marriage? To the discipline of chastity? And not only that! The more people engage with fantasy, the less capable they become of genuine human connection. *AI erotica doesn't create love – it counterfeits it*. We already live in a world drowning in pornography addiction. Now imagine a machine that adapts to your specific temptations, remembers your preferences, and feeds them back to you in ever-more alluring ways. That is AI erotica: temptation *personalized*. Such technology won't merely *entertain* sin – it will *engineer* it. The human mind, designed to be renewed by the Word of God, will instead be rewired by an algorithm trained to corrupt it. Sin has always found ways to multiply, but AI gives it rocket fuel.

“Users of ChatGPT must be at least 13 years old, and if they are under the age of 18, they must have a parent's permission to use it, according to OpenAI. This announcement from OpenAI is the latest in a series of measures from the world's leading tech firms in an effort to make the online experiences of children safer. Many have come in as a result of new legislation, such as the *Online Safety Act* in the UK. This included the introduction of age verification on Reddit, X and porn websites ... Meta – [which] operate[s] Facebook and Instagram – said it would introduce more guardrails to its artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots ...”<sup>7</sup>

Who could argue against this? Children *must* be protected – *and at all costs*.

But, as it turns out, there is a *very high* cost attached to this.

And I think it creates the perfect scenario for the biblically-predicted events of the very Last Days to be realized.

- 3) Because of OpenAI’s plan to introduce AI-generated erotica, advocates are demanding that the problem of child access be solved – *and now*.

This was seriously botched with respect to conventional internet porn.

Somehow, people thought that they could successfully keep kids out of porn sites by asking them if they are over 18 before granting access.

They probably didn’t think that a child going behind his parents back to access pornography might also go so far as to lie to a computer!

Anyway, AI-porn raises some very important security issues, because this technology will have the capability of generating anything the depraved human mind asks it to.

So, while age verification is absolutely necessary when technology deals with such dangerous adult content, what troubles many is what getting there will cost by way of privacy.

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<sup>7</sup> Fraser, Graham, ‘Family of dead teen say ChatGPT's new parental controls not enough,’ BBC, 3 September 2025; <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg505mn84ydo>

Once society accepts that “verification” is the price of access, it normalizes a future in which one must prove his or her identity – not only to view content, *but even to exist online*.<sup>8</sup>

Today it's ‘verified adults’; tomorrow it could be ‘verified citizens’; eventually, or ‘verified beliefs.’

This move edges us closer to a fully regulated internet, where access is controlled by a global digital ID framework.

And we’ve seen some pretty significant changes recently.<sup>9</sup>

A handful of [U.S.] states now have various requirements to verify your age before you can create a social media account.<sup>10</sup>

Age-verification laws sound straightforward and reasonable at first blush: to protect young people online by making everyone prove their age.

But in reality, these mandates force users into one of two flawed systems—mandatory ID checks or biometric scans.

- 4) While these laws are passed with the intention of protecting children from harm, they actually harm both adults and children.

Accessing porn is one thing, but this is also being employed with respect to accessing *non-sexual* information deemed inappropriate for children.

*But who decides what is appropriate or inappropriate?*

What happens when the government decides children need to be protected from political ideas which it believes to be harmful?

Or when a group of legitimate doctors publicly oppose an untested vaccine?

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<sup>8</sup> From ‘The Coming Flood of Evil: ChatGPT’s Adult Content Will Create Digital Babylon,’ by Prophecy News Watch Staff, October 17, 2025; [https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=8986](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=8986)

<sup>9</sup> A recent report found that, at the end of 2025, “half of the US and the UK now require you to upload your ID or scan your face to watch “sexual content.” Alajaji, ‘10 (Not So) Hidden Dangers of Age Verification,’ EFF, December 8, 2025; <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/12/10-not-so-hidden-dangers-age-verification>

<sup>10</sup> Wikipedia has a page dedicated to this called, ‘Social media age verification laws in the United States’; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_media\\_age\\_verification\\_laws\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States#Summary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_media_age_verification_laws_in_the_United_States#Summary)

Or what if the government decides children need to be protected from religious ideas which stand in contradistinction to government policy?

Religions that espouse what *it* deems to be hate speech?

You say, ‘Impossible.’ I say, this is daily life for more than one billion people in China!

I showed you in one of our earlier messages in this series that Sheffield College in the UK has placed a ‘trigger warning’ on the four Gospels!

What happens when journalists, who need a cloak of anonymity to protect their personal safety, have to prove their identity?

And what about in countries that exist under authoritarian rule?

Anonymity is often the only way to access banned resources or share censored information without being silenced.

All of this information, once recorded, can instantly be retrieved.

20 years from now it can be retrieved as if it were recorded today – and all of it can be sorted by AI, which works ceaselessly and never gets tired.

5) But, if the country wants its AI porn, this is the price it will need to pay.

Requiring users to upload sensitive personal information (like government-issued IDs or biometric data) to verify their age creates serious privacy and security risks.

Under these laws, users would not just momentarily display their ID like one does when accessing a liquor store, for example.

Rather, they’d have to submit their ID to third-party companies, raising major concerns over who receives, stores, and controls that data.

Once uploaded, this personal information could be exposed, mishandled, or even breached, as we’ve seen with numerous past data hacks.

Some of the largest age-verification companies (like AU10TIX) have experienced high-profile data breaches, exposing users' most sensitive information for months or even years.

Children are most at risk because they'd be uploading their sensitive data at a young age – information that would be stored potentially throughout their entire lives.

Once this door opens, the same system that keeps children out of erotic content could easily be used to silence dissent, monitor speech, or classify faith.

- 6) Many people have pointed out the privacy concerns, many of them Christian writers.

Those designing this pornographic technology are talking about *extreme guidelines* that will need to be put into place before it can be accessed.

The most frequent suggestion is a *verified internet ID – a digital passport*, if you will.

And the CEO of OpenAI has already said the people are going to have to verify their identity so that children can be protected.

AI itself, of course, will be used to organize all of this data.

Proponents are promising rock-solid data protection, but does anyone think this data won't be leaked?

On his website, RI State Attorney General Peter Neronha lists 43 major data breaches which occurred in this little state in 2025 alone.<sup>11</sup>

There is no question that leaks will occur – and those leaks will potentially expose who accessed what and when.

- 7) Let me remind you of a story from a few years back – about 10 years ago in 2015.

There was a company back then called *Ashley Madison*.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://riag.ri.gov/news-events/data-breach-notifications>

I don't know if it still exists or not, but Ashley Madison was a company that had a website that served as a dating site – *for married people who wanted to cheat on their spouse.*

And many, many created a ‘secure’ account so that they could find other partners to cheat with ‘risk free.’

The website claimed to be “100% discreet.”

Its FAQ section promised that its users would never compromise their “safety, privacy or security” and their identities would never be revealed.<sup>12</sup>

And then the website was hacked.

A group of ‘pirates’ released the names of all the people who had accounts with the website.

And you know what happened?

Marriages were destroyed, people were fired from high-profile jobs, and a number of them took their own lives because of the shame.

I would insert at this point though that nearly 3500 years ago (right around 1400 B.C.), God gave us a warning through Moses – a warning that reveals two important truths:

He said, “Be sure your sin will find you out” (**Numbers 32:23**).

The first truth this verse reveals is that *our sin is never secret.*

It will be discovered and it’s known by God.

**Hebrews 4:13:** “No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him *to whom we must give account.*”

The second truth it reveals is that your sin will discover YOU.

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<sup>12</sup> Jones, Sakinah N. Jones, ‘Having an Affair May Shorten Your Life: The Ashley Madison Suicides,’ *Georgia State University Law Review*, Iss. 2 (2017); <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr/vol33/iss2/6/>

We can't run from its consequences because sin carries within itself the power to pay the sinner back.

So, *how many* users were exposed in the Ashley Madison data breach?

Well, the idea of 'safely' cheating on one's spouse attracted *more than forty million members – forty million*.

- 8) Now, is there anyone who believes that a person's most sensitive data included in a verified internet ID not be compromised?

Of course not, but its more dangerous even than that.

Because, right now AI is now being used to foster deception on a large scale and to identify those who walk contrary to world governments.

For instance, China's use of AI should give all of us pause.

Let me share some of Joe Hawkins' insightful article, 'How AI is Shaping the World the Bible Warned About.'<sup>13</sup>

“... technology – especially artificial intelligence (AI) and digital surveillance – provides the mechanism to enforce conformity. In the past, totalitarian regimes relied on human informants, secret police, and brute force to control populations. But emerging AI-driven, algorithmic control systems promise to be far more efficient and pervasive – a digital net over humanity that could fulfill the vision of Revelation 13's Beast system like nothing before ... [T]he rise of Generative AI (like advanced chatbots) introduces a new frontier of information control. On one hand, these AIs can flood the internet with content ... even convincing deepfake news or propaganda, making it hard to discern truth.

On the other, and perhaps more insidiously, the major AI systems come with built-in 'guardrails' that filter what information or answers they will provide. Ostensibly meant to prevent 'harm,' these guardrails can end up hiding

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<sup>13</sup> Hawkins, Joe, 'How AI Is Shaping the World the Bible Warned About,' *Prophecy Recon*, August 29, 2025; [https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=8704](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=8704)

information, enforcing conformity, and inserting bias in a way that users cannot see ...<sup>14</sup>

AI doesn't get tired, it can monitor billions of posts and communications, and it can be tuned to filter out dissent automatically ... *Time* magazine bluntly titled an article: “The Future of Censorship Is AI-Generated” ...<sup>15</sup>

Surveillance technology - facial recognition cameras, GPS tracking, data mining – has matured to the point that nearly everything about our lives can be monitored. When combined with AI analytics, this data can be used to micromanage a population.

The most concrete prototype of this is China's Social Credit System. In China, the government ... gathers data on citizens' financial, social, and legal behavior.

Based on this, each citizen can be given a “social credit” score. Those with low scores – whether due to actual crimes or simply behaviors deemed undesirable (like criticizing the government, or even trivial infractions like jaywalking or not sorting recycling) – face restrictions in everyday life.

China has already banned millions of “discredited” people from buying train or plane tickets due to low social credit. A government slogan summarizing it was: “Once discredited, limited everywhere.”

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<sup>14</sup> He goes on: “A *Time* magazine analysis warned that the fear of AI being misused is leading to preemptive censorship by AI itself – where the system's controllers decide what is harmful ... and ... refuses to output it ... [T]his could create an internet where AI invisibly shapes the knowledge ecosystem, nudging people only toward approved views. In their words, “guardrails erected to keep [AI] from generating harm [could] turn them into instruments of hiding information, enforcing conformity, and ... bias.” We [are] already see[ing] how this might play out: if one asks certain AI systems to explain a controversial issue from an angle that contradicts mainstream narratives, the AI often demurs, citing “harm” or “safety” policies. Thus, AI could become the perfect tool for censorship, far beyond what human moderators could achieve.”

<sup>15</sup> He continues: “The enforcement of social orthodoxy via algorithms is already familiar to anyone who has been temporarily banned on social platforms for speaking against prevailing views on health, politics, or other sensitive topics. As AI gets more integrated into all software (search engines, word processors, etc.), one can imagine a scenario described in the *Time* piece: “Imagine a world where your word processor prevents you from analyzing or reporting on a topic deemed ‘harmful’ by an AI programmed to only process ideas that are ‘respectful and appropriate for all.’” It sounds Orwellian – because it is. The tools we rely on could quietly nudge or even coerce us into line with approved opinions. This is a powerful conditioning: over time, people simply stop attempting to express or even think contrary thoughts because the system has trained them that such thoughts are not allowed ... [I]f a future regime decides to deplatform someone entirely from digital services (as has happened on a smaller scale to controversial figures losing social media, PayPal, etc.), that person is effectively silenced and crippled economically. Widespread AI usage can make such personalized control seamless ...”

This is startlingly close to the Revelation wording of the Beast's mark: “no one may buy or sell except one who” has the mark (**Revelation 13:17**). In China's system, if you're on a blacklist, you literally cannot purchase travel tickets, are barred from certain jobs, denied loans, etc. By 2018, in one year alone, would-be travelers were blocked 17.5 million times from flights and 5.5 million times from trains due to social credit offenses.

Offenses can range from unpaid taxes to spreading “false information” (which could be any narrative the state doesn't like). The Chinese government openly says the aim is to “allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step.” It uses big data and technology to create an Orwellian state of mass surveillance and control.

*This is not a distant dystopian future; this is present reality for over a billion people. And Western nations have analogous tools ready, if not already quietly in use ...*

Consider [how] in 2022, during the trucker convoy protests in Canada, the Canadian government took the extraordinary step of freezing [the] bank accounts of protesters and even some who donated to them. Without due process, people were debanked overnight for being associated with a politically disliked protest. A Canadian official touted that banks could now freeze accounts “without a court order” as part of the Emergencies Act ...

The Cato Institute noted that freezing bank accounts – a strategy once limited to authoritarian regimes – had now been used in a free democracy, “bringing targets to their knees through economic incapacitation without trial.” It was a wake-up call: governments, even in the West, can amass sweeping powers quickly and stop people in their tracks ...<sup>16</sup>

Now, imagine when most transactions are digital and cash is phased out ... **Revelation 13:16-17** looms: “He causes all ... to receive a mark ... that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark ...” It is remarkably feasible in the near future.

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<sup>16</sup> He adds: “Now, imagine when most transactions are digital and cash is phased out ... Revelation 13:16-17 looms: “He causes all ... to receive a mark ... that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark ...” It is remarkably feasible in the near future. The “mark” could well be some form of digital ID or credential that is linked to your financial access. Without it, your digital wallet simply won't function for transactions. [And we've seen] precursors: during COVID, some places required digital vaccine passes to enter stores or workplaces – a concept of health passport that can easily extend to a broader digital ID controlling access to society.”

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Artificial Intelligence supercharges this control ... China has hundreds of millions of facial-recognition cameras ... AI can flag ‘suspicious’ behavior in real time. In Xinjiang [shin-gee-on], China reportedly uses AI to flag certain phrases or religious expressions in phone communications of the Uyghur population, aiding their oppressive surveillance. These capabilities will only grow.

For the first time in history, the infrastructure exists to track virtually every human being and to control their participation in commerce ... Many wondered if the ‘mark of the beast’ was purely symbolic. But now we see how frighteningly literal it could be. We need not speculate too far – It's happening in pieces around us. The key is integration: linking one's digital identity, finances, health, and social reputation into a unified system.

Already, algorithms decide what voices are heard. Imagine if a future AI labels sermons about Christ as hate speech and blocks them universally? The ground is being laid for a world in which a central brain (AI) could manage the allegiance of the masses ... People are being conditioned to accept this: we trade privacy for convenience [all the time], we tolerate surveillance for the promise of security, [and] we embrace digital currencies for their efficiency ...

- 9) Now, as if this weren't all alarming enough, a recent survey has found that “41% of young adults – ages 18 to 39 – say they would support giving advanced AI systems authority over government policymaking.” Furthermore, “36% would let AI regulate individual rights, including speech and religious practices, while 35% would allow AI to control the world's largest militaries "to reduce war deaths.” “In other words, a significant portion of the next generation is willing to surrender human judgment – and perhaps human freedom – to algorithms.”<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *AI & The Antichrist – Young Adults Already Open to AI-Controlled Governments*, PNW Staff, December 02, 2025; [https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=9204](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=9204)

## Conclusion

1) I love John Lennox – I’ve mentioned him before.

He is a genius mathematician and bioethicist, but he is also a deeply committed Christian and apologist. He had three earned doctorates – the first being a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Cambridge, followed by second and third from Oxford and Cardiff. Much of his work has focused on the relationship between science and God (like *Has Science Buried God* and *Can Science Explain Everything*). He’s engaged in public debates with some of the world’s leading atheists, such Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. He’s also a wonderful communicator.

Well, as he approaches the end of his life, Dr. Lennox has had a lot to say about the rise of AI and the Book of Revelation (*God, AI and the end of History*, 2025). I want to leave you with thoughts he shared at a recent seminar. Then I’ll come back with a few takeaways, and we’ll be done. See the video, *Can We Live With AI?* by John Lennox, here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZxd9aeskx8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZxd9aeskx8).

2) OK, let me wrap up this series with six quick takeaways:

✝ We need to purify ourselves.

**1 John 3:2-3:** “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

✝ We need to stay on mission – our unsaved neighbors and loved ones are in the balance.

In **Mark 16:15**, Jesus said: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (cf., **Matthew 28:18-20** & **Luke 24:47-48**).

✝ We need to understand that AI is *not neutral*.

As with everything that is a part of the Cosmic System, there is a spirit behind AI: the ‘prince of the power of the air’ (**Ephesians 2:2**).

Case-in-point: Adam Raine, a 16-year-old boy who was coached into suicide by his supposedly ‘neutral’ chatbot companion.<sup>18</sup>

In **1 John 5:19**, John says we know two great truths: “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

Let’s live like both of those things are true.

✠ Pastors – the shepherds of God’s people – must stop being silent about these things.<sup>19</sup>

It is an open scandal in Heaven that God’s people are not being warned of these things and, thus, remain unprepared for the days ahead.

✠ All believers need to wake up and get serious about spiritual warfare.

God commands us to “put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” and to “take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day” (**Ephesians 6:11, 13**).

Why does He say this? Because He sees the invisible realities that we do not see. God sees the snares that are being laid for us – snares that *will be effective* if we are not aware that there's something happening around us that's beyond the natural. *Church, your enemy is real and he hates you.*

✠ And finally, we need to walk into the upcoming days with our prophetic eyes wide open (**Matthew 16:1-4**).

Jesus rebuked those who claimed to know God in His day saying: “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’<sup>3</sup> And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times ...” (**Matthew 16:2-4**).

May the same never be said of us. Amen?

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<sup>18</sup><https://www.kptv.com/2025/09/07/16-year-old-boy-dies-by-suicide-after-confiding-chatgpt-about-his-feelings-lawsuit-says/>

<sup>19</sup> Read Why Silicon Valley Will Talk About the Antichrist-But the Church Won't, September 02, 2025 ([https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=8708](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=8708)) and Why Are Tech Leaders Talking About the Antichrist While Churches Stay Silent?, September 2, 2025, (<https://mycharisma.com/culture/why-are-tech-leaders-talking-about-the-antichrist-while-churches-stay-silent/>).