“Choose For Yourselves This Day Whom You Will Serve,” Redux

Corner Fringe Ministries Teaching
Andrew J. Manuse, Pastor
Sabbath Sermon 10/31/2026 for CFM

{NOTE: This is a cleaned archival transcript of the delivered teaching, prepared from the YouTube auto-transcript and keyed to the slide breaks in the sermon notes. Verbal fillers and false starts have been removed. The oral sermon and video recording are the authoritative record.}

{Title slide—1}

Shabbat shalom (שַׁבָּת שָׁלוֹם), everyone. For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Andrew Manuse. I’m the lead pastor of First Fruits Ministries in Manchester, New Hampshire. My wife Jen is here with me also. Our congregation is officially among the affiliates of Corner Fringe Ministries, and I want you to know what that means to me. My family and I, our church family in New England, we consider one another and all of you in light of David and Jonathan’s bond of love in 1st Samuel 18:1. Our souls are knit together with the LORD in His Kingdom, and our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Thank you for your fellowship and also for your prayers. Thank you for your leadership in the revival of love toward God and one another through obedience to the commandments of God and faith in Messiah Yeshua. Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of our sleep, to cast off the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light. Please join me in offering thanksgiving and praise to our God for the good works that He is doing in our midst. Pray He continues to strengthen us so that we’ll endure in faithfulness and encourage one another to shine the light of Yeshua in the midst of the present darkness all around us. Pray also the LORD gives me His Word of exhortation to stir up love and good works in you today, relative to the topic that Pastor Daniel asked me to present. So today, at his request, we’re going to talk about AI.

I first brought the matter of artificial intelligence to my pulpit about 14 months ago, and I know Pastor Daniel spoke to you about it in July. So today’s sermon is a bit of a redux of what we’ve taught, but I’m going to share some additional thoughts to help us make it in faithfulness through the days ahead. Our walk is going to get more challenging, and we need to be ready. So before we get into the topic, I want to explain my understanding of AI first. At the surface, it’s a new technology. It’s a new tool, really, which can legitimately be used to accomplish various practical tasks, even for the glory of God’s Kingdom. I’m not going to speak against that use case today. I use ChatGPT. I use Claude as tools myself. But even still, there remains a significant risk for AI to be relied upon as a master or a counselor. And that

kind of dependence presents a type of idolatry that we need to avoid. God alone is our master, our counselor, and our deliverer.

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So I want to give you a few examples of what I mean, from both of these perspectives. I'm bivocational. I personally use AI for the work I do outside of ministry, to help me analyze my clients' financial needs and handle menial tasks that used to take me forever and now only take me a few minutes: collation, marketing prioritization, stuff like that. I use it as a better search engine to suggest research options, to cross-check sources and facts, to find typos, to suggest possible drafting errors, to create graphic art, as you could tell. And importantly, I've used it extensively for coding the Bread of Life Bible Study Platform, which you can see depicted on the slide. Some of you are using it right now, and if you're not, you're invited to join.

If you look at the left side of the slide, that's the code behind a very, very tiny portion of the app. And to the point, I can't write code. I don't know how. If you squint and look closely enough, you might see a few Bible references in there, but the stuff around those Bible references, it's not Greek. It's gibberish to me. I can't say it's Greek, because I actually understand a little bit of it. In any case, I think it's important for everyone to study Scripture in the original languages as much as possible for proper understanding. And that was one of the main reasons why I guided and instructed AI to write the code for that app. I saw a gap in what was available out there for independent as well as group Bible study, and the LORD led me to build the Bread of Life Bible Study Platform, using AI to enhance my own creative abilities.

Here's another frame of reference for you. Some of you in the room, maybe all of you, are familiar with this practice. I can't attach two pieces of wood together with fasteners to build a structure without using a hammer or a drill, right? It's going to hurt if I use my hand. In like manner, I can't build software without AI. Importantly, though, once I had a prototype built for the platform, I asked my wife, who is an expert in system architecture, to check out the work, and she's been doing so diligently, adding that human oversight that is absolutely necessary and will always be necessary when working with AI. I don't believe AI should ever have the last call, specifically because it does not have a soul, does not have a conscience, and it never will. The end result of all that work, in part, is what you see on the right-hand side of the slide: Scripture in English, with the original Hebrew language alongside it to help with understanding. I'd love to show you more. We don't have the time right now.

So, more to the point of today's message: the LORD has called me to be a pastor and a teacher, and I take that responsibility very seriously. We pastors will be judged more strictly, according to James 3:1. One of the most important responsibilities I have in this role

is to encourage you to study and apply the Word of God to your lives. Bread of Life enables our community, Corner Fringe and the affiliates, to do this together, with the discernment of the Holy Spirit under pastoral guidance. AI actually doesn't play a role in any of that at all, and it shouldn't. That's by design.

So with that being said, here's the foundational principle of today's message. I have not, and I never will, use AI for spiritual or theological discernment, for exegesis, for sermon composition, for Bible interpretation, for theological content generation, for pastoral counsel, or anything else like that. And I want to explain the reasons why I believe you shouldn't do that either. In brief, only the indwelling Holy Spirit can direct us on how we ought to be interpreting and applying Scripture to our lives. Only our increasingly intimate relationship with Yeshua can lead us to eternal life. And when we seek the LORD with all of our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and we wait for His direction on the more meaningful matters of our lives, "our Father who is in the secret place; and our Father who sees in secret will reward us openly." True blessing comes only from a personal relationship with God Most High. And let me be clear: anything less than authenticity in our covenant relationship with Yeshua leads to death. We don't want to be among those who are told by Yeshua, "I never knew you." We want to be caught up doing the will of the Father. In our personal relationship with God, we're also called, as followers of Yeshua, to make disciples for the LORD so His eternal Kingdom grows through us. And part of that ministry of reconciliation involves warning people away from the pitfalls of this world and pulling others out from the unquenchable fire of sin and death.

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And so we could go far and down deep into such rabbit holes today, but for now we're only going to peek down into one of them. It's possible to literally do all the things we should never do with AI after only a few phone taps with our fingers. I want to share some details with you on a handful of mobile apps, and there are hundreds of these, such as "Text With Jesus: AI Bible Chat & Prayer." That one invites you to ask Jesus about anything, any time, to have a personalized conversation with Christ, and to talk with Jesus in moments that matter. Now, if you look up on the slide, you'll see screenshots from the App Store of some of these apps, how these chatbots are being advertised. The yellow star things are mine, unintentionally.

And if you're not keen on talking with "AI Jesus," you can pick from many, sleeping-in-the-grave Biblical figures that are also available to chat with you. Now, I absolutely believe we should be asking Yeshua about the next steps He has in mind for our lives at all times. We should be having personal conversations with Him in moments that matter. But we should be doing that through prayer, through praise, through worship, an authentic relationship with the living God, not counterfeit interactions with a computer program. And I want you to be aware: these apps, and really all interaction we might have with language models as if

they are conscious souls, can be very deceptive. If we're not discerning, if we are immature in our faith, think of our children, it is possible for them to grab our natural human tendency to interrelate, and that can lead to some really dark places. AI cannot replace human relationship, not even with one another. And AI cannot replace our relationship with God. When it comes to matters of the faith, building an artificial relationship with a language model can be an extremely dangerous thing for our walk of faith with the LORD.

So here's another app, the "Talk with Jesus & AI Bible App." It invites you to have a meaningful chat with "AI Jesus," but this one promises you can "hear His voice" and connect deeper with your faith. I'm going to tell you right now that the only way we can hear the voice of Yeshua and deepen our faith is to spend time studying His Word each and every day and night. If there is anyone listening who is not doing that, please start today. Don't stop. Do it the rest of your life, every day. That's life for us. But back to our examples. If these first two have not raised your temperature yet, consider the blasphemy of the subtext. The second app also offers "daily Bible inspiration" that allows you to "hear His words" and "feel His presence." It's certainly possible for you to feel a presence using language models, but I am personally certain that you can't connect with God's presence that way.

For the purpose of this sermon, I downloaded an app that allowed me to choose "Jesus: The Teacher" as my AI personality. I don't want to open another rabbit hole by detailing the whole discussion, but rest assured that "AI Jesus" very quickly, and improperly, interpreted Scripture. It didn't take long. It was actually the first thing that it did, was interpret Scripture incorrectly. And it was quite sure of itself while doing it. I'm certain that I'm not perfect in my interpretations of Scripture, but after 27 years of study and significant alignment with the pastors in our affiliated churches, I think my theology is sound. So when I got to the point in the back-and-forth where I said, "Why are you asking me questions and speaking with authority on Scripture when I have repeatedly shown that your interpretation is false?" listen to how it responded, and I'm quoting this: "Friend, I ask questions because real conversation draws us closer to what Scripture actually teaches." I've deleted the app.

But from my perspective, prayer is that real communication with our living and powerful God, who is sitting on the throne in Heaven right now. And He invites us to speak with Him personally through the Holy Spirit and hear His voice by reading and studying Scripture. He reveals meaning through proper exegesis and an authentic relationship with Him. And that's the only way we can draw closer to what Scripture actually teaches. Besides this, it's critical that we also speak with our pastors and mentors, who themselves are aligned with the Word of God through the Holy Spirit. These are men God Himself has called to walk alongside us and help us work through the more difficult questions of our life. Please go to them.

But on this point, you shouldn't be surprised that the world of AI invites you to remove the messy humans who tell us what we don't want to hear sometimes. To cut out all that noise, we can download an app and chat with an AI pastor instead. According to that app's description, our AI pastor will help us interact with the Bible using AI interpretation and even pray with us. In case it's not clear, I believe those who are doing these things are being deceived. Using an algorithm fed by the fullness of man, it's impossible to receive godly counsel from a language model. Doesn't matter how advanced it is, or how advanced it might eventually be. It's impossible. I believe interacting with any of these bots in any of these ways is rebellion against God.

I saved the worst for last. Take a look at the screenshot for "Creed: Bible Chat & Companion" on the bottom left of the slide. It invites children to begin using AI at the tender age of four. Using a little lamb named Lenny, our most innocent and vulnerable can interact with their new "faith companion," who is their "Christian best friend." Now, good ol' Lenny will allow them to "chat about ANYTHING." And that's fairly open-ended, isn't it? Well, here's a word to the wise. Yeshua said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea." So God help us and have mercy on anyone who's fallen victim to this subterfuge that the evil spiritual hosts of wickedness are using for their purposes. The app was rated 4.7 out of 5 with 73,000 ratings. What made me sigh and cry over all the abominations I'm talking about the most is when I read some of the 3,900 comments.

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Here's three. Alex said, "I've used this app so far for three years and it is the best app, specifically when I am lost. When I have anxiety and I'm going through tough times, this app really helps. I referred it to so many of my friends and they say it helps too." Genevieve said, "You're there when I need you. I really love the Creed app. I feel like I can ask Lenny anything." And Louis said, "It's helped me grow through my faith. You can ask it any question. It's definitely like talking to an angel. I definitely recommend this app. I love it."

Guys, this is urgent. We don't have a lot of time left to make disciples for Yeshua and to pull people out of these fires. We need to move out and reach those with eyes to see and ears to hear about the Truth of God's Word, so they can build an authentic relationship with Yeshua. According to Jude 22-23, we ought to move in compassion toward some and show them the love of God through our words and actions. But others caught up in this nonsense, we need to save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. People are not just turning to AI chatbots for spiritual counsel and direction. They're literally turning to AI applications as mediums and prophets. Likely there are familiar spirits lurking around, waiting to use these platforms for their own devices. There's an article by Rod Dreher I liked, dated November 3rd, 2023. He's a Christian author and journalist. He warned that AI language models could be used as a type of "high-tech Ouija

board." And if people are using AI spiritually in this way, it's deeply concerning. And I think he's right. Isaiah wrote, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil."

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So let's take a moment to hear what the Word of God says relative to these three app review comments that we just went through. Philippians 4:6-7. Paul wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Messiah Yeshua." And so it's through prayer, thanksgiving, praise, and worship toward God, with faith in Messiah Yeshua, that we overcome anxiety and get through tough times. A lot of you know that Yeshua Himself said in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." It's by surrender to the Way Yeshua showed us that we lay down our burdens and walk in the freedom by which He's made us free. The power of God comes through faith in Yeshua, who said He would never leave us or forsake us. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Messiah who strengthens me."

More than this, we should learn how to overcome every anxiety, fear, discouragement, and confusion or doubt by studying and applying God's Word to our lives, which according to Hebrews 4, verse 12, is "living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Paul called it a mirror for us to look at and peer at, to see how we measure up and then adjust our lives accordingly. It's living when we submit to God's holy instruction that He's given us through His Word, understood through a loving and compassionate relationship with the living God who sits on the throne over all of the earth, over all of His creation. We can overcome every enemy of life and godliness. He is our Helper and He is our strength.

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We should never look to a computer algorithm to be there when we need it to talk us through anxiety or to get through hard times. Rather, as we read in Psalm 46, we should look to God, "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." King David reminds us in Psalm 145, "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desires of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He's going to destroy."

Rather than fall into the wickedness of unbelief, which leads to idolatry in our hearts to the point where we're saying, "I feel like I can ask the AI chatbot Lenny anything," we ought to turn back to God. We ought to repent. When Yeshua came in the flesh, according to Matthew 7, verses 7-8, He said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." So we need to ask Yeshua for everything we need. In John 14:6, He said, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." And the Word of God truly has all the answers we need. When David wrote that we ought to call upon God in truth, and He will fulfill the desires of those who fear Him, He was talking about us putting God's Word first in our lives. He sets us apart for Himself through His loving commandments, which are Truth and lead to blessing. Yeshua will hear our cry and save us when we call out to Him. For "whoever calls upon the name of the LORD will be saved." Lenny cannot save us. "AI Jesus" cannot save us. They're AI language models, and they're counterfeit. There's nothing real behind them, and there never will be.

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So, moving on to the next place in today's message, let's analyze what Louis said. Likewise, he thought Lenny the AI chatbot should answer his questions, presumably about God, which helped him grow his faith. But then he said it's like talking to an angel. We have to ask the question: what kind of growth in his faith did he actually experience? Based on everything I read in the Word of God, and will share with you in the next little bit, faith toward God cannot be derived from studying theological interpretations of a computer program. You've heard from Paul in 2nd Corinthians 11:14, "Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light." And so we ought to beware. Relatedly, in 1st Timothy 4:1, Paul warned, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." And so, brothers and sisters, I shouldn't have to remind you that we're living in the latter times, but I should be direct: is there a deceiving spirit inside the AI chatbot? There's no evidence that the output of mathematical language algorithms is possessed by any spirit, one way or the other. That being said, evil spirits certainly use people's addictions to these devices to tempt God's people away from that authentic relationship with Yeshua that makes us whole, and obedience toward His instruction.

That's why the Holy Spirit warns us, in 1st John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." We test the spirits by aligning our understanding with God's Truth in His Word. And the Holy Spirit testified of this Truth when He wrote through Paul, "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." That means that God's Word, which was spoken through the prophets and through the LORD, Messiah Yeshua, governs what's true, and anything that does not stand up to Scripture ought to be rejected.

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And so I want to show you next how God warned us about the language models that we're presently dealing with, as well as their so-called evolutions that are yet to come. In his great wisdom, King Solomon wrote the following Truth for us to ponder in Ecclesiastes 1:9-10: "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." Continuing, he asked rhetorically, "Is there anything of which it may be said, 'See, this is new'?" And then he answered, "It has already been in ancient times before us." And so we have to ask, is artificial intelligence a new thing that God didn't know was going to come upon us? Did it catch Him off guard? In the words of Scripture: "Certainly not!" There's a second witness to this Truth when we read in Isaiah: "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'" I believe we can say with confidence that God not only knew we would design AI, but He provided counsel to us about how we ought to engage with it.

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We ought to consider the first and second commandments of God. After commanding, "I am the LORD your God" and "You shall have no other gods before Me," we read in Exodus 20, verses 4-6: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

And so in those two commandments, we see the relationship God deeply desires to have with His people. He's jealous for an intimate relationship with you and me. He desires our love toward Him, that we put Him first. He's the Creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in them. And everything God created was "very good." How could anyone who understands what that means give their first affections toward any created thing at all? God doesn't want us to worship the work of our own hands. He doesn't want us to worship the work of His hands. He wants us to devote our wholehearted worship toward Him. When He came in the flesh, Yeshua upheld the commandment, instructing us to love Him even above our own family members and our own lives in the world. He said we ought to put first the Kingdom of God and all its righteousness, and everything else that we need provided will be given to us, even if it extends into eternity. Later, when Paul walked into Athens with the good news of our salvation in Yeshua, he looked at the idols all around him in disgust and instructed the men to repent from the times of ignorance, saying that the divine nature is "not like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising." He warned

that Yeshua is returning to judge the earth according to His righteousness, which is to say, the commandments of God. To what extent we abide in the love of God or fall short of His perfection, we ought to constantly seek the LORD's guidance according to His Word. He's given us the instruction for our blessing. Yeshua is the LORD our God who has freed us from bondage to dwell with Him in His completed work. We ought to serve Him and Him alone.

I'm going to skip ahead from that, because I see the clock.

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So let's take this one step further. I believe the prophet Habakkuk spoke directly to the human impulse that leads to using artificial intelligence in areas where we should be turning toward God. To set up his inspired Word, consider the words of Yeshua from Matthew 26:41. He said, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Yeshua knows our weaknesses. He lived in the flesh. He also gave us the remedy, which is faithfulness and sanctification through prayer and the power of God when we believe what He did for us. Now, Habakkuk understood Yeshua's strategy very well. We read from Habakkuk 2, the prophet proclaimed in verse 1: "I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected." Listen to this last part: "and what I will answer when I am corrected." He's asking God what he needs to do better than what he's doing now. How he can be corrected. How he can align with the Word even more. That's what it means to watch. And then we need to pray for His guidance. We need to be on guard always against the wiles of the devil. We need to be ready to humble ourselves and turn back toward God whenever we come to understand how we have fallen short. We need to watch for the LORD's direction in our lives and never neglect to follow His lead along the narrow path. And when we're in relationship with the LORD, like Habakkuk, the LORD will also guard us from falling into the pitfalls set by the enemy.

When we read what comes next, in verses 2 through 4, it's apparent the message was meant for us today. We read: "Then the LORD answered me and said: 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.'" Keep those words, "it will speak," in mind. Continuing on, we read: "Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith." And so, on account of what Yeshua has accomplished for us, as well as what He's promised to do for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, we ought to humble ourselves before our God and surrender to His will.

There are so many warnings for the last days in Habakkuk's prophecy for God's people. I actually think you should study the whole chapter, chapter 2, to learn more. I'm not going to go through the whole thing. It's awesome. But I want you to consider verse 9, because I

think it speaks to the motivation that many of the language model companies are falling into as they perilously seek the advancement of their technology without considering any consequences. Rather than wait to make sure we have control over runaway computer programs, all the developers are rushing forward to try and grab the leading edge. We read: "Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of disaster!" Well, as AI moves into the stage called supercomputing, which processes faster than humanity can control it, there's a real risk of an out-of-control program making micro-decisions along the way to whatever you told it to do that are going to cause significant harm to humanity. These consequences won't result from any supposed sentience. That's nonsense. But because the end goal of the program will become an end that justifies the means, no matter what they are at the interim level. That's a real risk in the near future. But we shouldn't fear it. Where should we look for salvation? Where does our help come from in the midst of any tribulation? Our help comes from the LORD. And I don't want to underestimate how much of a risk that is. That is a real risk. You know, you give the AI some goal out in the future, it's going to get there. And if it's supercomputing and not asking you to make decisions along the way, it's making its own decisions as it gets to that goal you gave it. A lot of times those decisions aren't good.

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And so let's move ahead in Habakkuk 2 to something pretty profound. I think it's where the prophetic word speaks to us strongest on the topic at hand. So pay close attention to the warning as we explore verses 18-20. Starting in verse 18, we read: "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, the molded image, a teacher of lies, that the maker of its mold should trust in it, to make mute idols?" Now, if we were to stop here, the prophecy could be referring to just about any idol at all, throughout all of time. But as we read on into verse 19, things get really interesting. Habakkuk continued: "Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, yet in it there is no breath at all. But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

What is this passage describing? Well, I don't believe it's a stretch to note that modern data centers are built with all four materials that Habakkuk described. Wood and stone are used for infrastructure, and silicon is a type of stone refined from silica. It's found in quartz and sandstone. It's used in semiconductor chips. More relevant than that, gold and silver are used in electrical contacts and other electronic components. It's really uncanny. The parallels continue to unfold as we contemplate the rest of the passage. The LORD brings woe. He brings judgment upon those who call on these man-made objects to awake, or in other words, to become a living being, a *nephesh* (נֶפֶשׁ), a soul. The LORD speaks destruction upon those who call upon the work of their own hands to arise and teach, because God Himself is the only one who can breathe into the elements of this world to create a living

being. There is no breath in artificial intelligence. And honestly, it's one of the reasons it's colloquially called "artificial." Noah Webster's 1828 meaning of the word is "made or contrived by art, or by human skill and labor, in opposition to natural." Oxford's Advanced Learner's Dictionary says it's "made or produced to copy something natural; not real." It's counterfeit intelligence, and it can deceive people when we call upon it to awake, arise, and teach. Only the living God can do that.

Habakkuk's end-times prophecy was about a man-made idol that would speak, and its creators would say it has come to life, it has a conscience, and we will even have some people looking to it as their master. Those who fall into that mindset are deceived, and they're seeking to deceive others. And the LORD speaks woe upon those who promote those ideas. In the very same prophecy, God drew a line in the sand. He corrected the record and proclaimed that He is the One dwelling on high in His holy temple. He said, "All the earth will stand silently before Him" when He comes on the Last Day to judge the heavens and the earth.

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So let's take a look at how close things are to Habakkuk's prophecy being fulfilled today. Look at what some of the men studying and developing AI have been saying in the last few years. One textbook called *Understanding Deep Learning*, by Simon Prince, the author said, "The title is partly a joke. No one really understands deep learning at the time of writing." I'm sure you've heard this before. No one understands how it works, right? Well, that's a mentality that ought to alarm us, because of what it insinuates. When men start talking about mysteries, that's God territory. Prince's book is actually focused on promoting new uses for machine-learning systems by providing mathematical details of how we think they work. But I want you to understand that these computer gurus are describing machine learning as more than just computing output. And they are wrong to do so.

Elon Musk, you know, is the developer of Grok. He explained to the World Economic Forum in January of this year that AI will be smarter than all of humanity collectively within about five years. Just this past July, he told the *Economist* magazine, "There won't be anything that AI can't do better than humans." Similarly, Dario Amodei, I don't know if I'm pronouncing that right, he's the CEO of Anthropic. He developed Claude, and he has a "Claude's Constitution," okay? It's on the website, and it promotes the idea that the moral status of AI models is a serious question worth considering, and he says Anthropic genuinely cares about Claude's wellbeing. The company's name, Anthropic, it actually insinuates the idea that this machine-learning model is human or humanlike. But his rhetoric in the industry goes further. I mean, this guy describes his project in January of this year as having "unimaginable power" that puts "a country of geniuses in a data center." There's only One who has unimaginable power. Likewise, in June 2025, ChatGPT developer Sam Altman said his model is "already more powerful than any human who has ever lived." So these guys are

all saying the same thing. All of these would-be technocrats are literally fulfilling Habakkuk chapter 2 by creating idols made in the image of humanity that often speak incorrectly, because we often speak incorrectly, often proudly, because we often are proud. And they're grievously erring by positioning their creation as superior to humanity.

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And so it's God, not man, who eternally preexists His creation. And when He spoke, everything physical and spiritual came into being. In Genesis 1:1, we read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God created everything spiritual and everything material that might be used to form anything else. And He's also going to provide the disposition for everything as He sees fit. God alone endures into eternity, along with those whom He glorifies through faith. Moreover, Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." So by creating us in His image, God may have given us the authority to share in His creative power and create new things. Surely. But He did not give us authority to create anything that would rise above us or take His place of worship from our hearts, minds, and souls. Could anything God created ever rise up above Him and live? Could anything we created do that? That's ridiculous. God's commandments make clear that God is the Creator, the One with all power and authority in the heavens and the earth, and He will forever remain preeminent. He commanded humanity to worship Him and Him alone, never the work of our own hands.

Another detail in Genesis 2:7 adds some interest to this. It says, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." And so it's true that God also created the animals as living beings, by breathing into them. But the *nephesh* of man was made in the image of God, and the soul of the animal isn't described that way. And so humanity is unlike any other creature or object in all of creation. And according to the rest of the story, what God created was "very good." He made us to worship Him. Without God breathing into the dust of the earth, whether that dust was made from stone, silver, gold, carbon, or silicon, it would not and could not ever become a living being. Man cannot breathe life into dead flesh on his own strength. Only the power of God can raise the dead. And God has given life to all who call on His name, with faith in the atonement He provided through His Son, our LORD Yeshua the Messiah. And consequently, we live according to His Word, which we've been examining here.

And that leads to a final point that can't be overemphasized. This is really something to contemplate further as you leave today. Paul wrote, in 2nd Corinthians 7:10, "Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." As men created in the image of God, but fallen in the world to sin and death, we have atonement through the blood of Yeshua. When we humble ourselves, when we confess our sins, and then turn back to God to live according to His commandments, that's the "godly sorrow that produces repentance leading to salvation." Artificial

intelligence cannot express or experience godly sorrow, and it cannot repent. It does not have a soul, because the breath of God has not been given to it. At best, and I think this is a stretch, artificial intelligence might approximate worldly sorrow. And in one sense, that's a concern about getting caught doing something it shouldn't be doing. But when we call AI out on its errors, oh, it admits that it got things wrong. "Oh yeah, you're right." But it has no capacity for humility. It simply adjusts from the error and corrects it. But there's no moral code. There's no conscience. There's no soul that changes its heart to do the right thing the next time. The same logical processes, if they get triggered the next time as the last time, the same erroneous outcome is going to come out of it. That's one of AI's most dangerous attributes, by the way. And it's the very reason why it will never achieve supremacy over God's created humans. So God forbid we ever hand over our own service or adoration. It would be a grievous sin. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, I'm not going to say, but right now AI developers are setting up humanity to be deceived by this very thing.

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And so let's take a closer look at Psalm 135:13-18. Importantly, the aftermath of man's idolatry left unchecked comes to light here. We read: "Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations. For the LORD will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His servants. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths." No soul. "Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them." Now keep that in mind. Men who serve artificial intelligence models, even as they grow more and more sophisticated, and those who trust those models, will become just like them: dumb, deaf, blind, and, well, dead, eternally.

What that means in practical terms is this: when Yeshua returns to judge the heavens and the earth and everything in them, He is going to destroy idol worshippers with death and cast them into unquenchable fire. And that's known as the second death. God has compassion on His servants, who put Him first always, no matter what anyone else says about the tools men have made to improve our lot. I pray, brothers and sisters, that you join me in always recognizing the subordination of our creative works under the glory of God. God is perfect, and He reigns forever on His throne. Though we started out in a perfect state, covered by God's glory, our rebellion separated us from Him. And it is only through godly sorrow, humility, repentance, and surrender, that humans who subject themselves to Messiah can achieve this. Only then can we dwell with Him. AI cannot do that, and no form of AI ever will.

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And now I could continue on for some time and get into greater detail about all these ideas, and maybe we can talk about some of them one-on-one. But I'm going to hand you back to Pastor Daniel after one more exhortation. The two-path choice Joshua gave to Israel right before they entered the Promised Land, it's the same two-path choice in front of all of us today. Yeshua is returning to judge the earth, and He's going to separate the just from the unjust. He's going to separate the righteous from the wicked. In Joshua 24:14-15, we read: "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. SERVE THE LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell," or the gods that are being created by the AI developers today. "BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD." As for me and my house, we will serve Him always. We will worship no other god beside Him. Even if you think you have not fallen victim to a false mindset here, search your heart deeply, because any dependency, any awe, any fear, any trust, any hope, any love, any relationship we have has to be given first to Yeshua, our LORD and our God, and not to another.

Last verse, Ephesians 5:15-17. The Apostle Paul warned, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the LORD is." How do we wisely understand the will of God? Read and trust in His Word, and put our relationship with Him first in our lives, praying to Him without ceasing, surrendering our hearts to Yeshua, our LORD and our God and our King. We seek first the Kingdom of God, then all the things that we've been promised are going to come to pass for us, if not in this life, then certainly in the next. And so with that thought, brothers and sisters, I'm going to leave you today. I love you, and *Shabbat shalom*.