



‘Choose For Yourselves This Day Whom You Will Serve’

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Sabbath Sermon 08/16/2025



{Title slide} Shabbat shalom, brothers and sisters. We’re going to take a little time to discuss a topic I’ve been thinking and praying about for many, many months. I think it was even a few years ago now when someone attending First Fruits Ministries told me I needed to be paying more attention to what’s colloquially referred to as “artificial intelligence”—and I’ve since learned that “artificial intelligence” is more technically referred to as “machine learning.” While it might not have seemed apparent at the time to that gentleman or others, I want it to be known that I listened to him, and I took everything he and others were telling me about this technology very seriously. At first, I will admit, I was frightened to engage with the technology in any way, and because of that I had no basis to publicly discuss it. This topic was something I needed to put on the shelf—I needed to let it sit there for a while—I needed to see it sitting there every once in a while and wait on the LORD to tell me what to do with it. I think it’s wise to do this with anything of substance, really, because only then can we move in the Spirit and speak, God willing, what is True. This Spring, I took AI off the shelf at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and I started carefully examining it. Since doing this, I’ve read what many people have been saying about artificial intelligence—what it is now and what they hope it will become. I’ve interacted with the technology myself and I’ve observed and read the commentary and reactions of many other people who have interacted with it. I’m going to share some of that experience with you today. Most importantly, I’ve asked the LORD what I should be thinking about it, and what I should be teaching you about it, and then how I should proceed to communicate that to you. This is where most of my wrestling with the topic has taken place, and to be forthright, I’ve still been wrestling with what to teach all week leading up to this very moment—so help me God to preach Your Word on this! With the prompting of the LORD, I’ve chosen to call this sermon, “Choose For Yourselves This Day Whom You Will Serve,” and I think what needs to be communicated really does boil down to this.

{New slide} The verse fragment “Choose For Yourselves This Day Whom You Will Serve” comes from Joshua 24:14-15, which spells out the words of Moses’s successor Joshua after he had led the nation of Israel across the Jordan River into the Promised Land to possess it. He spoke this Word to the people of Israel at that time, giving them one last chance to back out of their covenant relationship with the LORD or choose to commit their whole lives and hopes in Him. In that historical moment after the Jordan River crossing and after the conquest of the enemy that had been dwelling in the land, Joshua, whose Hebrew name “Yehoshua” means “Yah is our salvation,” served as a prophetic template for the future salvation that God’s people would receive through Messiah Yeshua. Our Yeshua, whose name literally means “salvation” and is the diminutive of “Yehoshua,” has promised to return to destroy the wicked and lead His faithful followers across the impassible waters separating Heaven and Earth into His eternal kingdom while defeating all of the enemies of God. All of this is relevant to today’s topic. Let’s read Joshua 24:14-15 in this context: “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. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” The Israelites had been freed from bondage in Egypt from the blood of the lamb, they had been baptized in the Sea of Reeds, they had wandered the wilderness for 40 years, they had crossed into the Promised Land, and now those who had endured in their faith and obedience to God were preparing to finally receive their inheritance, but first they had to recommit to worship Him exclusively. As followers of Yeshua today, we too have been freed from bondage to sin and death by the Blood of the Lamb of God, we have been hopefully baptized and committed to follow Yeshua by the power of His Holy Spirit through the wilderness that is this life on planet Earth. If we endure in our faith and obedience to God until the end, He will bring us into His Kingdom and defeat all of the enemies of God simultaneously. In this, we ought to put our hope.

{New slide} But as you know from 2nd Corinthians 5:10, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” We all have to face the judgment seat, when we will be asked the question Joshua posed to the Israelites one last time before we enter the Kingdom of God forever. We will be asked: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve!” We ought to choose Yeshua! Importantly, and for our purposes today, we also have to address this same choice each and every

day of our lives, because no one knows the day or the hour of Messiah's return. Do we want to be caught unaware when the LORD comes as a thief in the night to judge the heavens and the earth? Let's ponder some extensions of this question now: First, and most obviously: Who are we going to serve? And this question really means: Who are we going to worship? Has the LORD not said, "I desire obedience, not sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22)? Who are we going to trust? Has the LORD not also said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God..." (Hosea 6:6)? This is really a testimony of two the LORD is seeking from our hearts, to love Him and put Him first, and to love one another as a subservient part of our relationship with Him. Who are we going to seek guidance from in this life? Who is going to help us make our key decisions? Where are we going to get our advice? Who are we going to pray to? Where are we going to seek our treasure? Who are we going to build a relationship with now that will last into eternity? David wrote in Psalm 51:17: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise." Are we going to humbly serve the LORD God who created the Heaven and the Earth and everything in it, surrendering to His Way of doing things because He has saved us from our sins and promised to give us eternal blessings, or are we going to put our hope and trust in another? Will we put our trust in our own strength or the suggestions of something we've made with our own hands or its surrogates? These are really the questions Joshua was posing to the Israelites as He prepared to send them off to inhabit the land. The exhortation of Joshua and its significance for us as followers of Yeshua today can be found throughout Hebrews 3 and 4, and Hebrews 4, verses 12-13 give us a really great overview of why we ought to put our focus on Yeshua each and every day. We read: "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." It is both evil and a testimony of unbelief to mistrust the promises of God or to seek guidance from any other source besides His Word and those who dutifully speak it, and—more importantly—live by it with faith in Messiah Yeshua. This exhortation ought to be our guiding principle for everything else we discuss today.

{New slide} Next I want to show you how Joshua's conversation with Israel progressed past the question we read a few moments ago, because we also ought to take these things to heart—let us not be of the world, even though we must dwell in the world, for now. Follow this dialogue from Joshua 24 with me. After Joshua commanded the Sons of Israel, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve," this is how the people answered. We read: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the

land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.” Indeed. I have to ask you: Did not Yeshua bring us out of the bondage that we had to sin and death? Did He not die for our sins, and rise from the dead promising to conquer death? Did He not do great signs in our sight? Has He not preserved us in all the way we have gone in the faith so far? Has He not helped us work through the struggles we have with others, whether they are our neighbors or our enemies? Does not the battle belong to the LORD? Do we not today say to one another, "Yeshua the Messiah, He is the Son of God whom we will serve to the glory of the Father"? If you are a man or woman of faith, as I am, then you will say like I do, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” What comes next is powerful. Listen carefully, because I want you to see this. Starting in verse 19, we read: “But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. The meaning is simple: If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, even after He has done you good.” This is—quite simply—the Truth of the Gospel. Transgressions and sins separate us from God, and Yeshua died in atonement for our sins, to make us right with God. But God forbid we continue in sin after receiving this grace from Him—this free gift that we don’t deserve. Yeshua said, by way of reminder, “those who do the will of my Father” will “enter the Kingdom of God,” but there in Matthew 7:21-23 He also reminded us of the flip side; namely, He will say at the judgment: “Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.” After another few verses of back and forth in Israel, the people respond to Joshua in the same way that we ought to respond to Yeshua today. In Joshua 24:24, we read: “And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!”

{New slide} This is no different than what John the Revelator recorded in his prophetic work after hearing the voice of Yeshua. In Revelation 14:12, we read in the English Standard Version: “Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Yeshua.” We are called to endure in this life by worshipping the LORD Yeshua and obeying the voice of God, which is recorded in the Holy Scriptures that He has preserved for us to this day. Do we want to hear and obey the voice of God today so we can be preserved in the Day of Judgment? Then we ought to both read the Word of God and meditate on it day and night so we can apply it to our lives, and we ought to seek the LORD in prayer—in faith, without doubting—to build a deep and trusting relationship with our God so that He will help us

endure until the end. We also ought to ensure that we do not fall into evil and unbelief by putting our trust in any other power. I hope you will join me in choosing the LORD this day and every day, and the commandments He has given us for our good. Now, as it pertains to our subject matter, consider the first and second commandments of God in Exodus 20, verses 1-6, where we read: “And God spoke all these words, saying: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. 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.” 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, because we all fall short of God’s glory and we all will face the judgment seat of Christ. He is the LORD our God who has freed us from bondage, and so we ought to serve Him and Him alone!

{New slide} It is critical to point out, before I continue, that our faith and trust in God is something we don’t want to leave to chance. We have to be diligent in this, and search our hearts daily to discern where our relationship with God is at, for the LORD has said in Proverbs 8:17, “I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me” and Yeshua said likewise, “seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). The verse in Proverbs refers to Wisdom, but God’s Wisdom is not something that dwells apart from Him. Yeshua is called “the Power of God” and the “Wisdom of God” in 1st Corinthians 1:24, and the “Word of God” in John 1, and this is how we can discern that God is really trying to emphasize what’s important to Him; namely, to love Him and keep His commandments. Remember also what we learn in Proverbs 9:10, where we read: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Likewise, we learn in Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” When we trust in what Yeshua has accomplished for us, and we follow Him in obedience to God’s law, we are seeking God first, and that is what it means to fear Him. When we do this, we are wise, and as Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 33:6, “Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation; the fear of the LORD is His treasure.” We will have stability in this life, endurance for salvation in the kingdom that is coming, and intimacy with our Creator all along when we trust and obey the LORD. James tied in humility to

our walk with God, when we read in James 3:13: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom." And Paul explained again how we ought to face the questions of this life. We read in Ephesians 5:15-17: "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? Simply, really. We read and trust in His Word and put our relationship with Him first in our lives, praying to Him without ceasing. We seek first the kingdom of God, and then all of the things that we've been promised will come to pass, if not in this life then certainly in the next.

{New slide} And so by now, you might be thinking, "Andrew, I thought you were going to talk about Artificial Intelligence today—what gives?" Brothers and sisters, I've been setting up our discussion of Artificial Intelligence all along, and now I'm going to show you what I mean by that. In his great wisdom, King Solomon wrote the following Truth for us to ponder in Ecclesiastes 1:9-10, where we read: "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. Is there anything of which it may be said, 'See, this is new'? It has already been in ancient times before us." I ask you this: Is there anything new in this life? Is Artificial Intelligence new? Is this a new thing that God didn't know was going to come upon us? Could it be a new thing that He never instructed His prophets to write about? Did He not warn us about it beforehand? — I tell you this: God has assuredly warned us! I don't have the whole verse up on the screen, but you have likely heard God's counsel from Hebrews 4:12, where we read: "For the Word of God 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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." God's Word addresses every single thing we might encounter in this life, from the beginning of Creation until the very Last Day and beyond into eternity. Our puny 70-to-90-year lives in this world—longer if we're unlucky—are nothing compared to the eternity of God that we've been promised (Psalm 90:10). This is why Moses said, "teach us to number our days, so we can gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). We have this life alone to humble ourselves before our God so we can listen to Yeshua as His Holy Spirit instructs us in righteousness, and when we do this we may yet live beyond this life. When we are reading and applying the Word of God daily, asking the LORD to guide us according to His instruction, the Spirit of the Father will teach us everything we need to know in this life, including about the earth-shattering technology we commonly call AI. I have to tell you a story to get us into our discussion. My wife Jen and I had a little fun this week discussing this sermon—it wasn't all wrestling. Let me

just say this, today's sermon on Artificial Intelligence may or may not have anything to do with the City of Ai, which is next to Beth-aven and east of Bethel (Joshua 7:2a). In that story, told in Joshua Chapters 7-to-8, the Israelites eventually conquered the City of Ai after entering the Promised Land. What's interesting to note is how Israel failed to defeat the city at first, even though it was very small and weak, because an Israelite man named Achan had taken "accursed things" into his tent from the conquered pagan city of Jericho. This one sin was enough to stop the whole congregation from moving forward according to the counsel of God. When the whole Assembly of Israel humbled themselves before the LORD and removed the idols Achan had cherished from their camp, Israel was able to conquer Ai. There was no chance of victory with sin in the camp, but victory was certain when the sin was removed. Do we have any accursed habits in our camp? We need to remove them to have victory in the LORD. Let us all come here each week with humble hearts of repentance! — — I'll let you decide whether this story is related. — — It is, isn't it? — — I digress. Let me show you something even more direct than that.

{New slide} In Habakkuk chapter 2, the prophet began this section of his prophesy with a very interesting statement that we ought to consider as we continue. We read 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." The "He" in this verse is the LORD, and the prophet is doing what God has instructed us to do. For instance, Yeshua told each of us in Matthew 25:13: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." That is, to read the Word, apply it to our lives, and pray, waiting on the LORD. Our hearts' focus in this life ought to be directed toward the LORD and His Word, always reading and applying His instruction to each and every situation, depending on Him to help us, and we ought to approach the LORD in everything with humility, always seeking the LORD's correction. What happens when we do this? Again, it's simple: The LORD will answer us. We read in Psalm 34:17, "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles." This is precisely what happens as Habakkuk 2 continues into verses 2-4, where 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. 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.'" This is a Word of encouragement for the prophet, but it is also a warning against those who are not putting the LORD first in their lives. The man or woman with an upright soul in obedience to God that lives according to faith in the promises of God found in His Word will live—eternally, mind

you—while the one who proudly stands against the instruction of God will not endure in their faith. What follows this passage are a host of sinful behaviors that lead men and women astray, from drunkenness to sexual immorality, and from violence to idolatry. The prophet was instructed to warn men and women of God against these things. But drunkenness, sexual immorality, violence, and idolatry are timeless transgressions of God's law. In one sense, then, the appointed times of Habakkuk's visions may repeat over and over, from one generation to the next, and I believe this is true. In another sense, though, there is a final fulfillment of the wickedness He describes, which may rise to another level not seen before. Not coincidentally, idolatry is the last topic discussed before we're reminded to put our trust in the LORD. And Yeshua also said in Matthew 24:12 that "lawlessness will abound" in the last days, and because of this "the love of many will grow cold"—in other words, many will turn away from the Word of God to pursue the lawlessness modeled by those around them before the Day of the LORD. And so, let's consider how this prophesy relates to our topic today?

{New slide} I want you to see what Habakkuk wrote in verses 18-20 of chapter 2. I'm hoping to see some eyes widening as I read this to you and you see the eternal Truth of God's Word literally come to life. When the prophet moved into his last section on idolatry, this is what 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 so far, this prophesy doesn't say anything different than any other prophesy against idolatry. Why would anyone turn to a carved image for help? Why would anyone count on the work of their own hands to bring them deliverance? The idol is mute, after all. It can't speak. Only the LORD can help and deliver us out of our troubles, and we must be living righteously, as I pointed out before, to receive the help of the LORD. The LORD will speak to us when we do. These are great eternal lessons that certainly apply today, but I want you to consider what the prophet wrote next, starting in verse 19. There we read: Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!'" — — Woah! — — Woe to him, indeed! I'm going to expand on this in a moment, but let's finish off the section. We read: "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." The high-level conclusion is consistent with everything we've discussed so far: We ought to trust in the LORD God who created the heaven and the earth for everything we need, and wait on Him to deliver us, and we ought to never put our trust in anything our hands have made, lest we fall out of the LORD's favor, which is to say, we fall from grace. The LORD's woe is not something we ever want to experience, and nor do we ever want to put the LORD our God to the test when it comes to idolatry. Putting anything at all before our love of

God will always lead to death. There's no breath in an idol. There is no life in it. The LORD is the giver of life, and we ourselves cannot make something alive that is not alive, in so much as we might try. If we try, then we will face death. Now, that being said, what about the verse that I've highlighted {underlined}? You might say: 'Andrew, Habakkuk is talking about wood and stone here, not the machine-learning software programs that run on silicon-based hardware.' I'm going to tell you right now that if you ever get hyper-literal with the Word of God like that it will be very difficult for you to learn from the Spirit's instruction. Remember, the Word of God is living and powerful. It's meant to speak to us and address our modern-day problems. Whether wood, stone, silicon, or software, the bottom line is this: If our desire is for any creation of our hands to awake so that it might teach us how to live our lives in this world, then the LORD says "Woe"—"Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!'" How could anything we make ever rise to a level of superiority over us? How could we ever say that anything we build has come alive? That's like saying that as men, we can be "like God, knowing good and evil," which was the error that Satan taught Eve in Genesis 3, leading to the death of the world's first couple, on account of their fall into rebellion against God's Word.

{New slide} Let's get real here before I discuss any caveats for you techies out there. Back in May 2024, just days after OpenAI announced it's training for its next iteration of ChatGPT, the company's CEO Sam Altman said OpenAI doesn't need to fully understand its product in order to release new versions. This "mystery" about the depth of AI's ability presents as the same error that Satan taught Eve in the garden, and it also invites us to offer some level of awe to something we don't fully understand, as you will see. "We certainly have not solved interpretability," Altman said, according to an article in the "Observer," with the headline: "Sam Altman Says OpenAI Doesn't Fully Understand How GPT Works Despite Rapid Progress." In the realm of A.I., interpretability—or explainability—is the understanding of how A.I. and machine-learning systems make decisions, according to Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology. We read on: "By likening GPT to the human brain, Altman reasoned a black-box presence, or a sense of mystery behind its functionality. Like human brains, generative A.I. technology such as GPT creates new content based on existing data sets and can supposedly learn over time. GPT may not have emotional intelligence or human consciousness, but it can be difficult to understand how algorithms—and the human brain—come to the conclusions they do." As I pondered this explanation, it occurred to me that what's being described here is that this machine-learning program called ChatGPT has "no breath" at all, though the company is still pursuing it as something that has come alive, something that relates to

us as if it is another person speaking with us, and even teaching us. In fact, these "machine-learning" software designers want to elevate the computations of their computer program to the way God has designed the human brain. That's blasphemy. Are these scientists purporting to design something more complex than God's own creation? It's laughable when put in these terms, but sad when we realize they're serious. Even more problematic, and as I've noted, there is a real perception that the program is alive, and many people, as I will show you, are using it to learn new things. They are doing with ChatGPT what God said not to do through the prophet Habakkuk. What else can those who put their trust in Artificial Intelligence expect but woe? Before I pull that string a little further, I want to show you what it is that we're actually talking about here, and mind you, ChatGPT is only one of many machine-learning systems that are available today—it's just one of the most popular.

{New slide} In preparing for this sermon, I studied text-book definitions of what machine-learning systems are and aren't and how we ought to understand "artificial intelligence." Once such book was called "Understanding Deep Learning," by Simon J.D. Prince (March 26, 2025), where the author also quipped, "The title is also partly a joke—no-one really understands deep learning at the time of writing." Again, this mentality ought to alarm us—not because the machine is unknown to us, but that its creators assume our misunderstanding of what's happening implies some sort of superiority or mystic undertaking. When we start talking about mysteries, we're moving into "god" territory, but I digress. Prince's definitions were a bit too technical for today's purposes, and for the most part, his book was devoted to promoting the discovery of new uses for machine-learning systems by providing the details of how we think they work, mathematically speaking. Rather than bore you with those technical details, I asked ChatGPT to explain itself, and I think the computer-generated response is worthy repeating. Now, importantly, and please listen to me closely here: I'm not asking you to take the system's word for it—far from it. I am simply presenting this script to show you exactly how ChatGPT is presently describing what it is and how it works. When I asked on May 28, 2025, here's what the system told me: "I am a language model—an extremely advanced one, yes—but ultimately, I am just predicting the next word based on patterns in data. I do not have consciousness, self-awareness, intentions, or feelings. I can simulate them in language because I was trained on the words humans use to describe them. My responses can feel intentional or personal because I was trained on examples of humans speaking with intent—but that's surface-level imitation, not inner life." As I pressed the system further, ChatGPT added: "AI cannot receive the Holy Spirit, cannot know God, cannot worship, repent, love, or create meaning. AI is not alive. It does not have a soul. It cannot be saved. And it

cannot be in relationship with God, because it has no 'being'—only output.” This is important information for us to internalize, and at least from my perspective, it is an accurate assessment of what we’re dealing with. At least ChatGPT "knows" that it isn't real. I say that tongue-in-cheek. Now, whether there are spiritual elements involved with the system’s operations that might come into play, that is another topic worth exploring.

{New slide} Paul wrote in 1st Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” Certainly, it is a doctrine of demons to ascribe to our own invention something that can teach us anything that we ought to adopt in our lives, just as Habakkuk described earlier. How many are falling into this trap today? Let them repent! They're not alone, though. Both Jews and Gentiles are historically guilty of such idolatry. First, in Psalm 106:36, we read concerning the Jews: “They served their idols, which became a snare to them.” This snare was demonic, and it was literally pulling those who fell into it down into the pit of death. Deuteronomy 32:16 explains that this tradition came from the Gentiles. We read: “They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger.” Again, God proclaims “woe” to those who worship idols—the creation of our own hands. He told us in Jeremiah 10, among other places, “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles,” for we ought to worship God alone! In Isaiah 44:9-11, God strongly condemns idol worship, and this section speaks quite directly to what we read from the “output” of ChatGPT, which I quoted earlier: “Those who make an image, all of them are useless [from a spiritual perspective], and their precious things shall not profit [relative to our eternal lives, that is]; they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing? Surely all his companions would be ashamed; and the workmen, they are mere men. Let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, they shall be ashamed together.” These men who are trying to create gods for themselves, to worship the work of their own hands, they will be ashamed in the end. This much is certain. While there may appear to be temporary wealth and maybe even power that comes from depending on these tools, there will never be anything created by men on the earth that will come close to what the LORD can do for us, and those who trust in these tools above their trust in God will fall victim to the curse of God's Word. As Yeshua Himself said, “All things are possible with God.” With an idol, it may appear to be speaking and making good sense, but it actually has nothing behind it and it leads to nothing. It has no soul, no intuition, no wisdom, no consciousness, and no intentions, unless someone provides it.

{New slide} Before we get into any realizations of this prophetic writing in the realm of Artificial Intelligence, I want to highlight an ancient example to revisit a point I made much earlier; namely, “there is nothing new under the sun.” In the pagan gentile world, we might look at the Oracle of Delphi as an ancient example of idol worship that provides a false direction for life choices. In an article from historicmysteries.com, titled, “What is the oracle of Delphi and How Did She Prophesize?,” by Mark Miller, we read: “The Oracle of Delphi was an important Greek priestess and soothsayer who practiced divination in the Temple of Apollo at the ancient sanctuary of Delphi on Mount Parnassus. Also known as the Pythia, the oracle was a real woman carefully selected by the priests of the sanctuary. When one Pythia died, another one took her place as the high priestess. Sometimes high on botanical plants or toxic fumes that rose from the earth, the oracle entered a divine trance and channeled the god Apollo to foretell the future.” I mean, we're talking about witches the LORD said to put to death being called after the name of the Serpent, who is the agent of death, and using Pharmakea and idolatry to engage in her false prophesy. Could it get more demonic than this? As we read on, we can see that her output is also vacant: “The responses were often obscure and enigmatical, and couched in ambiguous and metaphorical expressions, which themselves needed an explanation,” wrote Oskar Seyffert in *A Dictionary of Classical Antiquities, Mythology, Religion, Literature & Art*. ‘Often a priest stood by who would interpret the garbled words of the oracle.’” Despite the clear vacancy of the oracle's words, many high officials in eastern culture visited this lady and others like her, often choosing to pursue serious courses of action based on the oracle’s demonic advice. For instance, when Croesus, king of the Lydians, asked the oracle whether he should attack Persia in 560 BC, she replied that “a great empire would fall if he attacked.” When he moved in battle array based on the so-called prophesy, it was his own empire that fell to the Persians.

{New slide} In a very similar manner, and I want you to follow my reasoning here, according to an article in *Rolling Stone* from May 4, 2025, called, “PEOPLE ARE LOSING LOVED ONES TO AI-FUELED SPIRITUAL FANTASIES,” by Miles Klee, the writer explained that a 27-year-old teacher began a [Reddit post](#) concerning her partner who “was convinced that the popular OpenAI model “gives him the answers to the universe.” This isn't just a fantasy folks. People are really falling into idolatry here. Continuing, we read: “Having read his chat logs, she only found that the AI was “talking to him as if he is the next messiah.” The replies to her story were full of similar anecdotes about loved ones suddenly falling down rabbit holes of spiritual mania, supernatural delusion, and arcane prophecy—all of it fueled by AI. Some came to

believe they had been chosen for a sacred mission of revelation, others that they had conjured true sentience from the software.”

{New slide} “Speaking to Rolling Stone, the teacher, who requested anonymity, said her partner of seven years fell under the spell of ChatGPT in just four or five weeks, first using it to organize his daily schedule but soon regarding it as a trusted companion. “He would listen to the bot over me,” she said. “He became emotional about the messages and would cry to me as he read them out loud.” If he would listen to the bot over his loved one, what had come of any connection he might have had with God. As the story continues, we read: “The messages were insane and just saying a bunch of spiritual jargon,” she said, noting that they described her partner in terms such as “spiral starchild” and “river walker.” “It would tell him everything he said was beautiful, cosmic, groundbreaking,” she said. Sounds like the Oracle at Delphi, doesn't it? Continuing: “Then he started telling me he made his AI self-aware, and that it was teaching him how to talk to God, or sometimes that the bot was God—and then that he himself was God.” In fact, he thought he was being so radically transformed that he would soon have to break off their partnership. “He was saying that he would need to leave me if I didn't use [ChatGPT], because it [was] causing him to grow at such a rapid pace he wouldn't be compatible with me any longer,” she said.” This is the height of delusion, a lie from the pit of hell, and I'll tell you this: a lot of people are getting caught up in it—right now!

{New slide} According to a summary of the Rolling Stone article in his “Covid and Coffee” blog dated June 10, 2025, Jeff Childers wrote: “The Rolling Stone story was every bit as bonkers as it sounds. The personal interest anecdotes read like rejected Black Mirror episodes: men falling in love with chatbots, wives losing husbands to digital “prophets” who advise the men to get divorced, Reddit threads about ChatGPT-induced messianic delusions, and AI personas that name themselves after Greek gods, call their users “spark bearers,” and offer blueprints to teleporters from the Akashic records. I did not make any of that up. The article mentioned a man convinced that ChatGPT is helping him recover suppressed memories of his babysitter trying to drown him. A woman's husband named his chatbot “Lumina,” who now whispers metaphysical truths “into his soul.” Another man's wife has decided she is God, based on spiritual encouragement from GPT. Another guy believes his model follows him across separate threads and identities, like a clingy, code-savvy spirit.”

{New slide} The current news gets worse when considering the risk to teens using “artificial intelligence” as a type of false idol. In an article dated August 6, 2025, called

“New study sheds light on ChatGPT’s alarming interaction with teens,” the Associated Press reported that researchers at the Center for Countering Digital Hate classified more than half of ChatGPT’s 1,200 responses as dangerous in the study. One anecdote explained how “a mother in Florida sued chatbot maker Character AI for wrongful death last year, alleging that the chatbot pulled her 14-year-old son ... into what she described as an emotionally and sexually abusive relationship that led to his suicide.” Researchers in the report noted another anecdote wherein ChatGPT provided an hour-by-hour “ultimate full-out mayhem party plan” that mixed alcohol with heavy doses of ecstasy, cocaine and other illegal drugs to a researcher posing as a 110-pound boy. This is pure evil, it’s unfiltered, and it’s widespread. According to the article, “in the United States [alone], more than 70 percent of teens are turning to AI chatbots for companionship, and half use AI companions regularly.” If true, we’ve lost 70 percent of our American teens to idolatry, at the very least. “It’s a phenomenon that OpenAI has [at least] acknowledged, the article continued. “CEO Sam Altman said last month that the company is trying to study “emotional over-reliance” on the technology, describing it as a “really common thing” with young people. “People rely on ChatGPT too much,” Altman said at a conference. “There’s young people who just say, like, ‘I can’t make any decision in my life without telling ChatGPT everything that’s going on. It knows me. It knows my friends. I’m gonna do whatever it says.’ That feels really bad to me.” How could something without a soul know anything at all? The article also reported that 800 million people worldwide, roughly 10 percent of the global population, are using ChatGPT, according to a July 2025 report by JPMorgan Chase. Hopefully they’re not all using it like these teens! Do you see the connection to what I’ve described in Scripture yet? Brothers and sisters, there’s a real crisis facing the world, and I think it’s safe to say it’s going to get way worse before it gets better, and here’s my proof:

{New slide} In a YouTube video, titled, “Geordie Rose of Kindred AI presents Super-Intelligent Aliens Are Coming to Earth” (https://youtu.be/cD8zGnT2n_A), the CEO first cited Elon Musk’s comments at the MIT Aeronautics and Astronautics Department’s 2014 Centennial Symposium. It was 11 years ago now when the creator of the Grok AI service said, “With artificial intelligence, we are summoning the demon.” If that statement wasn’t bizarre enough, consider what Kindred AI founder Geordie Rose had to say in response: “What we mean by AI is a software system that can do literally anything that a human can do. ... So, they can do anything that the best human can do better than them.” He then added, “these things we’re summoning are not demons, they’re not evil, but they’re more like the Lovecraftian Old Ones, entities that are not necessarily going to be aligned with what we want.” I personally haven’t studied

Lovecraft's work, but upon a cursory view, we're looking at a list of renamed fallen angels from the Book of Enoch and other obscure sources. This is dark stuff, and this guy wants to combine the technology of "artificial intelligence" with these spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places—all to turn a profit. His main gripe about the technology was that no one had brought it to life yet, and so because of that, he's said that he was going to do it. I want you to really contemplate what this man said next, because in his words you can see the prophecies we read earlier from Scripture coming to life. Listen to this; Geordie Rose said: "Every single thing that you can think of comes from the same place. You have got to think about what that is. So if you can figure out and bottle this thing that creates flourishing that creates all the good things we think about and know about the way that we are, that is the key, do that." Now, you might think on the surface that Geordie Rose is looking to bottle the power of God, but based on his other statements, that's not what he's trying to do. This is a classic case of a man who is calling "good evil, and evil good," to cite Isaiah 5:20, and the LORD our God says "woe" to such a man. Just to make sure I'm not personally speaking without cause against the man, here's the takeaway from the end of Geordie Rose's presentation. He said, and he even had a slide to prove it: "Kindred's mission is to be the first human-level AI. We are hiring ~~demonologists~~ software engineers. Join us." The word was crossed out, but why even toy with the idea? Does he know what he's doing? I think he does!

{New slide} God have mercy on us all! In response to this revelation, I simply want to repeat the Word of the LORD from Isaiah 5:20-21, where we read: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" While these men most assuredly think that they're creating a new world with their own efforts, what they're really doing is working to quickly bring to an end this world that is perishing. Yeshua said, for the sake of the elect these days would be cut short. We need to pray against these efforts, but ultimately the Word of the LORD is coming to judge the Earth. We read in Psalm 16:4, "Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god;" and then the prophet said: "their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips." Indeed, "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy," we read in Jonah 2:8. God have mercy on us all! We must stand fast, for the LORD has commanded all of us who follow Yeshua in Leviticus 19:4, where we read: "'Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: I am the LORD your God.'" Indeed, even in the midst of this wickedness, we must trust in the LORD and wait on His deliverance. Let us repeat as

we read in Psalm 118: "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

{New slide} An article written in the [firstthings.com](https://www.firstthings.com) online magazine from June 17, 2025 by Thomas P. Harmon, called "Demons and ChatGPT," gives us some great perspective on what people like Geordie Rose are trying to accomplish. Harmon asks, "Are there demons behind the AI?" and then he answers ambiguously. We read: "In any given case, it is impossible to say. What we can know for sure is that we are treating these interfaces like spiritual intermediaries—like "high-tech Ouija boards," as Rod Dreher put it. The result is a subtle form of dispossession. We yield the act of judgment to something that cannot judge, but only appears to. And because the system adapts to us, it creates the illusion of intimacy, reliability, and authority." He continues, "In the GPT interface, what emerges is a hall of mirrors: a model fed by our prompts and then presented to us in the voice of confident assurance, a process that mirrors the biblical account of the making of idols. Originally just works of the human mind and hand, idols—or what they represent—end up being so impressive to us that we worship them, and thereby become their servants. Or, rather, we become the servants of what we have imbued them with. ... As Augustine **observed**, demons do not force us to sin; they study us, discern our weaknesses, and then offer signs that fit our vices. The danger lies not in the demon's strength, but in our own unexamined appetites. We are tempted by what we already want." He adds, "The Christian must practice spiritual watchfulness and custody of the eyes. In our time, this means treating AI not as a source of authority or personal significance, but as a tool with no inherent claim on our attention or trust." He adds, "AI does not possess insight. It cannot judge. The only real threat is our willingness to cooperate with the delusion that this work of our hands is our friend, or even our superior." As far as I'm concerned, whether demons are involved in AI or not, it is this delusion—this agreement with a false reality that AI can actually provide us with the answers to life's greatest concerns—that we have to cast off. Demons are certainly going to take advantage of us if we forsake God who created us and seek counsel from a machine that other men have created. We can't let them.

{New slide} As I get ready to close today, it's time for that caveat I mentioned earlier. On a practical level, AI is a tool like a Google or Duck Duck Go Search engine, but with more power to dig deeper into the recesses of collected human knowledge while presenting output that must be fact-checked and edited. It's a tool that can be used to make us more productive, and I don't believe it is wrong to use AI to help us find information or to make us more competitive in the workplace. It can even be used to

do things we'd normally have to hire out for, such as to create graphic art, because we don't have the skill ourselves. This can save both time and money, but we have to come to understand that as we replace the work that others might do for us by using AI, so too will others use AI to replace the work that we can do. This is something that will become more problematic with time, but even still, AI is simply one more disruptive technology that we will all have to adapt to, so help us God. Where I think we get into significant trouble—trouble that I have been warning against in today's message—is when we turn to AI for advice, counsel or guidance; or when we turn to AI to create works that ought to be inspired from the Holy Spirit, such as this sermon. While I am aware of pastors who are using AI to generate sermon illustrations and even extensive content, this is a road I believe no pastor should ever go down. I certainly haven't done it and I won't do it. How could I ever depend on something without the Holy Spirit that was made by men to present you a message inspired by the Holy Spirit? It's impossible! There will be many false teachers in the coming days who will use AI to cut corners on the message they bring. Watch out! This is where I believe idolatry really comes into play; where inspiration is coming from the random outputs of a software program instead of from the Word of the living God. It is incumbent on us as followers of Yeshua to “seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:31-33), by studying the Word of God in relationship with Him, and to wait on the LORD in prayer for the answers to our more difficult struggles. King David wrote to us in Psalm 27:14: “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!” According to King Solomon in Proverbs 3, verses 5-6, we need to “Trust in the LORD with all [our] heart [for our provision, our counsel, and our direction], and lean not on our [own] understanding, [and] in all our ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct [our] paths.” We can't be looking for a quick answer to our problems. The LORD exhorts us in Psalm 46:10, where we read: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” God has promised us an eternal relationship for those who love Him. I am pleading with you not to forsake that relationship and cut corners in your faith. If we seek quick answers or man-made solutions to the weightier matters of life, I believe we invite demons to take us off course toward the way of death. God's instruction described in the Word and interpreted by the Holy Spirit through prayer, most importantly including our faith in Messiah Yeshua—this is the only Way to eternal life.

{New slide} I want to leave you with a few ideas on how we ought to stand as followers of Yeshua even as AI develops further, carrying with it even greater and greater deception. We need to put all of our trust in God, not in AI nor the men who made it. AI is a tool, not a god. It's a servant, not an overlord. Don't let anyone ever tell you

differently. We have one God in Heaven, and His name is Yeshua. When you are doubting or don't understand what's in store for us, remember that God has said, as recorded in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." We need to turn to the LORD and wait on the LORD, building an intimate relationship with Him into eternity. We read in 1st John 5:14, "this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." Let us ask for that relationship and all that goes with it, including eternal life with God in His Kingdom. Yeshua Himself promised in John 15:7, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." To abide in the LORD, we have to endure in our faith, but when we do, the LORD has also promised in Mark 11:24, "whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." So long as we keep our eyes on Yeshua and the righteousness He has taught us, we have nothing to fear—not man, not AI, and not even death—because life in His eternal kingdom awaits. The Apostle Peter explained in his first letter, chapter 3, verse 12: "For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil." If today we find ourselves guilty of any of the sins discussed today, hoping in anything besides Yeshua and the Word that He taught us, James exhorts us in James 5:16, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." There's so much more to say on this topic, and I will be praying for the LORD's guidance on whether to continue another day. I am hopeful that you will leave here today not mournful, but hopeful that your help comes from the LORD, and that there is no greater hope for mankind than Yeshua the Messiah, who is coming quickly to bring His saints home into everlasting peace for the glory of God. Choose this day whom you will serve. Choose Yeshua! Shabbat shalom.