

Update from Pete and Pip Gardner

June 2026

The Intersection between Global Geopolitics, the Great Commission and Artificial Intelligence

Once again thank you for your support to us in its various ways. We are both well. For those of you who have recently subscribed to our updates, past copies for 2026 can be found on the World Prayer Centre webpage using this link: - [Praying for a World in Crisis - World Prayer Centre](#)

In the last 3 updates we looked at an aspect of the intersection of global geopolitics and the great commission, focusing on how the harvest can often follow regime change. We gave examples of how, in response to intercessory prayer, the forces of darkness that fuel repressive regimes are subsequently judged by the Lord, lose their grip, and the peoples find a new freedom to believe in Christ.

In this update we want to look at the intersection between the great commission, global geopolitics and the relatively sudden advances in AI.

A broad look at AI

AI could produce one of the most consequential changes to the way humans live. Sir Demis Hassabis, the founder of Google's DeepMind programme and a prominent AI designer has said that AI could be 'ten times bigger than the industrial revolution and perhaps ten times faster.'^[1]

AI is reshaping individual focus, family life, medical possibilities, culture, economies, work opportunities, issues of military dominance and weapons systems, scientific discovery, robotic development, transhuman developments, manufacturing, productivity, information gathering, information availability, and multiple aspects of everyday decision-making for both governments and individuals. It has become an issue of national power and progress which in turn is shaping the balance of power between nation-states.

Even allowing for the role of marketing and the hype of global tech companies, the investment that superpowers and nation-states are giving to AI development shows that it is viewed as one of the most decisive factors not only for survival but also for global dominance. Developers are creating AI programmes that are able to create new advanced AI programmes without the human element.

A look at the two superpowers

China

'Digital China' is the national strategy that Xi Jinping has pushed forward for AI over the last 20 years. The goal is digital transformation and data gathering of all aspects of the life of the nation through AI in order to build a totally integrated system of rules for living and working.

Politically this is about retaining and advancing the control of the Chinese Communist Party who believe that controlling data is the way to control and direct its population and make the nation greater and more efficient. This effectively increases authoritarianism. [2]

The USA

The following is a quote from a White House document called – ‘Winning the Race AMERICA’S AI ACTION PLAN.’

“Today, a new frontier of scientific discovery lies before us, defined by transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence... Breakthroughs in these fields have the potential to reshape the global balance of power, spark entirely new industries, and revolutionize the way we live and work. As our global competitors race to exploit these technologies, it is a national security imperative for the United States to achieve and maintain unquestioned and unchallenged global technological dominance. To secure our future, we must harness the full power of American innovation.”

Donald J. Trump 45th and 47th President of the United States [3]

A new programme developed in the US called ‘Mythos’ was considered so powerful in breaking into any secure digital system that at first it was considered too powerful to release. This triggered an emergency meeting of international banks to discuss the threat. Recent news suggests though that Mythos is slowly becoming operational. This development should really worry all of America’s enemies and competitors.

Personal AI

Aside from these national infrastructural changes, the development of AI is also personal. The net effect of AI for the individual means that ‘*you are no longer needed*’ as thinking can be done for you, thinking that is ‘superior’ and ‘quicker’. Whilst AI is a tool that is useful, **becoming dependent upon** it is essentially giving over your autonomy and freedom to think for yourself. One could say that such dependence is effectively bowing down to a higher form of intelligence other than God and that is called idolatry. AI is being constructed by clever people who themselves do not know God and are very excited and sometimes scared at the consequences of what they are creating.

In 2024 a study [4] analysing large numbers of AI–human conversations found that users frequently ask AI about

- the meaning of life
- what they should do in specific life situations and
- questions about identity, purpose, and consciousness

Another study by the Barna Group [5] within the US came up with these two findings:

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- 1 in 3 US adults say that AI’s spiritual guidance is as trustworthy as a pastor’s and among Gen Z it rises to 39%.

- Also, practising Christians express majority level trust in AI across most domains of 'personal flourishing' and nearly half said they would trust AI for their spiritual growth.

There is even an app that allows you to talk to Jesus. ^[6] You ask a question and a nice sounding voice pretending to be Jesus will give you an answer. Their marketing wording is – *'Have real voice conversations with Jesus powered by AI, grounded in Scripture. Your personal spiritual companion, available 24/7, right in your pocket.'* This bypasses any personal relationship with the Lord and are open to delusion.

Has this development happened before?

In Genesis 11 we read of the peoples of the earth who, having rejected their union with Yahweh, sort to form a union with intelligent evil to quell their fears. The ziggurat they built was a temple designed to infuse the union of human and spiritual power. Is AI opening up that same potential on a global scale? It is designed to allow individuals everywhere to gain access into what is described as a superior form of intelligence. Sam Altman, the co-founder of Chat GPT describes it as 'magic intelligence in the sky.' ^[7]

As the events of Genesis 11 unfolded, God made the statement that if it continued, nothing that the people proposed to do would be impossible. As a consequence, He judged the people by scattering them and confusing their language.

However, in Genesis 12 God initiates the great commission through Abram in order to bring these peoples back into relationship with God, for it is through Abram that all the families of the earth will be blessed. What is interesting for us today is that whilst we are getting increasingly close to the completion of the Great Commission and therefore the end of the age, we also see a similar strategy unfolding to that in Genesis 11. Man's fears about their own destiny are driving them to seek a superior intelligence and the devil is more than willing to inspire it and download to the earth stronger levels of delusion.

It is also worth noting that a number who are at the forefront of these developments are saying that they fear the consequences of what they have developed but at the same time they are saying it is too late to stop. Is this the same dynamic we see in Genesis 11 where fear of the future is again the driving force that keeps the AI developers going despite, perhaps by the grace of God, their conscience warns them about going this way? If so, they are on very dangerous ground.

All in all, as the spiritually enticing side of AI continues to develop on a global scale, it takes on certain eschatological characteristics that cannot be ignored. Global governments and the global tech industry are racing to be the first to get to the top of this new 21st century Ziggurat. And God may intervene again before it goes too far.

An Encouragement

In contrast to Genesis 11, Jesus also spoke about the fruit of being in union with him and nothing being impossible.

Matthew 17:19-21 ‘Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “**Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.**”

A Testimony of the impossible that AI cannot do.

Ryan Skoog, founder of Venture, a ministry that plants churches in the hardest-to-reach regions, hears stories like the following one about Esther all the time. ^[8] “*This isn’t just the most explosive growth of the Church in our lifetime,*” Skoog says. “*It’s the most explosive growth of the Church in the history of the Church.*”

Esther is 26 and illiterate. Over the past few months, she’s memorized 60 stories from Scripture, walked through the tiger-infested jungles of South Asia, and arrived at a village that had never had a church before she reached it. She taught the women of the village about women’s health issues and about the God who made them in his image. She prayed over two boys with physical disabilities, who got up and started walking for the first time in their lives. By the time Esther left, she’d baptized everyone in the village.

Praise God. Perhaps God’s intervention in our time will be his second coming! Come Lord Jesus!

We hope you have found this update helpful
Richest Blessings
Pete and Pip.

[1] [Demis Hassabis on our AI future: ‘It’ll be 10 times bigger than the Industrial Revolution – and maybe 10 times faster’ | DeepMind | The Guardian](#)

[2] [Digital China Official Documents - Digital China Wins the Future](#)

[3] [America’s AI Action Plan](#) _

[4] ["Contemplating Existence: AI and the Meaning of Life" by Emily Barnes and James Hutson](#)

[5] [AI is Becoming a Spiritual Authority, Even Among Practicing Christians](#)

[6] [JesusTalk.AI — Talk to Jesus Anytime, Anywhere](#)

[7] [Sam Altman Seems to Imply That OpenAI Is Building God](#)

[8] [The explosive growth of global church planting - NCF DAF](#)