

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC *Newsletter*

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Artificial Intelligence Might Trigger Nuclear War

Rather than the plot of the latest science-fiction movie thriller, this is the conclusion of a report put together by the esteemed Massachusetts Institute of Technology; popularly known as MIT. The report by MIT builds upon details of a report issued by the RAND Corporation – a massive American nonprofit global policy think tank created in 1948 by Douglas Aircraft Company to offer research and analysis to the United States military – that specifically cites “a valid concern that computers, by mistake or malice, might lead

humanity to the brink of nuclear annihilation has haunted imaginations since the earliest days of the Cold War.”

This is apparently a result of recent – stunning – advances in the technology of artificial intelligence, or AI, that has created machines that can process information, store the information, and then autonomously act on that information later when prompted by conditions in such a way that eerily parallels human learning. This has provoked a new arms race among the world's major nuclear powers according to the RAND report.

Andrew Lohn, an engineer at RAND

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coauthored the report and has experience with AI that includes using it to control drones, was quoted as saying, “this isn’t just a movie scenario, things that are relatively simple can raise tensions and lead us to some dangerous places if we are not careful.”

To understand how intelligent computers could raise the risk of nuclear war, you have to understand the theory of “assured retaliation” that basically keeps nations from launching a nuclear attack because doing so would mean it would also be attacked with missiles as soon as their launch was detected. However, if one nation believes they are about to lose their ability to respond they may decide to strike first. This is the real danger of AI since it is being used to scan hundreds of thousands of surveillance photos looking for patterns undetectable to the human eye.

This scenario prompted Edward Geist, an associate policy researcher at RAND and a specialist in nuclear security, and co-author of the report to state that, “New AI capabilities might make people think they’re going to lose if they hesitate. That could give them itchier trigger fingers. At that point, AI will be making war more likely even though the humans are still quote-unquote in control.”

Before we dismiss this we should note that a computer recently beat one of the world’s best players at the ancient strategy game of

Go with a move that was so alien, yet so effective, that the human player stood up, left the room, and then needed 15 minutes to make his next move.

As we have reported to you in the past, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that whoever gains AI superiority “will become the ruler of the world.” Similarly, Tesla founder Elon Musk warned that the race for AI superiority is the most likely cause of World War III.

While the Bible does not speak directly of our understanding of artificial intelligence,

With the rapid advances of AI technology many are wondering if this could be the means by which the antichrist’s miracles are carried out.

it does mention a time when the antichrist will deceive the world by performing what appear to be miracles (Revelation 13:14-15). With the rapid advances of AI technology many

are wondering if this could be the means by which the antichrist’s miracles are carried out. Likewise, many Bible passages speak in such a way that closely parallels what many believe a nuclear war will entail; a world-wide fire that devastates the planet (2 Peter 3:10-11) wherein as many as a third of the creatures in the ocean are killed (Revelation 8:6-7). As difficult as it is to pinpoint the exact nature of these prophetic passages we cannot exclude that it could be some sort of nuclear war, and as the experts at MIT and RAND tell us – such a war could be started by machines equipped with artificial intelligence.— PNL

PRAY: Pray that this AI technology will not instigate any conflicts — especially a nuclear war. Pray also that we would be able to find a way to use the ever increasing intelligence and capability of computers to reach the world with the Gospel!

ISIS Unwittingly Validates the Bible

In what will seem like a glaring contradiction, it has been recently reported by numerous sources that the radical-Islamic terrorist organization known as ISIS, or IS, has unwittingly validated a number of historical details recorded in the Bible! As difficult as this may seem to believe, the details make the story even more miraculous! In their effort to destroy numerous biblical era sites, ISIS terrorists unknowingly unearthed evidence supporting a number of Old Testament accounts.

When ISIS fighters took over Mosul, and other areas in Iraq throughout 2014, they had no qualms about disturbing the number of archaeological digs that were underway and other important historical sites. Oddly, ISIS destroyed a mosque in Mosul, Iraq, but uncovered something else in the process. The mosque, believed to have been the Shrine of Jonah, has been closed to Christians since 1902, but was being used as a Muslim shrine. It is not entirely clear why the Islamic State terrorists sought to destroy an Islamic mosque, it is possible that they did so as part of the Salafi movement which is a radical Islamic

attempt to destroy mosques where people worship because of a belief that rejects the concept of worshipping at shrines. Thus, ISIS literally demolished the tomb of Jonah and dug tunnels underneath looking for buried treasure or artifacts they could sell on the black market to finance their terrorist operations. In doing

this, ISIS workers exposed the area underneath the tomb of Jonah. After taking whatever they deemed as valuable – sadly we may never know the extent of this pillage – ISIS left the area exposed and made no effort to rebury anything. As it turns out, this was fortunate.

After control of vast areas of Iraq was wrested from ISIS earlier this year, archaeologists reluctantly began checking on several ancient sites to see how much damage ISIS had done. According to an archaeology journal published by Cambridge University, these concerned archeologists made some startling discoveries. It turns out that tunnels dug by the terrorist group underneath the now destroyed tomb of Jonah revealed a previously untouched Assyrian palace in the ancient city of Nineveh and several inscriptions that corroborate biblical accounts.

Archeologists believe this palace belonged to King Sennacherib or his successor Esarhaddon, both mentioned in the Bible. While some of

the historical details recorded in the Bible are often downplayed by critics due to what is considered as a lack of support outside the Bible, the inscriptions found in the old city of

Nineveh – inscriptions inadvertently uncovered by ISIS – give an order of Assyrian kings that perfectly aligns with the order given in the Bible! As reported in *Breaking Israel News*, “The destructive efforts did bring some benefit to archaeologists. The site was largely



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Russia to Supply Syria with Antiaircraft Missiles

RUSSIA TO SEND S-300 MISSILES TO SYRIA

Russia will go ahead with plans to deliver S-300 anti-aircraft missiles to Syria despite Western and Israeli opposition

Israel is alarmed by the prospect of Russia supplying advanced weapon systems to Syria, saying such arms could end up in the hands of arch-foe Iran or the Lebanese Hezbollah group.

Israeli Strategic Affairs and Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz said the S-300 can reach deep into the Jewish state and threaten flights over its main commercial airport near Tel Aviv.



HISTORY:

The S-300 was developed for the Russian Air Defence Force in the 1960s and 1970s.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Range: 5 - 150 km
- Altitude: 10 - 27,000 m
- Speed of targets engaged: up to 1,800 m/sec
- Number of targets tracked: up to 12
- Number of targets engaged: upto 6
- Deployment / redeployment time: 5/5 min.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Vertical launch
- Two missiles launched on one target
- Short deployment / redeployment time

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International observers have recently reported that Russia is planning to supply Syria with the highly advanced S-300 anti-aircraft defense systems. This comes after a senior Russian official warned Israel that it would “suffer catastrophic consequences” if it attacks Syria after the systems are in place. All of this comes on the heels of the recent airstrikes against Syria that were carried out by the U.S., Britain, and France in retaliation of a suspected chemical weapons attack that killed more than 40 civilians. The Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, denied the use of chemical weapons. In keeping, the Russian ambassador to the United States warned of “consequences” for the allied attacks. According to Israeli news outlet Haaretz, Russian foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says that Moscow is undecided on whether it would deliver advanced S-300 missile systems to Syria, but that such a move would

not be kept a secret if it took such a decision. However, in a contradictory report by the Russian Kommersant newspaper, Russia is expected to provide the Assad regime with S-300 anti-aircraft defense systems soon. The Kommersant also reported that experts believed Israel would react negatively to the development and might bomb the area where the missile systems would be deployed.

Interestingly, Israeli officials spoke anonymously to The New York Times admitting Israel was indeed behind the strike against the sites in Syria. Another report in the Wall Street Journal revealed that Israeli military targeted an advanced Iranian air-defense system at the T4 base in Syria. Thus, there is an intentional threat and warning to Israel against any future intervention with the deployment of any anti-aircraft weapons. According to a report by the Russian news

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GQ Magazine Says Bible Isn't Worth Reading

In a move that has created noticeable controversy for the international magazine devoted to men's fashion and style, *GQ Magazine* recently included the Bible in a list of twenty books that it claims "aren't worth reading." Ironically, this essay was featured in an edition of *GQ* dubbed as "the style Bible." The less-than-conservative men's magazine included the Bible at number 12 in a list of 20 books, total, with a write-up on why "you don't have to read" it by author Jesse Ball. In his essay, Ball stated that the Bible was "repetitive, self-contradictory, sententious, foolish, and even at times ill-intentioned." Ball went on to suggest the cruelty depicted throughout the Bible may be its best feature. Launching off of this point, Ball recommended that *GQ* readers who would have any interest in the Bible spend their time reading the provocative novel *The Notebook* by the Hungarian author Agota Kristof, instead of the Bible. Understandably, supporters of the Bible voiced their upset over this article on social media, calling the lifestyle magazine "irrelevant" and a "total disgrace to the Christian community." Franklin Graham, the President of Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, also took issue with Ball's synopsis. The Christian Broadcasting Network quoted him as saying, "Maybe the *GQ* editors need to read it again. The subject of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is Jesus Christ."

Further discrediting the Bible, the editors of *GQ* and Ball dismiss even the possibility that even a single sentence of the Bible is worthy of reverential treatment. The kindest thing they can say about the Bible is that it has "some good parts," all the while mocking those "who supposedly live by it." Ball added, "The Holy Bible is rated very highly by all the



people who supposedly live by it but who in actuality have not read it. Those who *have* read it know there are some good parts, but overall it is certainly not the finest thing that man has ever produced." However, statistics prove otherwise. While it is impossible to generate exact figures on Bible sales throughout the ages, there is little doubt among scholars that the Bible is the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book. A survey by the Bible Society concluded around 2.5 billion copies were printed between 1815 and 1975. But, more recent estimates put that number at more than 5 billion.

We know from reading the Holy Bible; the inspired Word of God, that such attitudes toward the things of God will only increase as the end times draw nearer. 2 Timothy 3:5 warns that people will deny the power of God. Likewise, 2 Peter 3:3 teaches that in the last days many scoffers will arise and follow their own evil desires. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 also warns us that "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4 KJV). With the eternal lives of many people at stake, let us be in prayer over this sad situation. — PNL

PRAY: Pray that no one would be persuaded from reading the Bible based on the frivolous article in *GQ* magazine. Pray that God would make His truth known to the readers and the editors of *GQ* as well as the author of the essay discrediting the Bible.

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unexplored, and though two previous efforts at excavation were carried out, most recently in the 1950s, archaeologists had never reached as far as the palace.” Layla Salih, Iraqi archaeologist supervising the team, stated “The objects don’t match descriptions of what we thought was down there, so [ISIS’s] destruction has actually led us to a fantastic find.”

The Bible records the prophet Jonah was sent to Nineveh – which was located on the opposite side of the Tigris River from modern day Mosul – by God to prophesy to the people. After nearly being lost at sea then miraculously rescued by being swallowed by a great fish, Jonah then preached to the city of Nineveh where the people repented and were spared from God’s wrath at

that time. Thus, it is probable that Jonah may have stayed in Nineveh or returned there later in life; thereby explaining the existence of the tomb. The Bible is silent on this issue. However, the list of Assyrian kings in the Bible aligns with the inscriptions uncovered by ISIS match the mention of Sargon II (known as “Sargon” in Scripture) found in Isaiah 20:1. Additionally, Sennacherib who is mentioned in 2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 32, Isaiah 36-37 has found additional support from the ISIS work, as well as Esarhaddon who is mentioned in 2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38, and Ashurbanipal (also known as Asnappar, Osnapper or Asenaphar) in Ezra 4:10. Other inscriptions uncovered by ISIS terrorists confirm biblical references to the city of Calah (Genesis 10:11-12) and the methodology of resettlement used by the Assyrians (Ezra 4:10).— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that the archaeological work in the country of Iraq can now return to the task of preserving these important ancient sites.

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agency TASS, while Moscow believes such a move will stabilize the situation in the war-torn country, “experts believe that the reaction of the Israeli military to such a move will be predictably negative and do not exclude attacks on their locations.” A high-ranking Russian defense officials told the paper, “If Israel decides to carry out rocket strikes on the deployment locations of the S-300, the consequences will be catastrophic for all sides.”

With tensions rising between Israel and her neighbors, we are reminded of the many Bible references that speak of the armies that will align against – and surround – Israel during the

last days. The leader of this invasion, according to Ezekiel will be a ruler with the title “Gog” (Ezekiel 38:1-6). Ezekiel prophesied about a nation known as “Rosh” which many Bible teachers have identified as Russia! As many Bible teachers have pointed out, Ezekiel makes repeated references to the Gog and Magog armies coming from the “north” (Ezekiel 38-39). Disturbingly, both Syria and Russia are situated to the north of Israel. In fact, Moscow (the political capital of Russia) is almost exactly due north of Jerusalem; the capital of Israel. While this situation seems to be ever-present we must not ignore it. The Bible indicates that one day a major war will erupt in this region and as we see such tensions flare up again we should be in prayer. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that the Lord will delay the eventual war that will break out in this region so that we may have additional time to evangelize people who have not yet accepted Christ as their Savior. Pray for the safety of the Christian humanitarian aid workers and missionaries that are literally on the front lines of this developing conflict.