

Artificial Intelligence

By Dave DeWitt,

[Much of the statistical material here comes from the John Lennox book “2084,” Zondervan (2020) p. 45, as footnoted]

Definitions

The medium.com website reports,

If you type [in] Google the phrase “What is AI?”, the search engine will return about 3,150,000,000 results (in an impressively fast 0.91 seconds), about 651,000,000 results (1.03 seconds) for “What is Artificial Intelligence?” and other 3,240,000,000 results for the search “Definition of AI.”

[medium.com/swlh/these-are-the-best-definitions-of-artificial-intelligence]

Amidst the overload of information, here are three concise definitions:

- “Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the ability of machines to do functions that we usually associate with a human mind.” [marktechpost.com]
- “Artificial intelligence is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems.” [techtargget.com]
- “The term artificial intelligence describes a field in computer science that refers to computers or machines being able to simulate human intelligence to perform tasks or solve problems.” They add, “Within our lifetimes, artificial intelligence (AI) will have altered our world more significantly and faster than any other technology since the discovery of electricity.” [willbhurd.com]

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is neither artificial nor intelligence. It is real, not artificial, and it is information, not intelligence. Keeping that in mind, a good summary definition is:

**Artificial Intelligence is the ability of machines
to simulate human intelligence by processing information**

So a car made in the 1950s was not AI because, although it was a machine that helped people, it did not “do functions that we usually associate with a human mind.” But a car made today, with all its warning beeps, voice-activated blue tooth, steering guidance, distance spacing, radar cruise control, tire pressure and maintenance signals, does. Before this century, it was common to hear people make comments that questioned the value of AI.

- The President of Western Union in 1876 said, “This ‘telephone’ has far too many shortcomings to be taken seriously as a means of communication. It has objectively no value.”
- The President of the Michigan Savings Bank told Henry Ford’s lawyer in 1903 that “The automobile is a fad, a novelty. Horses are here to stay.”
- Film producer and 20th Century Fox movie executive, Darryl Zanuck, stated in 1946 that “Television will never hold onto an audience. People will very quickly get bored of staring at a plywood box every night.” [from hero-labs.com]

But we do not hear things like that today. In the 21st century (and slightly before), nearly everyone experiences the impact of AI and rightly expects it to advance exponentially.

AI Applications

Some current applications of AI include: the internet, transportation automation, GPS navigation, facial recognition, robotics, online computer-based education, chatGPT, health care with medical diagnostics and disease detection, e-commerce with targeted advertising and marketing, data analysis, aircraft guidance control, digital photography, drones, social media, computerized bookings and reservations, self-driving cars, language processing, online business meetings, cable TV, and the AI that is part of nearly every human life today—the cell phone.

The Future of AI

There are two types, or phases, of AI that are predicted for the future. I shall simply call them Phase I and Phase II.

Phase I is exponentially more of what we currently observe: machine-assisted information gathering and processing. This is where machines “do functions that we usually associate with a human mind.”

Phase II is a future prediction, where information-processing creates a machine that duplicates, then surpasses, human reasoning. This is where machines replace humans.

Up and until this century (the Industrial Revolution and the Information Revolution), the focus was on Phase I. In the 21st century, the focus is on Phase II.

Thesis: The position I will be taking here is that Phase I will continue to develop. It is probably just in its infancy. But I will also demonstrate that Phase II is only an imagination of people with a liberal, progressive, evolution-based naturalistic world view. I shall establish that Phase II has no basis in reality. Then I will show Phase I is biblically supported, and Phase II is not.

Predictions from the Past

Before this century, there were two prominent books that addressed the future of AI. One was the 1931 novel “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley. The other was the 1949 novel by George Orwell titled “1984.” Orwell predicted that a dictatorial oppression, which uses technology to control our lives, will overcome the world. Huxley predicted a future world where people will come to love being controlled by technology. For example, Orwell feared that books would be banned. Huxley believed there would be no need to ban books because no one will want to read them. Orwell feared we would be ruined by what we hate. Huxley believed we would be ruined by what we love.

But in the 21st century, the AI predictions turned more positive. Men like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg welcomed the advances of AI. Ray Kurzweil, Google’s Director of Engineering, wrote a book titled “The Singularity Is Near,” where he discussed his belief that robots will overtake humans in intelligent capabilities in about 30 years (around 2050). He believes we will create something like cyborgs, where “The non-biological portion of our intelligence will predominate.” [Ray Kurzweil, “The Singularity Is Near,” New York: Penguin (2005), 201]

The progressive view of AI in the 1900s was focused on its secular use, whether it be for good or ill. The progressive view of AI in the 2000s has changed to include a religious view supporting atheism, naturalism, and evolution. For example, in 2017, Dan Brown (author of “The Da Vinci Code”—2003) wrote a novel titled “Origin,” where his main character was an AI expert who claimed to have discovered the origin of life and intends to “employ the truth of science to destroy the myth of religion.” [New York: Doubleday, 2017, p. 53]

In the 21st century, AI changed its focus from being a helpful tool, which ignored its religious implications, to something that includes a goal to “destroy the myth of religion.” Of course, the only actual religion the progressive secularists are attempting to destroy today is biblical Christianity. The goal of AI has changed from human improvement to human replacement to God replacement, specifically, to replace the God of the Bible.

A Different Kind of Evolution

The current evolutionary idea claims we can figure out how to evolve to a higher form of life (some sort of robotic cyborg) in the same way we figured out how we evolved to this form of life. But this ignores the clear fact that science offers no explanation of how we got to this form of life, or any life at all. Evolving an AI superior life-form, based on our understanding of the evolution to our current life-forms, assumes we know how life originated in the first place. For example, Dan Brown’s character assumes the two are connected, when he claims he has discovered the origin of life. I am guessing most people, at

least most university students, believe scientists have pretty much discovered how life began and that they have duplicated it in a laboratory. Somehow. Somewhere. I have detailed the statistical impossibility of life originating by chance (here or anywhere in the universe) in my study book, “An Evaluation of the Atheistic Religion Known As Evolution.” So I will not repeat that here. But the fact is, science is actually getting further and further away from understanding where life came from. The more we learn about a living cell, the harder it is to scientifically explain how it began. James Tour (a scientist with over 650 publications and over 200 patents, who also pioneered the development of a new way for moving molecules) states,

We synthetic chemists should state the obvious. The appearance of life on earth is a mystery. We are nowhere near solving this problem. The proposals offered thus far to explain life’s origins make no scientific sense. [James Tour, “Animadversions of a Synthetic Chemist,” *Inference: International Review of Science* 2, no. 2 (May 2016) inference-review.com]

AI evolution has left Darwinian evolution behind. AI actually contradicts Darwin. Darwinian evolution says things changed naturally by themselves, without the aid of any intelligent being. AI evolution is happening only and exclusively by the purpose and design of intelligent beings. Oxford mathematics professor John Lennox puts it well.

We should notice that we have now left the concept of undirected Darwinian evolution far behind in this scenario. The accelerating advances in the realm of technology, robots, and AI have been due to human intelligent design. [John Lennox, “2084,” *Zondervan Reflective* (2020) p. 45]

You Cannot Get There from Here

What I have called Phase I, where machines assist humans with information gathering and processing, is not only here and growing, but most likely only in its infancy. But what I have called Phase II is a future prediction where machines replace humans. Not only has this kind of AI not been done, it cannot be done, and can never be done. Evolution from machines to super-humans is as impossible as the Darwinists claiming micro-evolution is evidence for macro-evolution. Micro-evolution is just a deceptive label placed on adaptation, something observed everywhere in nature. It has no connection to the evolution of life from non-living matter or from one kind of life to another. The new evolutionists are trying to do the same thing with the gap between robotics (Phase I) and super-human computers (Phase II). Super-human AI is only a progressive fantasy. Here is why.

1. Humans acquire and process information and make decisions about that information. A machine can help them do that or do that for them. But humans are also conscious of those informed decisions. Humans are aware of their existence, machines are not. And no amount of information-processing can create awareness.
2. A computer algorithm (a set of instructions used to solve a certain class of problems) has no ethical dimension. Right and wrong choices can be programmed into the algorithm, but it does not have, nor does it have any way of obtaining, a morality developed from a conscience that can make life choices. AI has no conscience, no morality.
3. There are basic life questions every human being has, whether they like it or not. All humans ask: “Who am I?” “Where did I come from?” “Where am I going?” and “Am I significant?” Information can help answer those questions, but it cannot raise the question in the first place. AI has no spirit.
4. AI can focus on solving problems according to a program, but it cannot, on its own, acquire other programs. “Deep Blue” is a chess-playing system of AI that defeated Garry Kasparov for the Chess World Championship in 1997. Deep Blue is considered “a milestone in the history of artificial intelligence.” [[wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep Blue](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Blue)] But Deep Blue cannot play checkers. And Deep Blue cannot learn to play checkers. That would require another program, first directed by a human being with intelligence. AI cannot progress from information to intelligence.

5. AI does not create art forms. Computers do not compose poetry, parables, metaphors, creative paintings, or make jokes which require creative imagination. AI can repeat and choose between programmed interpretations, but it cannot compose creative messages to be interpreted. AI is not creative.
6. AI does not plan its future. AI has no goals, priorities, or values. Any goals determined by AI must be programmed input by an intelligent human giving the machine options to choose from. AI does not dream of its future.
7. AI has no sense of loss or accomplishment. AI has no exhilaration or satisfaction. AI has no sense of disappointment or humiliation. AI has no thrill of victory or agony of defeat. AI can cry or laugh, but it cannot be sad or happy.
8. AI cannot generate information. Information can only come from an informer. One of the basic problems incurred, when trying to solve the origin of life and the human anatomy, is the statistical impossibility of the information coded into our DNA by chance. But even more impossible is to scientifically figure out where that information came from. What we know is that information does not generate itself, it requires an informer. And where it is impossible for human DNA information to originate itself, it is exponentially unreasonable to think that AI could do that.

Phase I Is Consistent with the Bible

Obviously, the characters in the Bible did not use artificial intelligence, but they did use intelligence. They did not have “machines to do functions that we usually associate with a human mind.” But they did have machines, and they did use the technology available.

- Between Adam and Noah we read about some technological development.
Genesis 4:20-22, *Jabal...was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe...Tubal-Cain [was] the forger of all implements of bronze and iron.*
- We do not know how Noah built the ark, but it required some pretty sophisticated tools and machines, including some sort of crane or lifting device.
- Abraham did not invent tents, but he became efficient at using them and developing a large Bedouin community of people using them (Genesis 14:14).
- Isaac learned the technology of farming enough that he *became very wealthy*. And it seems that the Hebrews of his day also became proficient at the technology of digging wells (Genesis 26:12-22).
- Joseph used the technology of Egypt to make Pharaoh, and Egypt, wealthy during the famine he predicted (Genesis 41:53-57).
- Joshua's army was made up of foot soldiers, but they were efficient with the technology available in bows and arrows, swords and shields.
- Solomon used technology we can only imagine in building the Temple and his own palace. In addition, he reported,
Ecclesiastes 2:4-6, *I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees.*
- In the New Testament, the apostles fished from the boats built using the technology of their day. They spread the gospel using the technology of travel by Roman ships, Roman roads, Roman bridges, and viaducts. Even Paul's tent-making utilized the technology of the day. The New Testament churches were identified by the Greek city-states (*the church of God which is at Corinth, the church of the Thessalonians*, etc.), and they gathered in the houses built by the technology of the day.

Phase II Is Contrary to the Bible

In what I have called Phase II, AI imagines a technology that replaces humans with super-human cyborgs and eventually computers that leave humans behind altogether. But the goal is not just to produce a super-human being. If that were the case, then they would credit the biblical authors with already predicting that. It is called the resurrection.

God told Daniel,

Daniel 12:13, *“But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”*

Jesus explained,

Matthew 22:30, *“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”*

The Apostle Paul wrote,

1 Corinthians 15:21-22, *“For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”*

The Bible not only tells us about the availability of a future super-human body, but also how to obtain it.

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, *For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us...*

So if the goal is a future super-human, then the path for that has already been given. But that is not the goal of the Phase II AI progressives. The goal is to deny the Bible, to destroy the influence of the Bible, to create a super-human ourselves that proves we do not need the God of the Bible. The goal is, as Dan Brown put it, to “employ the truth of science to destroy the myth of religion.” [New York Doubleday 2017, p. 53]

Phase II Is Not Found In the Bible

The Bible does tell us some things about the distant future, and there are no super-human cyborgs, or computers, that replace humans.

Isaiah describes a future (Millennial Kingdom) for believing Israel, which includes biological changes, but humans are still humans.

Isaiah 65:20-21, 25, *No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit...The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

Jesus predicted future upcoming events which are difficult and destructive, but His predictions assumed people will be the same kind of people as they are now.

Matthew 24:7, 9-11, *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes ... Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.*

The book of Revelation gives us a picture of the future, which seems to include advanced technology. The second beast, who we sometimes call the false prophet, organizes the building of a image. This *image of the beast* is a specific project to convince people to worship the antichrist. But humans are still humans, subjected to false worship.

Revelation 13:11-15, *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth...telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

The Apostle John also sees a vision of a future battle using what appears to be advanced weaponry. John would, of course, use terms he knows to describe what he saw, but what he saw sounds pretty advanced. But it is the weapons, not the soldiers, that are advanced. John sees no change in the human condition.

Revelation 9:17-19, *And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.*

Both the Apostles Peter and John look into the far distant future, and they see a destruction of this earth by God. Then John tells us about a new heaven and a new earth and a new huge city (reaching higher than our satellites orbit this earth) that sits on the new earth (Revelation 21–22). There are people in that city, nations of people outside that city who can come into the city, and those unbelievers who can never come into it. All these future people seem to be genetically changed, but not by human AI development, but by the fact of their resurrection. There is no evolution to a utopia of cyborgs and super-human computers.

- **2 Peter 3:10**, *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*
- **Revelation 21:1**, *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away,*
- **Revelation 21:24-27**, *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

Conclusion

AI is here to stay, and it will continue to be advanced. It is impossible to ignore. It is neither good nor bad. Condemning it is unnecessary. But like anything in this world, it should never be used to remove glory from God or disobey the Word of God. For example, AI can make it easier to steal, buy drugs, and use pornography, but it can also be used to study the Bible and spread the gospel. AI will also be used to lead people into the mark of the beast, which initiates them into the Satanic future kingdom of the anti-Christ. Use it for whatever is helpful to your mission of being a godly Christian in this godless cosmos. But understand that the current secular, progressive emphasis on AI is not just about using computer technology to improve our quality of life. The secular emphasis is to create a future human utopia, based on humans creating a new advanced superior life form. Why? Because it is against the Bible. Make no mistake about it. Everything the secular progressives want to do is contrary to the Bible. If the Bible says it is right, they say it is wrong. If the Bible says it is wrong, they say it is right. Why do they want to prove they can create a new form of life? Because the Bible says God is the only Creator of life. Phase II AI is all about denying the Bible's claim that God is the Creator.

Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*