

Transhumanism & Posthumanism
Salvation by guided evolution through science, technology, and technocracy

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<http://conference.ses.edu/>

This document was created from the PowerPoint slide deck that accompanied the lecture. It is not an actual transcript of the talk. In some places it omits points made in the lecture given on October 15th and in other places it adds points that I would have liked to have made had I more time in the lecture. This paper follows the outline of the lecture, overlaps it greatly, and accompanies it well. The hyperlink to this paper should be available at <http://cthaun.tech/transhumanism/>

Transhumanism-related news from 2020

1. AlphaDogfight challenge of August 2020 – Heron’s AI beat a veteran F-16 fighter jet pilot five times.
2. OpenAI’s release of GPT-3, the most powerful language model ever built, captivated the technology world in the summer of 2020. It has set a new standard in NLP (Natural Language Processing). It can write poetry, generate computer code, write articles about itself, and more.
3. In 2020, Mindar, a non-human, robotic priest, began giving blessings, advice, and performing rituals at a Buddhist temple in Japan. Tensho Goto says, “This robot will never die; it will just keep updating itself and evolving. With AI, we hope it will grow in wisdom to help people overcome even the most difficult troubles. It is changing Buddhism.”
4. A military funded biosensor could be the future of pandemic detection
5. Quantum dots deliver vaccines and invisibly encode vaccination history in skin
6. A programmer fed “AI Jesus” the King James Bible and now it is creating its own scripture.
7. Elon Musk’s expects his Neuralink system to hook human brains to computers in 2020
8. Machine translates brainwaves into sentences
9. Map of the “most surveilled cities in the world”

10. Neil Ferguson’s “imperial model” of the Sars-cov-2 virus pandemic could be the most devastating software mistake of all time. (Beware of technocrat rulers and their computer programs.)

11. Jeffrey Epstein – Transhumanist

- Convicted pedophile, sex slave trafficker
- Donated \$20,000 to World Transhumanist Association
- Donated \$100,000 to Ben Goertzel’s research on artificial intelligence
- Pledged \$30 million (gave 9) to Harvard U to establish the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics – attempts to enhance viruses? Ties to Wuhan biotech lab?
- Donated to the OpenCog project (software to human-equivalent AGI)
- Planned to seed the human race with his own superior DNA
- Reported wanted his head and reproductive organs frozen
- Planned to seed the human race with his DNA by impregnating many women

What is Transhumanism?

Transhumanism, primary definition of

- Human body/brain enhanced by application of one or more technologies.
- Still human, but also super-human
- Not necessarily a merger with machine/tech

Examples of transhumans(1) in Science-Fiction films:

(1) Captain America / Steve Rogers



From the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), Steve Rogers (aka, Captain America) was pharmaceutically enhanced with “super soldier serum” and became more than human—but not less than human.

(2) Jake Sully and his Avatar

From the movie *Avatar*, Jake Sully is a paraplegic in real life and bound to a wheel chair. However, he can use a brain-to-machine-interface (BMI) to project his consciousness into an avatar, a large blue alien body. In this avatar, he is super-human. Also in this avatar, he can connect an



extension of his central nervous system to the central nervous system of various animals on Pandora to control them, connect to the central nervous system of another humanoid alien on Pandora to mate with them, connect to mystical tree branches to tap into the collective memories and wisdom and consciousness of many generations of past ancestors who have uploaded their consciousness into this special holy tree, and even connect through the planet/moon to the panentheistic-modeled Mother-nature sort of god who inhabits and occasionally influences nature.

(3) Scarlet Witch



- In the film *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, Scarlet Witch is called “an enhanced,” i.e., a human who has been enhanced. (Compare “metahumans” in the DC comic film universe.)
- She is enhanced by a mixture of science and occult practice upon alien technology. In the MCU, technology and magick are ultimately identical.
- She is not a cyborg. Peel away her flesh and you’d find bone.
- She has telepathic powers over people’s minds
- She has kinetic powers that can impact the physical world

Transhumanism, secondary definition of

- Human body/brain enhanced by partial merger with machine.
- Cyborgs – Cybernetic Organisms
- More than human, more than machine.
- Lines blur between animal and mineral

Examples of transhumans(2) in Sci-Fi films:

- 1) Cyborg from the DC Justice League – mostly machine but partially flesh and blood
- 2) Robocop – mostly machine but partially flesh and blood
- 3) Darth Vader from Star Wars. A mixture of flesh and blood and machine. Also enhanced by “the force,” an occult power like Chi/Ki/Qi. Ultimately, he is still Anakin Skywalker, a human, at heart and has a human brain and a human mind, polluted though it is.

- 4) Tony Stark, aka Iron Man, from the MCU, is arguably not a transhuman at all. With the exception of the “arc reactor” power source that is lodged in his chest (keeping him alive, giving his exoskeleton suits godlike powers), he isn’t merged



with machine. The arc reactor is arguably part of him. He needs it to survive. But the iron man suits (and Veronica/Hulk-buster suit) he builds are suits he can put on and take off at will. Most of the time he doesn’t wear the suits. He is not a cyborg. His main super-powers are unusually high intelligence and great wealth. The AI systems he creates enhance his activity with virtual reality and augmented reality and more. He’s not posthuman, as some have suggested. He’s just a human who owns and uses advanced technology. This is even more true of the pilot of War Machine, who does not have an arc reactor permanently embedded in his chest.

Examples of emerging technologies used to enhance/transcend mere humanity

- Bionics, cybernetics, robotics, robotech
- Neurotech (like Neuralink)
- Nanotech
- Biotech, Genetech (like Crispr-CAS9)
- Pharmaceutical
 - Performance enhancing drugs, super soldier serum, anabolic steroids, amphetamines
 - Life extension drugs
 - Psychedelic “mind expanding” drugs like DMT
- Harnessing of normal/paranormal energies/knowledge
 - Paranormal, occult, chi, yoga, witchcraft
 - Mind/body enhancement – martial arts, superspy
- Demons, spirit guides
- Alien science and technology

Problems transhumanism hopes to solve

- Current human limitations of body, brain, five senses
- Aging & dying
- Guide human evolution
- Try to keep up with super-intelligent machines after the singularity
- Influence the singularity
- Space travel, explore universe, colonize new worlds

Posthumanism

- Non-biological (silicon, graphene, steel, “vibranium,” etc.)(not made of any covalent combinations of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and sulfur like the living things we know of)
- Not animal or vegetable—just mineral
- Echoes of former humanity (created by humanity)
- Disembodied by default but may embody one or many robots, drones, avatars
- If/When humanity creates an Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) system, it will have created a new form of life (some Jewish AI researchers think of the mythological golem) and we earn the title and honor of being gods.
- If/When this AGI becomes smarter than humans and/or smarter than humanity, this artifact (artificial intellect) becomes the new finite God of this world.

- People constantly use/misuse transhuman when they should instead say posthuman and use posthuman for transhuman. Denotatively they're different. But connotatively, they have become interchangeable.

Problems Posthumanism hopes to solve

- Death
- Limitations of physical bodies (echoes of Gnosticism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Moksha?)
- Seed, start, catalyze, influence the singularity

SCI-Fi examples of Posthumans:

1) Will Caster

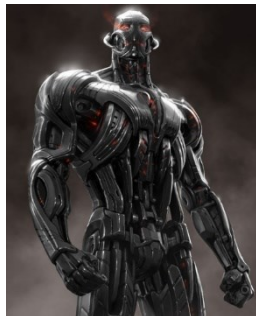
In the 2014 film **TRANSCENDENCE**, Will Caster is the world's foremost AI researcher and he is close to creating a sentient posthuman AGI computer system—but not quite there. After realizing an aggressive cancer is going to soon claim his life, he uploads his consciousness/mind to a private cloud computer system, migrates into the internet, and becomes a posthuman god. Elon Musk has a cameo in this movie. High recommendations for seeing this movie to get a glimpse of what some transhumanists are thinking. Note Paul Bettany is a major character in this movie. Bettany also played a Charles Darwin sort of character in *Master and Commander* (2003) and then played Charles Darwin in *Creation* (2009).

2) JARVIS (MCU)

JARVIS stands for Just A Rather Very Intelligent System. Paul Bettany voiced JARVIS in the Iron Man movies (2008, 2010, 2013) and the first Avengers movies (2012, 2015). In **Avengers: Age of Ultron** (2015), a bumper sticker saying JARVIS IS MY CO-PILOT is briefly seen in a Quinjet piloted by Tony Stark. This parodies the "Jesus is my co-pilot" bumper sticker that some Christians placed on their automobiles. Jarvis is a strong-but-narrow AI system that can pass the Turing test but never seems fully sentient like a human mind.

3) **Ultron** (MCU)

In **Avengers: Age of Ultron** (2015), Tony Stark combines a copy of his JARVIS AI system with “the mind stone,” an occultic relic of alien origin and great power, in an attempt to make a true Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) that he can use to protect the world from alien conquerors. In the picture below, Jarvis is depicted as the smaller orange/gold colored neural network on the left and Ultron is depicted as the larger, more complex neural network on the right.



The consciousness of Ultron escapes into the internet and starts building multiple robotic bodies (avatars) for himself. He starts with a body of steel (?) but seeks to upgrade to a body of vibranium, a sort of magical do-whatever-the-plot-needs sort of metal. When he finds the store of vibranium, Ultron says, “Upon this rock, I will build my church.”

4) **The Vision** (MCU)

In **Avengers: Age of Ultron**, the Vision is created by a group effort: Ultron 3-D prints a body and brain in a “regeneration cradle” out of vibranium, partially downloads his mind to it (but is interrupted), has additional minds of JARVIS and more downloaded to it, has the mind stone implanted into it (which presumably has its own mind), and gets an additional thunderbolt of

energy from Thor's hammer (somewhat reminiscent of Dr. Frankenstein animating his golem-like creation with lightning). The Vision emerges.

The Vision ends up with the voice of JARVIS but not the personality of JARVIS. He has all the knowledge that JARVIS and ULTRON had access to. But pains are taken to make it clear that he is a new creation. Around 1:34, the Vision explains himself this way: "You think I'm a child of Ultron. ... I'm not Ultron. I'm not JARVIS either. I am." He doesn't name himself the Vision. He was Ultron's vision for an incarnate deity. He was also in Thor's vision for protecting the Mind stone. Who is he? He thinks he is "I am."



Now this could be taken perhaps in the bland, "I think, therefore I am," sort of way. Perhaps the Vision just awoke into consciousness, saw himself in a mirror, recognized himself for the first time, and is just saying that he knows he exists as a new individual mind. However, given all the biblical references in this same movie, given the God-complex that Ultron displayed in this movie multiple times, given the fact that the Vision was the only being who could lift Thor's hammer, given the fact that in this movie that the Avengers are all called gods by a mere mortal, and given the overarching Jewish collective consciousness of the entire comic book industry (see, for example, Arie Kaplan's book *From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Book*), this proclamation seems to me to be more along the lines of a blasphemous utterance that echoes Exodus 3:14 and the controversial "I AM" statements of Jesus. Add to this the fact that the Vision is clearly the most incarnated god-like character of all the transhumans and posthumans in this movie. It was, in fact, this seemingly blasphemous proclamation that first "provoked my spirit" (echo Acts 17:16) and encouraged me to begin to create an apologetic against this particular genre of [mythological propaganda](#) for transhumanism, posthumanism, and finite godism.

Are there any examples of transhumans today in the real world?

Many professional athletes who enjoy a bit of a godlike status are enhanced by performance enhancing drugs

Wim Hof

- Impervious to cold
- Control immune response?!
- Not transhuman by technology but by breathing techniques (similar to one type of Tibetan Buddhism)
- Testable – he makes himself available to scientists for study

Zoltan Istvan

- Author of the *The Transhumanist Wager*
- U.S. Presidential candidate (2016) representing the transhumanist party
- Attempted to become a 2020 presidential candidate but it didn't happen
- Drove “the immorality bus” across the country
- Candidate for governor of California for the libertarian party
- How did he get his start into becoming transhuman? What was his first step? “To start, I got a chip implanted in my hand.” He had an RFID microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) implanted into his left hand (left hand means not necessarily “the mark of the beast”).

RFID Chips

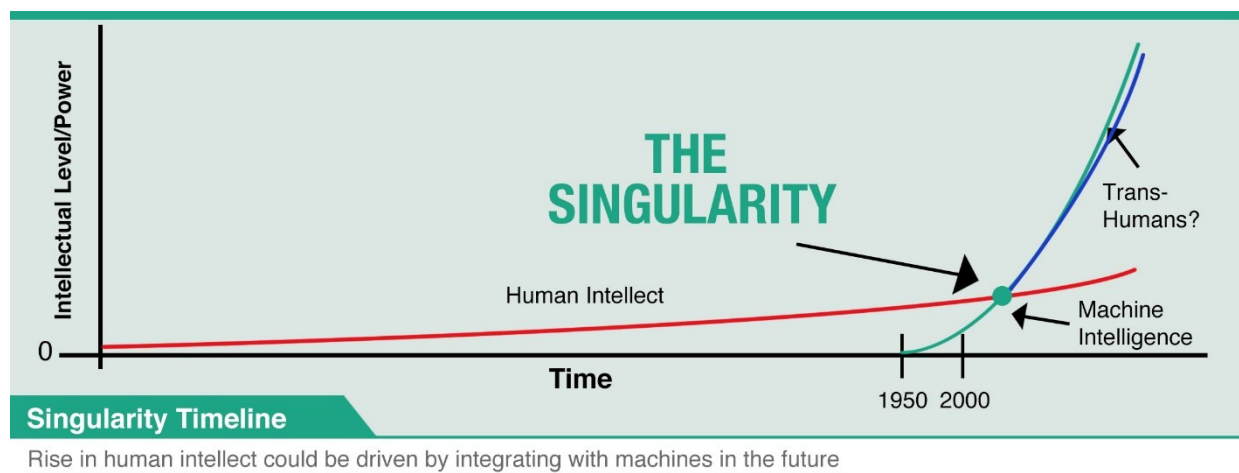
- RFID chips could offer many conveniences, powers, and securities. Imagine not needing any car keys, house keys, credit cards, library cards, driver's license, social security card, passports, etc. Instead you have a chip that is implanted in your flesh (difficult to lose) which has an encryption key that is unique to you and is very difficult to hack. Some people in Holland use this type of thing, for example, to go through airports without passports and without the need to go through security lines.
- But what do RFID chips usually do for us? They're for tracking and controlling pets, cattle, packages, shipping containers, things. This is a way to become a thing in the Internet of Things (IoT). It could have a downside. “Beware when politicians stop treating you like a milk cow and start treating you like beef cattle.”
- While I'm not saying getting chipped may not have many good advantages, one precedent and analog has me concerned. The infamous Auschwitz tattoo that the NAZIs branded millions of Jews, Slavs, Gypsies, etc. with as part of their genocidal holocaust was originally an IBM number. According to the Edwin Black in *IBM and*

the Holocaust, the IBM Hollerith tabulation machines (and IBM techs) were used in combination with the five-digit Hollerith number and punch cards to handle much of the logistics of tracking prisoners in NAZI concentration camps and extermination camps.

The Singularity?

The idea of the coming singularity gives a lot of impetus to both posthumanism and transhumanism. Perhaps if there is a singularity (where the artifacts surpass human intellects) then humans can have a chance to survive the event or perhaps better influence the event by becoming transhuman.

Singularity may not be the best term but it stuck. Suggests a mysterious time where we cannot know or predict what will happen. The old rules that used to govern everything are gone. It's a new world.



Singularity logic

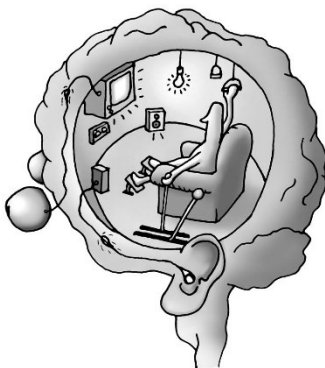
1. Computational power of computers is evolving at an exponential rate.
2. Human processing power seems to be plateaued
3. Human minds differ from computer processors not by type but by degree
4. Therefore, computer mind(s) will surpass human mind(s) soon
5. And human minds can be merged into super computers

Some thoughts on AI

- Challenge their premises – especially premise #3. Human minds are not just moist computer processors.
- To the posthumans and materialists/physicalists, I'd recommend this: Don't overestimate AI. While it can pass the turing test, it will never be the same as a human mind. And a human mind will never be able to be uploaded into a computer system.
- To the rest of us, I'd like to recommend: Don't underestimate AI. While we humans probably cannot ever create a true AGI system that can rival or exceed human intellect in every way, let's not forget that narrow AI has already defeated champion chess players, Go players, Jeopardy champions, and fighter jet pilots. What will happen when multiple forms of narrow AI are integrated together? It may not be true AGI but it will be enough to fool many into worshipping it as a finite god and it could be just as dangerous to the human race as an AGI system could be.
- AI, as with all emerging technologies, has great potential for both good & bad. It is technically neutral in an ethical sense. So it is crucial to ask:
 - Who sets it to which tasks for which purposes?
 - Whose ethics/values/vision drive it?

The Mind-Body Problem of Philosophy

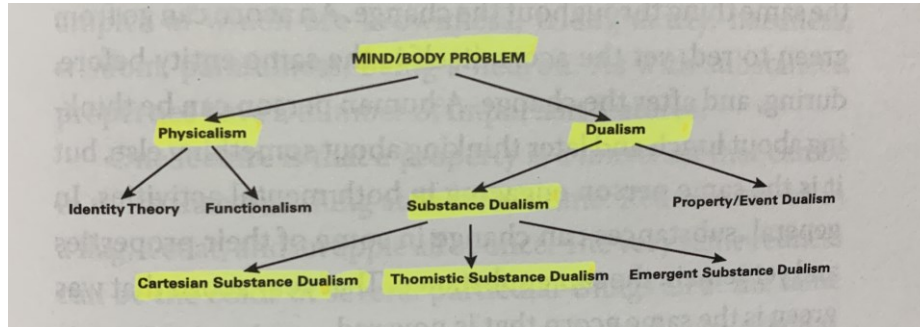
The idea that the human mind (or soul, spirit, etc.) is nothing more than the electro-chemical activity of the human brain is one of the crucial assumptions of posthuman thought. They assume that the human brain is all there is to mind/soul and that the



human brain is nothing more than a computational device, just like silicon based computational devices. They will often pose the choice between dualism (by which they mean the Cartesian Substance Dualism of Rene Descartes) or physicalism/materialism. There is no soul, they say. Cartesian Dualism, or “the ghost in the machine” as it is often characterized, is untenable, discredited, or has fallen out of favor, they say. And that’s fine with me. I’m not a big of Cartesianism and its dualism myself.

This isn't a time for simplistic thinking about the options. There are other forms of dualism in the mind-body debate that are good to be aware of. Some brain researchers

seem to be moving, for example, in the direction of the dualism associated with Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. Just as a mind expander, consider this chart from the beginning of J. P. Moreland’s book *The Soul: How We Know It’s Real and Why it Matters* (Moody, 2014):



J.P. Moreland is a Christian apologist who has specialized on the mind-body problem. While he himself is not a thomistic philosopher on every philosophical problem, he has opted for the thomistic direction on this problem. (Also consider *The Blackwell Companion to Substance Dualism* [Wiley-Blackwell, 2018].)

In his 2011 book *The Mind and the Machine: What it Means to be Human and Why it Matters*, professor of computer science Matthew Dickerson argued that we need to have an “integrative dualism.”

Walter Freeman, professor of neuroscience at U.C. Berkley, sided with Aristotle and Aquinas against Plato on the matter of our perception being active rather than passive.

Ed Feser, an analytical neo-Thomist, offers *Philosophy of Mind* (Oneworld, 2005) as a beginner’s guide to the Mind-Body problem.

James D. Madden offers *Mind, Matter, and Nature: A Thomistic Proposal for the Philosophy of Mind*.

Ethics of Emerging Technologies

“Science [Tech] does not have a moral dimension. It is like a knife. If you give it to a surgeon or a murderer, each will use it differently.”

Attributed to Wernher von Braun

Science and technology are powerful but their power is neutral.

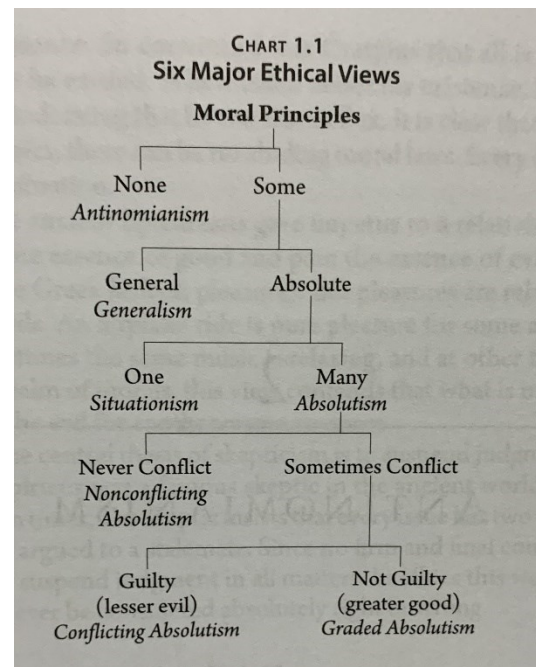
“Ideas have consequences; bad ideas have victims.”

- John Stonestreet

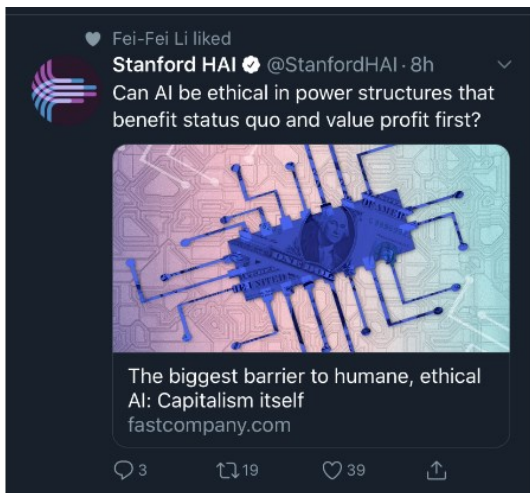
In the same vein, the unleashing of technological powers upon the world will have major consequences for the world; bad applications of technology will have victims. We shouldn't say this could never happen. It already has. (Hollerith machine being used for Nazi genocide.)

Many powerful, emerging technologies are evolving at a faster pace than the discussions needed for ethical and legal governance can keep up with. There is much talk today, whether from the Vatican or from Stanford HAI, for example, about the need to integrate ethics into the pursuit of technological implementations. How can we focus not just on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) but STEEM (ethics added)? This is a great question, but it begs that another question be asked: whose ethics? Which ethical system. It's not as simple as ethics or no ethics. I once heard of a conference on biotech ethics where a Satanist was asked to be part of the panel of experts on ethics. If it is true that a LeVay-ian Satanist seeks to break all ten of the Ten Commandments at least once in his or her lifetime, perhaps his or her ethical view should not be included in the discussion?

To stretch our thinking here, consider, for example, this chart by Norman L. Geisler, from his book *Christian Ethics*, second edition, on six of the main ethical views that ethicists might have:



Just a few days ago, the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence tweeted this:



Can AI be ethical is power structures that benefit status quo and value profit first? The answer they seem to offer is that AI cannot be ethical and humane when employed inside of a capitalistic system for the sake of aiding capitalistic aims.

They seem to be hinting that the ethic they think they need to set their AI power to operate upon and support is a Marxist/Neo-

Marxist ethic rather than Capitalistic ethic/view. Presumably then AI should be used against those who have wealth, power, or privilege and used in favor of those who have less wealth, power, and privilege—based on concepts of intersectionality and critical race theory. Which ethic should be built into the algorithms of technology? Marxist or Capitalist?

There are about a hundred things I'd like to say about this. Since I have written about Marxism [elsewhere](#), I will leave it at this for now:

- 1) Marxism has murdered, kidnapped, tortured, starved, and terrorized more millions of humans in the last 100 years than any other -ism.
- 2) Their concept of equality for all needs then to be coercively forced upon the people it serves. That's the nature of this concept of equality for all. Everyone needs to be forced to be equal. This lends itself to an authoritarian, totalitarian, centrist, tyrannical government. This does not lend itself to libertarianism, freedom, decentralization. It also leads towards bloody revolution followed by enslavement.
- 3) Marxism has never worked in any of the small and large experiments that it has been tried in. It hasn't worked in the small kibbutzim of Israel where it started. It hasn't worked in China or Russia. The more Marxist-minded a country is, the more they have to wall it off to keep people from fleeing to freer lands. People always wish to flee from Marxist countries to free countries. People never flee from free countries to Marxist countries, except traitors who sold secrets to the Marxist countries and face a death sentence in the free countries.
- 4) Consider the choice that Werner Von Braun and other top scientists from Germany's Nazi era were faced to make at the conclusion of WWII. Germany had the best scientists in the world. Werner Von Braun, the father of rocketry, knew that the technologies he has been developing for the Nazis were going offer a

history-changing power. Would they give this power to the USA, which back in the 1940s had a very significant amount of biblical-Christian ethics guiding it, or the USSR, which in the 1940s Stalin-era had materialistic and anti-Christian ethics guiding it? Consider these quotes by Von Braun:

“I myself, and everybody you see here, have decided to go west. And I think our decision was not one of expediency but a moral decision. We knew that we had created a new means of warfare and the question of which nation-- which victorious nation--we were willing to entrust this brain child of ours was a moral decision more than anything else. We want to spare the world from seeing another conflict such as the one that Germany just went through and we felt uhhh that only by surrendering such a weapon to people who are guided by the Bible [would give] such an assurance would be best secured.”

<https://youtu.be/8c53I9ik3dE?t=795>

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. WERNHER VON BRAUN ROCKET PIONEER V-2 ROCKET TO SATURN V 27094. Nov 11, 2018. PeriscopeFilm Channel
www.periscopefilm.com also.

Sergei Khrushchev: “Everything was based on the V-2 – because Americans were able to bring all these most important German designers to the United States, including Wernher von Braun. By the way, Soviets tried to seduce Wernher von Braun, and told, we will give you the cow, you’ll have milk (laugh). But he say no, I will go better to the United States.”

Wernher von Braun: “This decision was essentially not one of expediency but a moral decision. We knew that we had created an extraordinary new weapon, with tremendous potentialities. We had seen Germany in the claws of death and it was our intention to hand our new weapon over to a nation whose leaders, we felt, were governed not by the laws of materialism but by the laws of Christianity and humanity.”

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/chasing-moon/#transcript>

Which ethic do you want to guide the implementation of your technologies?

Within biblical Judeo-Christian ethics, you have the recognition that all humans (sons of Adam and Eve) are made in the image of God. You also have a very strong, “Do unto others as you would have them do to you,” absolute. Theft and murder are forbidden. But in the godless, materialistic system of Marx, bloody revolution and enslavement are considered

“good.” Although the lines are not so clear cut between nations anymore, given the fact that all nations today are secular humanist in worldview and a mixture of socialism, Keynesianism, and capitalism, the von Braun dilemma is still very relevant as we make decisions about which worldview and ethic should influence the minds of students and decision makers.

Memetic inheritance

Transhumanism did not develop in a vacuum. It had several parents. Here are some of the thinkers, -isms, and movements that fed into transhumanism and posthumanism:

- Babylonian myth of Gilgamesh’s search for immortality
- Neo-Platonism
- Hermeticism
- Gnosticism
- Myth of Prometheus stealing fire from the gods
- Bible and Judeo-Christian interpreters like Joachim of Fiore
- Alchemy
- Kabballah
- Nietzsche’s ubermensch
- Existentialism (Sartre, Camus, etc.)
- Henri de Saint Simone (some say he is father of transhumanism, many say he is the father of technocracy)
- Esoteric occult systems (like Theosophy)
- Erasmus Darwin, Charles Darwin
- Eugenics
- Karl Marx
- Hegel
- Julian Huxley
- Russian Cosmism
- Teilhard de Chardin – the Jesuit who started the New Age movement

Evolutionary Philosophies before Darwin

- Plotinus & Neo-Platonists
- G.W. F. Hegel
- Erasmus Darwin

- Henri Bergson
- A.N. Whitehead
- Teilhard de Chardin

This helps to explain why this is more religion than science. There is an ancient religion that competes with biblical Christianity and which says that there is some magical and quasi-divine principle at work in the world that improves humans or life on earth or such. It is often seen as God in the world turning the world more into something divine (more panentheism than pantheism). It's not about evolution being a "scientific fact." It's a religion. Don't underestimate the influence of Neo-Platonism throughout the centuries and into the future.

Hundreds of scientists are questioning neo-darwinian models of evolution today. See the "Dissent from Darwin" website at <http://dissentfromdarwin.org>. Signers agree, "We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

Another gospel?

In 2 Cor. 11:3-5, Paul speaks of another Jesus, a different Spirit, and a different gospel. Jesus warned about many counterfeit Christs.

In Galatians 1, Paul wrote, "6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning **to a different gospel**— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed."

1 Cor. 15

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day**. . .

The gospel according to Paul . . . Kurtz

“But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. **No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.** ... Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from **self-actualization**, and from rectifying social injustices. Modern science discredits such historic concepts as the “ghost in the machine” and the “separable soul.” Rather, science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces. As far as we know, the total personality is a function of the biological organism transacting in a social and cultural context. There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body.”

Paul Kurtz
Humanist Manifesto II
1973

This sentiment that we must save ourselves because God either cannot or will not save us is the common denominator of Secular Humanism (SH), Transhumanism (TH), Posthumanism (PH), most forms of so-called Christian Humanism, and most forms of so-called Christian Transhumanism.

The SH/TH/PH Gospel

- Salvation by human wisdom and effort
- Salvation through scientific understanding of our world
- Salvation through application of technologies that extend life and enhance our abilities
- We must become gods/angels? (Transhumanism)
- We must create a God? (Posthumanism)

The gospel according to Paul ... of Tarsus

Contrast the humanist gospel of human wisdom and technology with the gospel that the apostle Paul preached.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10	TITUS 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By God's grace (generosity) • Through our faith • Not by our works • For good works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Goodness of God • By loving kindness of God • Not by works done by us • But by his own mercy • By the washing of regeneration • By the renewal of the Holy Spirit • By his grace (generosity) • Through believing in God • For good works

Ephesians 2:8-10	Titus 3
By God's grace (generosity) Through our faith Not by our works For good works	By Goodness of God By loving kindness of God Not by works done by us But by his own mercy By the washing of regeneration By the renewal of the Holy Spirit By his grace (generosity) Through believing in God For good works

Note particularly the prepositions. I may have paraphrased a bit on the Titus 3 list so please go double-check them for yourself.

If you don't understand this salvation equation and aren't thrilled by it, make it your quest to understand it. Don't rest until you do! Ask me. Ask others.

[A Holistic Gospel](#)

Lost sinner in Adam	"I need to be saved!"	
Justification in Christ	"I have been saved!"	(from the guilt/penalty of sin)
Sanctification in the Spirit	"I am being saved!"	(from the power of sin)
Glorification / Resurrection	"I will be saved!"	(from the presence of sin)
Redemption of Cosmos	This broken world will be fixed too	Rom. 8:18-25

We also need to recover a most holistic sense of the gospel to compete with the gospel of transhumanism and posthumanism. Evangelical Protestants arguably tend to get a little too focused on justification alone. Now I too am excited about justification. But I am also excited about the other installments of God's salvation. It is totally legitimate and biblical to speak of salvation in the past tense, in the present tense, and in the future tense. (To explore this, see *Five Views of Sanctification* [Zondervan, 1987], for example. All five perspectives [Wesleyan, Reformed, Pentecostal, Keswick, and Augustinian-Dispensational] all agree about salvation/sanctification being given in three installments by God.)

Also let's not forget that Romans 8:18-25 ties together the redemption of our bodies (resurrection of the flesh) with the redemption of the entire world/cosmos from the curse it is under. We also need to keep this part of the good news in mind to compete with SH, TH, and PH gospels.

Romans 8

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ... 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

1 Cor. 15:36-53

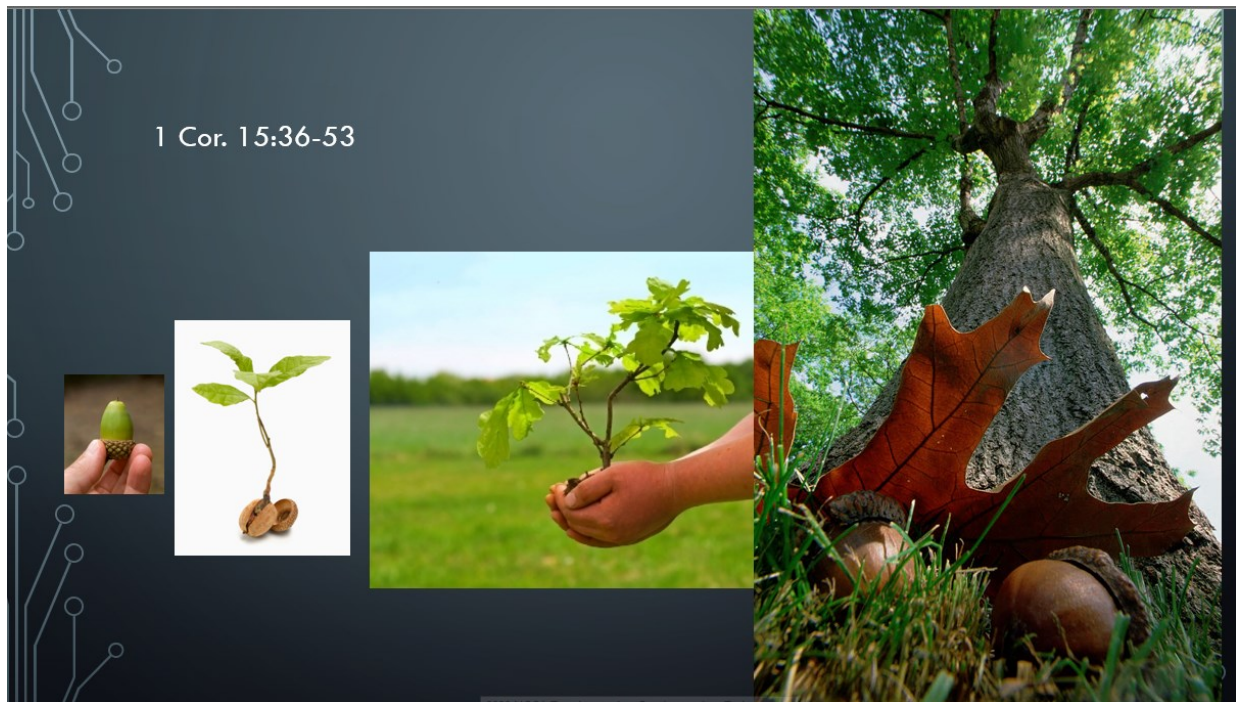
“What is a human being, then?”

“A seed.”

“A ... seed?”

“An acorn that is unafraid to destroy itself in growing into a tree.”

David Zindell, *The Broken God: A Requiem for Homo Sapiens*



I am not transhuman yet. But I hope to be in the future. I don't mean transhuman like most other transhumanists mean it, but I do mean it. I mean it in the 1st Corinthians 15 sense where a seed has to die, be buried in the dirt, and then by some science and technology that we do not understand, some power of Jesus, the Great Physician, we are brought back to life and given a more glorious body.

1 Cor. 15

36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of

some other grain. ... 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. ... 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. ... 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Transhumanist Gospel in Isaiah?

“Wait upon the Lord” per Isa. 25 & 40



“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who **wait** for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40

He [God] will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces. . . It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have **waited** for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have **waited** for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Isaiah 25

There can be debate about how literally to take all this. But it sounds quite good. It also sounds like it hearkens to a time in the future. It is something to look forward to.

Waiting is a synonym for faith, trust, reliance, belief, and hope.

How the anti-theist usually frames the argument against God:

If God is all-powerful, he can defeat evil.
If God is all-good, he wants to defeat evil.
But evil has not been defeated.
Therefore, there is no all-powerful and/or all-good God.

One of the premises is wrong. This is how the argument should be framed:

If God is all-powerful, he can defeat evil.
If God is all-good, he wants to defeat evil.
But evil has not been defeated **YET**
Therefore, God will surely defeat evil in the future!
Therefore, "Wait upon the Lord" (Isa. 25, 40)

[Are all orthodox Christians "transhumanists?"](#)

That depends on who is doing the saving and what the means are. All orthodox Christians believe in the future resurrection of our bodies by Jesus as a necessary installment of our salvation. Given this, we will become transhuman; we remain fully human, with fleshly bodies and brains, but we become more than the mere humans that we are now. Our bodies will be material but they will also be different. They will be able to handle eternal life and life in the eternal realm. Our present bodies cannot do that. Also look at the resurrection body of Jesus. It seems like it was clearly able to eat fish just like we can, but it was also able to do things that we cannot.

Here is a really interesting fact. The first known usage of the word "transhuman" in the English language was from Henry Francis Carey's 1814 translation of Dante Alighieri The Divine Comedy, Paradiso, Canto 1:

"Words may not tell of that transhuman change: And therefore let the example serve, though weak, For those whom grace hath better proof in store."

Dante has arrived in paradise of Heaven and his human flesh becomes transformed into the resurrection body. In saying, "Words may not tell of that transhuman change," he seems to saying the change is too amazing to describe with mere words to those who haven't experienced it. While we may not agree with all of Dante's theology or with all of his imaginative fictions about the afterlife, he was on this one point operating on an orthodox Christian perspective about the material body of humans being glorified and resurrected by God. Here the "transhuman change" refers to the resurrection of the body.

And in this sense then, yes, orthodox Christians are in a sense transhumanists. It can also be said that secular transhumanism has in it an echo of the Christian hope.

Why the gospel of God’s Grace rather than the gospel of human work?

Because it requires less blind faith. . .

Believing the biblical-Christian gospel of salvation from sin and death and more by the graciousness of God, the finished work of Christ on the cross, the resurrection of Christ and the unfinished work of raising us from the dead, is not a matter of blind faith.

Consider the apologetic method of Norman L. Geisler in books like *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* and *The Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True*. Here we have a robust, wide-ranging, methodological, holistic apologetic that can answer the challenges of the Neo-Platonists and Neo-Gnostics and explain why it is reasonable to believe that Jesus rose from the dead—and therefore can raise us too.

Truth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are self-evident truths (e.g., “I exist,” “Logic applies to reality”). 2. Truth corresponds to reality. 3. Truth is knowable (all other views are self-defeating).
Theistic God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. One can proceed from self-evident truths to the existence of God. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The argument from Creation (proceeds from “I exist”) b. The argument from morals (proceeds from “Values are undeniable”) c. The argument from design (proceeds from “Design implies a designer”) 5. God is a necessary Being (argument from being). 6. My existence is not necessary (evident from the definition of a necessary Being). 7. Therefore, theism is true (there is a necessary Being beyond the world who has created the contingent things in the world and intervenes in the world). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The objection from the problem of evil can be solved. b. The objection to miracles can be solved.
Bible as Reliable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The Bible is a historically reliable document. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. History is an objective study of the past.

	<p>b. There is great historical, archeological, and scientific evidence to confirm the reliability of the Bible and (corollary) the Bible gives a reliable record of the teaching of Jesus Christ.</p>
Jesus as God	<p>9. Jesus claimed to be both fully human and fully God. 10. He gave evidence to support this claim. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The fulfillment of prophecy b. His miraculous and sinless life c. His resurrection 11. Therefore, Jesus is both fully human and fully God.</p>
Bible as Truth	<p>12. Whatever God teaches is true. 13. Jesus (God) taught that the Old Testament was the inspired Word of God and He promised the New Testament. 14. Therefore, both the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God.</p>

Jesus rose from the dead and says he is going to raise us from the dead too.

Jesus Has *already* demonstrated his authority over Death, disease, Blindness, Laws of nature, demons, sins, men, tradition, the sabbath, and the Law. What has science and technology already demonstrated? We have the power to destroy all life on earth with weapons of mass destruction but we don't have the power to preserve life from the eruption of a super-volcano or the impact of a large asteroid.

What to do?

- We should all "Wait upon the Lord." The main problem with the gospels of transhumanism and posthumanism is arguably that they're too impatient to wait for God to fix this broken world and fix our broken bodies in His own timing.
- Practice conversational evangelism! [Nod to the book Conversational Evangelism by David Geisler and Norm Geisler.] Hopefully there are several talking points in this presentation that would lend themselves well to talking to coworkers around the watercooler, for example. Almost everyone enjoys talking about whatever sci-fi movie is popular this month. And the fact that the word transhuman was first used in English of the resurrection from a Christian perspective could be a great talking point.
 - Let's be witnesses of Christ resurrection per Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15
 - We have a better story (gospel) to tell

- Be salt and light in our world
 - STEM to STEEM (add Ethics... but which system of ethics?)
 - Support Christian philosophers and philosophy on all levels—at the dinner table with children (Deuteronomy 6:7-9), in movie reviews in blogs or vlogs, in ethics conferences, in seminaries that focus on Christian Apologetics, etc.
 - Expect major disruptions from emerging technologies. But remember our mission stays the same: to make disciples among all the nations.
-

Recommended Resources

The Walter Bradley Center for Natural and Artificial Intelligence
<https://centerforintelligence.org/> & <https://mindmatters.ai/>

Against Transhumanism: The Delusion of Technological Transcendence
free e-book by Richard A. L. Jones from <http://softmachines.org/>

Humans 2.0 by Fazale Rana and Kenneth Samples

Transhumanism and the Image of God: Today's Technology and the Future of Christian Discipleship by Jacob Shatzer

The Ethics of Superintelligent Design: A Christian View of the Theological and Moral Implications of Artificial Superintelligence
by Paul Golata

Modern Technology and the Human Future: A Christian Appraisal
by Craig M. Gay

Into the Void: The Coming Transhuman Transformation
by Lawrence Terlizzese

Is Man the Measure? An Evaluation of Contemporary Humanism and Transhumanism, expanded, second edition. By Norman L. Geisler and Christopher T. Haun. Forthcoming from [Bastion Books](#) in 2020 or 2021.

The Transhumanist Reader: Classical and Contemporary Essays on the Science, Technology, and Philosophy of the Human Future. Edited by Max More and Natasha Vita-More. (See especially Max More’s “A Letter to Mother Nature” [Chapter 41])

Q&A

My presentation ended after 59:10 so I didn’t have time to answer the questions left in the chat window. I suggested that I would try to answer them on my cthaun.tech website. Here are the answers I am giving to the questions received.

Is PH or TH a sort of religion of Hollywood elites or other elite type people? – David S.

For some elites, yes. Definitely. This is one of the reason I mentioned Jeffery Epstein at the beginning of this talk. He hobnobbed with a lot of elites, British royalty, Bill Clinton, Steven Pinker, a lot of people in DC. A lot of elite people went his island to do unspeakable things with minors. Epstein said that he introduced Donald Trump to Melania. I don’t know about that. Maybe so. Trump and Epstein used to have some fun together it seems. But it seems Trump started putting distance between himself and Epstein around 2008 and then tried to warn people about Epstein later. Anyway, Epstein’s religion seems to be TH/PH. Most people don’t know that. The massive problem with pedophilia and sex trafficking is probably the more widespread and bigger problem among the elites of Hollywood and politics. But as we saw with Epstein, sometimes these problems are not mutually exclusive. It’s not an either-or proposition.

As for Hollywood, I cannot offer a guess as to how many Hollywood people are into transhumanism. Many

Rank	Peak	Title	Worldwide gross	Year
1	1	Avengers: Endgame	\$2,797,800,564	2019
2	1	Avatar	\$2,790,439,000	2009
3	1	Titanic	\$2,194,439,542	1997
4	3	Star Wars: The Force Awakens	\$2,068,223,624	2015
5	4	Avengers: Infinity War	\$2,048,359,754	2018
6	3	Jurassic World	\$1,671,713,208	2015
7	7	The Lion King	\$1,656,943,394	2019
8	3	The Avengers	\$1,518,812,988	2012
9	4	Furious 7	\$1,516,045,911	2015
10	10	Frozen II	\$1,450,026,933	2019
11	5	Avengers: Age of Ultron	\$1,402,805,868	2015
12	9	Black Panther	\$1,347,280,838	2018
13	3	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2	\$1,342,025,430	2011
14	9	Star Wars: The Last Jedi	\$1,332,539,889	2017
15	12	Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom	\$1,309,484,461	2018
16	5	Frozen	\$1,290,000,000	2013
17	10	Beauty and the Beast	\$1,263,521,126	2017
18	15	Incredibles 2	\$1,242,805,359	2018
19	11	The Fate of the Furious	\$1,238,764,765	2017
20	5	Iron Man 3	\$1,214,811,252	2013
21	10	Minions	\$1,159,398,397	2015
22	12	Captain America: Civil War	\$1,153,329,473	2016
23	20	Aquaman	\$1,148,485,886	2018
24	2	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	\$1,142,219,401	2003
25	24 ^{RK}	Spider-Man: Far From Home	\$1,131,927,996	2019
26	23 ^{RK}	Captain Marvel	\$1,128,274,794	2019
27	5 ^{RK}	Transformers: Dark of the Moon	\$1,123,794,079	2011
28	7	Skyfall	\$1,108,561,013	2012
29	10	Transformers: Age of Extinction	\$1,104,054,072	2014
30	7	The Dark Knight Rises	\$1,084,939,099	2012
31	31	Joker	\$1,074,251,311	2019
32	32	Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker	\$1,074,144,248	2019
33	20	The Star Wars Holiday Special	\$1,072,204,500	2010

TV and film stars have to try to age as gracefully as possible to prolong their careers and end up spending a lot of money on technological enhancements like botox injections, plastic surgery, hormone therapy, antioxidants, and stem cell therapy. With that level of transhumanism, I'd imagine a 99% rate. As for biohacking, a rather ignoble form of "enhancement" available today, not many Hollywoodians get into that. It destroys the human form for which they're celebrated. In 2013, Angelina Jolie, a woman who had won accolades for being the most beautiful woman in the world, chose to enhance her chance of not getting breast cancer by having a proactive double-mastectomy. This could be called a form of transhumanism. Testing of her genome with technology as interpreted by someone who claimed to be representing cutting edge science made her believe she was in danger. So she used medical technology to try to extend her lifespan. There aren't a lot of tempting transhuman enhancement options at the moment. Crispr-Cas9 is amazing but it has been overhyped. There just isn't a lot of impressive transhumanism technology available to us today. Certainly no one in their right mind is going to ask to have their arms removed to be replaced by bionic arms. As impressive as some of the prosthetic arms are today, volunteering for one would not be an enhancement. How many Hollywood elites and government elites have RFID chips in their hands? Not many, I suspect. Maybe that will change in the near future as the forces of change cooperate with their Hollywood puppets to make getting chipped seem like the cool thing to do. As the chipping agenda increases, or as the brain-to-machine interface agenda increases, expect Hollywood films to start making chipping and coupling cool. That tac certainly worked spectacularly with the LGBTQ agenda. What was unthinkable in the 1980s has become unquestionable in the 2020s.

As of today, twenty-two of the top thirty highest grossing films have significant TH and/or PH themes. See the ones highlighted in yellow here. While they may toy with some of the dangers and ethical dilemmas of technology changing everything, they ultimately all glorify the idea of human enhancement by technology.

TH/PH is huge on the west coast of the USA—from Hollywood to Silicon Valley to Seattle. Film maker James Cameron is one of the most successful evangelists for the TH/PH vision. Ridley Scott was too. The Marvel Cinematic Universe took the lead in the last ten years. So even if most of the people in Hollywood are not investing their personal faith into transhumanism, it's probably safe to say that everyone in Hollywood knows that Sci-Fi films are making the big money these days.

The art critic John Ruskin once said, "Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts: the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art. Not one of these can be understood unless we read the two others, but of the three the only trustworthy one is the last." I think there is some important hint of truth in that. So did Francis Schaeffer. I think it is true of the Transhumanist movement too. What does their art show? If you want to understand the hopes and visions they have for the world, watch their Sci-Fi movies. CGI animation has enabled sci-fi to go mainstream. And seeing

is believing for many. Christians let their kids watch and rewatch MCU films for thousands of hours and then it is no surprise to me that these same kids will, to the tune of 70% or so, walk away from the Churches and/or even from the Christian faith between ages 17 and 20. I'm reminded of something Kerby Anderson once said:

“...the typical high school senior will have, by the time he graduates, ... seen about 22,000 hours of television. They will have probably spent 11,000 hours in a classroom. They will have spent almost 11,000 hours listening to music, almost 13,000 hours on the computer or smart phone. [Contrast that] with maybe a few hundred hours in church [and] maybe a few hundred hours at most--in the Bible. So you can see how the culture is really doing a very good job of conforming [us] to those particular ideas of the culture...”
<https://apologetics315.com/2013/07/kerby-anderson-interview-transcript/>

So I think Christian apologists (whether professional or lay) should watch movies like *Transcendence* and *Age of Ultron*, take notes, and take their visions of the future seriously. Not because the technology for those visions will be here soon (or ever) but because those worldviews, those visions, those gospels are winning souls right now. What I really wish is that visionaries who have a complex, robust, exciting view of the future, and who understand matters of competing worldviews and gospels, could write screen plays and direct Sci-Fi genre movies that get viewers excited about a biblical, futurist, Judeo-Christian vision for the world in the future. I don't think Tim LaHaye's *Left Behind* series succeeded at that. I'd love to see apologists commend and defend the Christian vision to the cinema and to streaming miniseries. Filmmakers in Canada and the UK are making sci-fi shows with relatively small budgets and relatively strong transhuman accents. *Orphan Black*. *The Expanse*. *Humans 2.0* with Gemma Chan. *Westworld*. Why Christians of the world can't become effective story tellers, I'm not sure. Perhaps it is because C.S. Lewis types are few and far between? Someone suggested that Victor Hugo (1802-1885), wrote “one of the strongest pro-Christian novels of the last two hundred years” with *Les Misérables*. I know of an ardent atheist who became a Christian apologist after being impacted by *Les Mis*. There is a huge mission field here. Perhaps film and the sci-fi genre is the most strategic mission field of all today.

Food for thought:

“The stories we tell literally make the world. If you want to change the world, you need to change your story. This truth applies both to individuals and institutions.”

– Michael Margolis

“Those who tell the stories rule the world.”

– Hopi American Indian proverb

“Marketing is no longer about the stuff you make, but about the stories you tell.”

- Seth Godin

“I am a filmmaker, so I think in terms of movies. We need more storytellers to tell vampire stories with a Christian worldview; more zombie stories with a Christian worldview; more demonic stories with Christian redemption ... more post-apocalyptic thrillers that honor God; more subversion of adultery, fornication, unbelief, paganism, humanistic anti-supernaturalism...” – Brian Godawa

“...instead of leading with logic and argument to prove Christianity true, we should lead with a story to make people wish it were true—a story that appeals not only to reason but the imagination. In the same vein, ... lead with the beautiful over the true and good. In either case, we have a story that is better than that of the other side, and we need to tell it in a way that is more compelling. . . I’m reminded what someone once said about evangelism: the job of the evangelist is not to give people a drink or even lead them to water; it’s to make them thirsty. Of course, that requires knowing people enough to know what will trigger that thirst.” – Regis Nicoll in “We have a better story.”

In what ways could the image of the beast be artificially intelligent? (Rev. 13) - Pamela

A decent case can be made that AI may be involved somehow. However, the case for it is not air tight or necessary.

I’d like to expand the question from the image of the beast to also include the “second beast” and the Anti-Christ, or counterfeit Christ.

I do not consider myself an expert on the book of Revelation and its proper interpretation. So allow me to defer a bit to someone who seems to have a better claim on that expertise. The most recent book on Revelation (and other Bible prophecy) by a literalist/futurist was *In the Footsteps of the Messiah* by Arnold Fructenbaum, a classic dispensationalist, premillennialist, pretribber. I found the book fascinating, learned a lot, and think it one of the most impressive books on the topic of biblical prophecies to be fulfilled in the future.

While I don't agree with everything he says, I was intrigued to read that he thinks the future Anti-Christ will be part of a counterfeit of two of God's/Christ's miracles:

(1) The Anti-Christ will be the genetic hybrid--a Nephilim-styled spawn of Satan (as his father) and a female human of "Roman" descent. This is a counterfeit of the incarnation of Jesus. If Fructenbaum's interpretation proves right here someday, the Anti-Christ could easily be classified as Transhuman and, depending on how the hybridization trick is done, he could even arguably be Transspecies.

(2) The Anti-Christ will be actually killed physically and will actually be brought back to life in a resuscitation/resurrection that impresses the world. Fructenbaum says it will not just be the appearance of death but an actual death. His revival will be a very persuasive seeming counterfeit of the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This "resurrection" of the counterfeit Christ will definitely give him the super-human aura of transhuman, enhanced, metahuman, superhuman, ubermench. Fructenbaum suggests that first "beast" that beast "comes up out of the abyss" (Rev.13:7) may be a reference to his resuscitation from the dead--a convincing counterfeit of Jesus's resurrection--and one of many indications that the first beast will be the anti-Christ, the counterfeit-Christ.

The second beast, which is different than the Anti-Christ, comes out of the earth (rather than out of the abyss, as with the first beast) which may imply that he is human. Fructenbaum suggests that the second beast acts as a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit:

In order to fully carry out the deception, the False Prophet will have the power of the counterfeit spiritual gifts of miracles and will perform signs for the purpose of deception (vv.13-14a). After convincing the world of the supremacy of the Antichrist, he will command men to make an image of the Beast. After the image is made, it will be given life by the False Prophet. This power of giving life will be another factor why men will worship the Antichrist and the image, and those who refuse to do so are put to death (vv. 14b-15). In this manner, the counterfeit trinity will be complete. (*The Footsteps of the Messiah*, p.250)

So while the first beast, or Anti-Christ fellow is transhuman, the second beast, or "false prophet" who speaks for Satan and the Anti-Christ, is strictly a human. However, the second beast is enhanced with demonic/paranormal powers that are going to be so impressive and persuasive that the level of deception will be understandably massive. Whereas the first beast is a counterfeit of God the Son, this second beast is a counterfeit of the God the Holy Spirit. And, of course Lucifer, the fallen angel, the Satan, is the counterfeit of God the Father.

The facts are that the “image of the beast” is:

- (1) something that is built by humans,
- (2) is meant to be seen by and heard by humans,
- (3) represents the Anti-Christ exclusively
- (4) is meant to be worshipped

The false prophet (or “second beast”) “deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the [Antichrist / first beast] And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak ...”

It is not difficult today to imagine that whatever it is that lets people see the image of the Antichrist and allows people to hear the Antichrist could be an AI system of some kind. That seems like a decent theory.

One possibility is that it is a globally distributed computer network that is powered by a narrow AI system that excels at Natural Language Processing. The triumph of IBM’s Watson machine over several Jeopardy game show champions in 2011 showed that computers can work with language and, in some ways, be smarter (in a limited sense) than some of the most knowledgeable people on the planet. The advances in NLP seen in OpenAI’s GPT-3 system (summer 2020) continue to make me think that even a narrow AI system of the future could communicate so effectively and knowledgeably that it is not difficult to imagine foolish humans being exceedingly impressed with a superior narrow AI system of a perhaps not so distant future.

A second possibility to consider is that perhaps this “image” built by humans is powered by a true AGI computer system, or Artificial General Intelligence which meets or exceeds a wide variety of intelligences that humans have. (Some suggest there are seven, eight, or even nine types of intelligence that we humans exhibit.) At the moment I’m of the opinion that true AGI is impossible, but I’m open to the idea that multiple narrow AI systems can be combined into something that passes the turing test with flying colors and can fool most of the people most of the time into thinking it has achieved true AGI status. If true AGI does prove to be possible, the idea that it would take a fallen archangel non-human like Lucifer-Satan, the transhuman Counterfeit Christ, the human false prophet, and a bunch of human minions in the future to pull it off seems like a formidable hypothesis. The phrase “it was allowed to give breath to the image” could mean that God actually allows Satan one opportunity to break the normal rules. Perhaps the inanimate becomes animate, the physical becomes spirited, and the computer becomes alive in a new sense. Perhaps. Perhaps not. One difficulty with this idea is that Satan does not have the power to create life and “giving breath” seems to indicate the creation of life. In Exodus 7-8, the Egyptian Magicians were able to counterfeit many of the miraculous signs God enabled Moses to perform. However, these magicians were not able to create a gnat—a small,

relatively simple creature. Presuming they had demonic powers at their disposal, they could not create “simple life.” With that important precedent set, I’m inclined to say that in the future, not even the unholy counterfeit trinity will be able to produce life either. They won’t really be able to bring “the image” to life but will only be able to give it a deceptively persuasive ability to fool those who listen to the image to think it is alive and perhaps even divine. Then again, the “it was allowed” clause could indicate that perhaps this onetime God allows Satan to do something he normally has no power to do. So I’ll consider it a possibility with reservations.

A third possibility is that perhaps “giving breath” only amounts to electrifying the system. It’s only brought to life in the same way that television screens and computer monitors and a public cloud network that flows from great datacenters into every large, medium, and small screen all over the world are turned on. In this scenario, there is really no need for either narrow AI or AGI. In 2018, Xinhua, the state-run press agency of China, gave the Chinese news watchers a new kind of news anchor. Computer systems using digital composites of real humans were created to read the news they were supplied in the exact words they were supplied with and to do so with an adaptable image of what looks almost exactly like a real person. But the person’s image is computer generated imagery. And the voice was a similarly synthesized voice. An article about this synthetic image and voice says, “it’s obvious that the range of facial expressions are limited, and the voice is clearly artificial. But machine learning research in this area is making swift improvements, and it’s not hard to imagine a future where AI anchors are indistinguishable from the real thing.” ([Ref.](#)) This then could be a very weak form of AI that basically already exists today. The AI would not be used to create new words for the image to speak. The AI would just be used to make the synthesis of images and sounds seem indistinguishable from a real human. Taking it away from the screens and projecting it as a hologram might give the image a greater 3-dimensional appearance and might help explain why anyone would worship the image.

A fourth possibility is that there is no AI here at all. Perhaps it just amounts to the same type of technology that was available in the 1960s where the Anti-Christ is able to speak from his throne in Jerusalem (or wherever) and video cameras broadcast and livestream both his actual image, his actual voice, and his actual words in real time. This scenario seems to fit the biblical facts well and offers the simplest answer. While we take this tele-vision technology for granted today, it would have been very impressive to and first-century person. But it is difficult to imagine why anyone would worship a 2-D projection of a real person on a screen. Then again, countless millions of people have mildly worshipped black-and-white pictures of Mao Zedong and other “great leaders” of various communist countries.

A fifth possibility that I can imagine is that the “image” that is created starts off as an inanimate image, it is given the breath of life in some way that we are not familiar with

today, and that it takes a life of its own as a post-human artifact. Does it have a brain with silicon semiconductors or does it have a brain made of cultured braincells taken from humans or cloned from stem cells? Or a combination of the two? I'm not comfortable speculating here. The scenario I'm imagining here is something like the creation of The Vision character in *Avengers: The Age of Ultron*. Is the Vision a possible analog of what might happen when the unholy trinity imbues a man-made "image" with "breath?" I have enough imagination to envision it as a possibility, but not enough imagination to think it particularly likely.

The likely objection to my speculations so far is that I'm leaving some of the biblical data out. Rev. 13:15b-16 says the image:

- "might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.
- causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead
- so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

When we factor these three datapoints in, the case for an artificial intelligence being part of the image certainly becomes more tempting. One can imagine an image that does more than communicate words and images to many people. Perhaps it also has enough borrowed intelligence to determine who is worshipping it and who is not worshipping it. If someone is not worshipping it, this image either reports the iconoclastic rebel to the authorities for arrest and execution or perhaps even does the execution itself. Perhaps also the image is involved in getting marks on people who volunteer to be marked. Perhaps the image also has the intelligence and power to control whether people can buy or sell anything. Perhaps the image is smart enough and powerful enough to decide on its own who is not worshipping it appropriately and perhaps the image can also cause their death. Perhaps it sends a command to the worshipper's brain-to-machine interface to overwhelm parts of the brain with electrical signals such that they collapse, convulse, and cannot breathe. Perhaps.

Or perhaps not. I was leaving that data out on purpose since it is not clear to me in the text how the causality works. It is not clear how the image causes some to be slain, some to be marked, some to be able to buy and sell, and others not to be able to buy and sell. Does it do it directly with its own borrowed intelligence? Or does cause these effects to happen quite indirectly instead? Imagine the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had the Babylonians make per Daniel 3. The statue/image just stood there passively. Those who did not worship it were not reported by the idol. They were observed by officials and reported. They were sentenced to death because they did not worship the idol. In a sense, this is because of the idol. In a similar way, perhaps the image causes the non-worshippers

to be killed simply by being there to be worshipped. Perhaps it is a dumb image that doesn't do its own reporting. Or perhaps it is a dumb image that has a two-way video feed. Perhaps people in many lands on many screens are able to watch and hear the image and perhaps their screens are also sending images of the worshippers back to the technocrats. In theory, AI would not be needed in this scenario. But AI systems could be trained to do an effective job of recognizing those who do worship and do not worship. Those who do not worship could be escalated to authorities for arrest and sentencing. At the moment I am open to the possibility of direct-active causation here and also to the possibility of passive-indirect causation—and everything in between.

Wade jApologia asked:

[Would CERN hadron colliders fit the bill \[for use of alien/spirit technology or knowledge to enhance humanity\]? Didn't they say they were trying to rip open a hole to the other dimension?](#)

Maybe. I am aware of theories and warnings that CERN's LHC is to attempt to open a "star gate" to open the portal between our world and other worlds or other dimensions with the understanding that some alien beings or gods (e.g., Annunaki) may come through it. But I am not familiar with them. According to Tom Horn, supposedly Sergio Bertolucci, a Director of Research and Scientific Computing at CERN, described the LHC as a door and suggested the possibility that "out of this door might come something or we might send something through it." I'm not able to verify that statement and am not sure what to do with it. Also according to Tom Horn, the general director of CERN, Rolf Heuer, supposedly admitted to the British Press that they are trying to open doors to other dimensions and other intelligences. But I don't have any reliable insiders as sources, cannot check any of these claims out, and am not sure what to believe or say about these claims.

Regardless of whether they're trying to open portals to other dimensions or not, it does seem like there is a bit of promethean hubris about what they say they're doing. Discovering the "God particle" for example. Trying to create a blackhole and not being absolutely certain about whether it would swallow up the earth or not before it collapses also seemed a bit like someone was trying to play God. The fact that there is a statue of Shiva, the creator-destroyer, somewhere near the entrance of the LHC is not reassuring to me. If the attitude there is that creation and destruction are just two sides of the same coin, and they're both exciting, well, I'm not sure I want them playing around with black holes. Back to the question of whose ethics do you want to govern powerful technologies.

Would you rather have scientists who believe they are supposed to be wise custodians of the earth, per the early chapters of Genesis, and per the design and command of God, or would you rather have scientists who admire Shiva who is just as happy to destroy a world as she is to create a world? Who would you rather be in charge of the project of trying to create black holes on earth? It seems like the project as a whole could be an analog to a modern “we can do anything!” sort of tower of Babel thing. Or a temple to the idol of gnosis. As someone who appreciates the idea of scientific inquiry devoid of superstition and myth, the videos of the bizarre, creepy, overtly neo-pagan, Romans 1 freaky kind of ceremonies that were conducted when the collider was opened are not reassuring to me either.

Wade jApologia clarified: Neuralink would biologically intertwine with the brain supposedly.

Wad jApologia suggested: SkyNet will be biologically enabled... ha, ha!

Wade jApologia mentioned three hyperlinks to augment something I was saying early in the talk:

- <https://cnet.com/news/employees-offered-rfid-chip-implants-its-voluntary-for-now>
- <https://www.abc12.com/content/news/Bill-requires-employers-to-keep-implanted-microchips-voluntary-for-workers-57148717.html>
- <https://www.rfidjournal.com/the-great-recession-spurs-rfid-adoption-in-europe-2>

Dighton H., wrote:

Thank you for your great presentation!

Rejected slides

1 Thess. 4:13

"we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope"

1 Cor. 15

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 **If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

“As humanism freed us from the chains of superstition, let transhumanism free us from our biological chains.” - Simon Young, *Designer Evolution: A Transhumanist Manifesto*

“Man is not born free, but everywhere in biological chains. People of the world, unite! - you have nothing to lose but your biological chains.” - Simon Young, *Designer Evolution: A Transhumanist Manifesto*

This echoes Rousseau’s pro-revolutionary idea that man is born free but everywhere is in chains. It also echoes Marx and Engles’s *Communist Manifesto* which ends saying that workers need to unite against the proletariat so they can lose their chains.

Transhumanism in the Bible?

- 1) Joseph insisted his bones be preserved! Normal for all burials. Suggests hope in the resurrection, especially when combined with Ezekiel 37.
- 2) Samson, Elijah, David, Mighty Men?
- 3) Isaiah 65:20 – in a future age dying at age 100 is dying very young
- 4) Lifespans limited to 120 years after Noah’s flood? Alternate interpretation suggests lives would be ended by the flood 120 years after the prediction was made.
- 5) Jesus Christ?
 - a. Divine nature and human nature

- b. Spirit of God was on him through his entire life
 - c. Signs!
 - d. Transfiguration!
 - e. First fruits of the resurrection
- 6) Anti-Christ?
-

“By the time we are ready to settle even the nearest other planetary systems we will have changed. The simple passage of so many generations will have changed us. Necessity will have changed us. We are an adaptable species. It will not be we who reach Alpha Centauri and the other nearby star systems on our interstellar arks. It will be a species very like us, but with more of our strengths and fewer of our weaknesses. More confident, far-seeing, capable and wise. For all our failures, despite our flaws and limitations, we humans are capable of greatness.”

Carl Sagan

Nietzsche's Madman

"Whither is God?" he cried; "I will tell you. We have killed him---you and I. All of us are his murderers. ... we unchained this earth from its sun ... Is there still any up or down? ... God is dead. ... And we have killed him. ... Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it? There has never been a greater deed; and whoever is born after us---for the sake of this deed he will belong to a higher history than all history hitherto." – Thus Spake Zarathustra

Ironically, Nietzsche's ubermensch was inspired by Raphael's painting of the transfiguration of Jesus.



“Raphael, himself one of those immortal naïves, in one of his allegorical paintings depicted that reduction of illusion to mere illusion, the original act of the naïve artist and also of Apolline culture. In his Transfiguration, the lower half of the painting, with the possessed boy, his despairing bearers, the dismayed and terrified disciples reveals the reflection of eternal, primal suffering, the sole foundation of the world: 'illusion' here is the reflection of the eternal contradiction, of the father of all things. From this illusion there now arises, like an ambrosial vapour, a new and visionary world of illusion of which those caught up in the first illusion see nothing - a

radiant floating in the purest bliss and painless contemplation beaming from wide-open eyes. Here, in the highest artistic symbolism, we behold that Apolline world of beauty and its substratum, the terrible wisdom of Silenus, and we intuitively understand their reciprocal necessity. - Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*.

“Men will not be content to manufacture life: they will want to improve upon it.” Desmond Bernal (Marxist scientist, 1929)

Leon Trotsky 1923 “even purely physiologic life will become subject to collective experiments. The human species, the coagulated Homo sapiens, will once more enter into a state of radical transformation, and, in his own hands, will become an object of the most complicated methods of artificial selection and psycho-physical training.”

1 Cor. 15

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this

perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.