

Satanic Temple Skewers Spokesman for Anti-Woke Atheist Photo

Is the new trend for churches to utilize upcoming technology to demonstrate they have no fear of adapting to cultural and societal changes?

In some cases this appears to be true, as Pastor Jay Cooper, of Methodist church Violet Crown City Church in North Austin, Texas, developed an AI-generated worship service for his congregation.

This is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that the pastor of a church utilizes AI to create a time-saving and attention-getting sermon.

“The idea to create an AI-generated worship service came from my belief that the church should not only be aware of the most pressing issues of our world, but also to actively engage in them,” Cooper said.

“AI is definitely one of those issues, so I wanted to incorporate it into our community life in such a way that it would make an impact.

“The initial reason we offered this, admittedly unorthodox, service was to inform our congregation about AI and to understand its potential and its limitations.

“The purpose is to invite us to consider the nature of truth and challenge our assumptions about what God can make sacred and inspired.

“What it actually became was a meaningful conversation about how we as followers of Jesus are to seek the sacred in every

person, place, and situation in our life, for scripture reminds us that when we seek God, we will find God” he adds.

So is this the direction the Christian church is heading? Will it become impossible for pastors to resist the allure of saving time, energy and resources when creating sermons and use AI to get their desired results?

But believers must be watchful for the elevation of AI over the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Take for example the opening line from The Mirror about the story of Pastor Cooper and his utilization of AI:

“The Word of God has now been officially taken over by AI as proved by this robot-generated sermon which included humans worshipping.”

That is one of the many falsehoods many a pastor and ministry leader has warned about with the introduction of AI into society.

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The Word of God will never be taken over by any entity. There are already attempts to re-write the inerrant Scriptures with a new, more socially acceptable that placates people’s sensitivities without being controversial.

Spoiler alert: Jesus was always controversial because He challenged the world and won.

Cooper shared that the AI sermon lacked that human and Spirit interaction, but that it was the discussion afterwards that drew his congregation closer together.

“I was surprised to hear several members of the church say they were able to worship during the service but I suppose it shouldn’t have surprised me, especially since I opened the

service with an invitation to seek to experience God in a time when we may assume we won't," Cooper said.

"What ultimately brought us closer to God as a community was the discussion after the service. We were able to share what was most important to us in worship and how much we treasure the human element in a community of faith, something that was clearly lacking in the AI-generated service.

"Although many were impressed by AI's ability to create prayers, a sermon, and an original song based on the sermon, along with being glad we have a much better understanding of AI now, many in our church expressed that the service felt shallow and generic and that it was missing the most important component of worship, which is heart and the human spirit of joy and authenticity.

"Never say never, I suppose, since it's possible AI may yet be of use for us in some way in the church, but for now we won't be using it again to generate any components of Sunday morning worship services" he adds.

Cooper makes one particular, excellent point. Introducing his congregation to AI and having an open discussion about it will help alleviate fears concerning it.

AI can absolutely be used in nefarious and deceptive ways, and sadly this is most likely to increase in the coming days. However, providing information, knowledge and guidance on new and developing technologies will help the church move forward in wisdom and biblical discernment.

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Start Expecting and Inviting God's Presence, Not Performance

In a recent interview with Pastor Vlad Savchuk, Rabbi Jonathan Cahn discusses his latest book, "The Josiah Manifesto," which delves into the profound connection between America and the biblical concept of the Jubilee.

The Jubilee represents the 50th year, a time of restoration, redemption and reversals. Cahn discusses with Savchuk the significance of the Jubilee and how it is intricately linked to America's history and current events.

The Jubilee: A Time of Restoration and Redemption

The Jubilee, as Cahn explains, was a time of renewal and justice in ancient Israel. Every 50th year, land was returned to its original owners, prisoners were set free and debts were forgiven. However, there was also an aspect of judgment and restitution; if someone had wrongfully taken land, it would be reclaimed during the Jubilee.

Cahn's book "The Josiah Manifesto" takes readers on a journey through prophetic mysteries that ultimately lead to a blueprint for navigating contemporary challenges. It begins with an intriguing story in Cuba, where Cahn was invited to mark a unique moment of religious freedom. His encounter with Fidel Castro set the stage for a profound revelation linked to the Jubilee.

During his visit to Cuba, Cahn was invited to meet Castro,

bearing three significant objects and a prophetic word. These objects included a Bible, a prophetic object and a written prophecy. Remarkably, the prophetic word accurately foretold the time of Castro's departure from power down to the precise year, month, week, day and hour. This extraordinary event set the stage for the unfolding of a greater mystery, one that would profoundly affect America.

The Impact on America

Cahn draws a parallel between what happened in Cuba and America, emphasizing the biblical principle that a nation's actions toward its children will come back to affect it. In the early 1970s, America made a significant choice when it began legalizing abortion, thereby shedding the blood of its unborn children. This ominous decision took place in 1970, a pivotal year that would resonate 50 years later in 2020.

"America began taking the lives of its children, shedding the blood of hits children in 1970," explains Cahn. "That is when abortion unto man entered the land. Roe v. Wade was 1973, but this was when it began. And so, if you go to the Jubilee of that 50 years later ... it goes to 2020."

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The year 2020 marked the Jubilean year of abortion in America, precisely 50 years after the nation's shift toward legalized abortion. As Cahn points out, the book of Jeremiah warns that when a nation takes the lives of its children, it will face retribution, often in the form of a great plague or pandemic. Tragically, this prophecy seemed to manifest with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

"We all remember when our lives were changed; it was in March, when President Trump went on the air, and he said ... 'America is now quarantined.' Lockdowns began, the stock market

crashed, it was [a] pandemic,” Cahn says. “They called it ‘the day that changed everything.’ That’s in March, now if you go back [to] 1970, there was a day that we actually began killing children. It [abortion] was legalized on that day, it was March 11, 1970.”

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn’s “The Josiah Manifesto” offers even more of the profound exploration of the Jubilee’s connection to America’s history and current events. The alignment of dates and events is indeed striking, prompting readers to contemplate the spiritual significance and ramifications of allowing the murder of God’s children into America.

“The Josiah Manifesto” expertly highlights the spiritual and physical reality that actions have consequences and the choices a nation makes can shape its destiny in profound and unexpected ways.

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Pastor Andy Stanley Affirms Biblical Marriage After ‘Controversial’ Conference

The times feel like they are quickening.

News cycles are less than 24 hours and information is being pumped through people’s attention spans at a staggering rate.

This environment makes it easy to miss what God is doing in the midst of the chaos plaguing the world during these prophesied times.

Pastor Jimmy Evans, founder and president of X0 Marriage, spoke at Free Chapel in Gainesville, Georgia, to kick off Pastor Jentezen Franklin's month-long "Signs of the Times" series.

Widely known as a marriage-focused pastor, Evans spends a large amount of time studying and discussing the end times, as well as the Bible prophecy that foretold the days we live in.

"Thirty percent of the Bible is prophecy, and most of that has to do with the days that we are living in," explains Evans.

"This is the most prophesied time in human the Lord told us what was going on," he adds.

Not content to simply give a pleasant sermon on a topic that easily catches the ears of listeners, Evans proceeded to offer a proven prophetic timeline of events determining that we are living in the end times.

Here are seven prophetic events that represent the fulfilling of prophecy:

- **Israel Reborn for the Second Time, 1948 (Isa. 11).**

"Israel is the only nation that has been dispossessed twice and [has] come back to be a nation," says Evans.

Having been destroyed by both the Babylonians and the Romans, the hand of God still guided the nation of Israel and re-established the land the according to His timeline of restoration.

- **Israel Reborn in One Day, 1948 (Isa. 66).**

"May 14, 1948, the British mandate over Palestine ended, and

David Ben Gurion, who was the leader of Israel, declared Israel's independence. On that day, our president, Harry Truman, recognized Israel as a nation [and] other nations followed suit. In one day, Israel became a nation in fulfillment of Isaiah 66," Evans says.

▪ **Jerusalem Went from Gentile Control to Israeli Control, 1967 (Luke 21).**

"When the Jews regained Israel in 1948, they did not get all of Jerusalem. They only got West Jerusalem, they did not get East Jerusalem," Evans explains. "There was a war called The Six Day War in June 1967 and at that time the Jews took all of the city of Jerusalem."

The unification of Jerusalem into Israeli control ended the time of her being trampled underfoot of the Gentiles who had been governing parts of the city for centuries.

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▪ **Russian Jews Emigrate to Israel, 1989 (Jer. 16, 23, 31).**

"This is talking about the end times and is talking about God taking Israel, not from Egypt, not from anywhere else, but from the north country. Well, if you look on a world north of Israel there's Syria, there's Turkey and then there's Moscow. The farthest north country from Israel is Russia. In 1989, the Iron Curtain Soviet Union fell. Since then, 1.7 million Jews have emigrated from Russia to Israel," says Evans.

▪ **Explosion of Knowledge and Travel, 2000-Now (Dan. 12).**

"[The angel said to Daniel] here is how you know you will be living in the end times: travel will increase and knowledge will increase," Evans tells the congregation.

Referencing air travel, Evans explains how a person can

circumnavigate the globe in as little as 24 hours, and even go into space, with enough money.

The increase of knowledge of today's culture has yet to be fully examined, as Evans says, "2023 is the year of artificial is revolutionizing the world [with] a tsunami of knowledge.

"It is the most significant and world-changing invention in the history of mankind."

▪ **The Apostasy of the West from Traditional Christianity, 2010-Now (2 Thess. 2)**

"The book of 2 Thessalonians was written specifically to comfort people concerning the return of Jesus and to tell them you haven't been left behind," says Evans. "He's [Paul] specifically saying here's what's going to happen, the Rapture has not happened and it's not going to happen until he says, 'that day will not come unless the falling away comes first.'"

Evans proceeded to point out that since the removal of the Ten Commandments and prayers from schools, entire generations have decayed morally and spiritually due to the erasure of God from American culture.

▪ **The Two Witnesses Will Testify on the Temple Mount, the preparation is now (Rev. 11).**

"Why are they so hated?" asks Evans. "Well, the Jews are ready to rebuild the Temple right now. There is going to have to be a rebuilt Temple in why are the witnesses so hated? Because they are going to protect the Temple builders. There is going to be a lot of people [that] do not want that Temple built and the two witnesses are bulletproof."

But through all the fear, speculation and uncertainty that come with people discussing the end times, Evans wants to encourage Christians not to fear, because they are on the side of the victor.

“Can I give you the Good News? Jesus is coming.”

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The Gospel Coalition’s Fight Against Bible Illiteracy and False Teachings

Toby Keith, the 62-year-old country icon, has not only made his mark in the music industry but has also become known for his unwavering faith.

His journey through a recent stomach cancer diagnosis in June 2022 sheds light on how he turned to his faith, prayer and the comfort of God’s promises during challenging times.

Keith, the inaugural recipient of the Country Icon Award at the People’s Choice Country Awards, opened up about his battle with cancer and the role of faith in his life.

“I lean on my faith and I just pray and lean into it,” Keith shared with Fox News Digital. “You gotta’ do what you gotta’ do, and I don’t know how people do it without faith ... that’s what I did, it was my rock.”

Before receiving his well-deserved award, a touching tribute was played in Keith’s honor. Blake Shelton, presenting the Icon Award, expressed his affection for his fellow Oklahoman. The heartfelt moment between the two friends showed the depth

of their connection.

Taking the stage, Keith couldn't help but add a touch of humor, remarking, "I bet y'all never thought you would see me in skinny jeans." But beyond the humor, Keith took a moment to express his gratitude. He thanked his family, his devoted fans and most importantly, he thanked God for granting him the strength to be present on that memorable Thursday night.

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Keith's journey with stomach cancer began in the fall of 2021 when he received the diagnosis. In June 2022, he shared the news with his fans, saying, "Last fall I was diagnosed with stomach cancer. I've spent the last 6 months receiving chemo, radiation and surgery. So far, so good. I need time to breathe, recover and relax."

Throughout his career, Toby Keith has not only been a musical powerhouse but also a champion for families facing cancer diagnoses. In 2004, he co-founded Ally's House, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Oklahoma children with cancer and their families. The nonprofit's name honors Allison Webb, the 2-year-old daughter of Scott Webb, an original band member of Keith's, and Webb's wife, Lisa. Tragically, Allison lost her life to kidney cancer before her 3rd birthday in 2003.

Toby Keith's battle with stomach cancer serves as a testament to the power of faith, prayer and the support of loved ones. In times of adversity, he found solace in his unwavering belief and the comforting promises of the Bible. As he continues his journey to recovery, Keith's resilience and faith serve as an inspiration to many facing their own trials and tribulations.

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AG Pastors Call for Resignations Amid Sex Abuse Scandal

Technology in its base form is inherently neutral, just like any other tool be it digital or analog.

It all depends on how the person using it wields the tool that determines if it has been used for good or for evil.

This argument has taken on a new form as artificial intelligence has grown in leaps and bounds all within the last couple of years.

Is AI as neutral as a shovel, Facebook account or knife? It would depend on who programmed and operates the algorithm.

As humanity continues to find new, innovative ways to utilize AI for the good of mankind, warnings have poured out from the very programmers who helped create the artificial systems about the risks and dangers associated with AI.

Christians in particular are especially wary of AI, as it has been linked with the implementation of the prophesied mark of the beast, from the book of Revelation in the end times.

One church however, Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, California, is trying to formulate a way to use AI to help strengthen the security over their congregation.

Speaking to writer, author and podcaster Billy Hallowell on his "Higher Ground with Billy Hallowell" podcast, Matt Montana, director of safety for Valley Baptist explained how he and his church are using AI to stop potential mass shootings before they happen.

"I came on staff here a little over three years ago after retiring from law enforcement," Montana said. "And as I assessed the safety needs of our community. ... I really felt it was important to kind of identify some sort of technology that would allow us to identify if somebody had weapons on our campus."

Montana later discovered the company, ZeroEyes, which touts a "human-verified proactive gun detection and situational awareness software that integrates into existing digital security cameras with a mission to stop mass shootings and gun-related violence."

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As the Christian Post reported, ZeroEyes was founded by a team of former Navy SEALs and technology experts whose COO, Rob Huberty, joined the podcast to discuss how the company came about in 2018 after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

"A bunch of us, we saw a video of the shooter who was out, and he had his gun out in front of a camera, and he actually talked to another student. He said, 'Get out of here. It's going to be bad,'" Huberty explains. "And we said, 'There's an opportunity here to see a gun and do something before anything happens. What if somebody was watching this?'"

Exploring how they could utilize technology, and AI specifically, to help prevent another mass shooting, they set to work creating a digital infrastructure to recognize and neutralize a mass shooter as soon as possible.

“We took images of ourselves carrying guns on these types of cameras, and we just compiled a massive database for what the definition of a gun is,” Huberty explained, that if security cameras pick up any gun the technology will flag that weapon. “If there’s an image, it’s going to send out an alert, and it’s going to give that image of that location.”

Emergency services would then be alerted to this event and must appropriately.

But one particular question comes to mind about an AI security system being installed in a house of worship with a direct line to first responders: How could this technology be misused in the wrong hands?

An old adage states: “The pathway to hell is paved with good intentions,” and it appears this is all done with the safety of parishioners in mind.

But there is a very real evil that is threatening this world. An evil that wants to see more events like the tragedy which took place in Charleston back in 2015, spread across the world. That same evil also seeks to silence the gospel of Jesus Christ, and having a system in place in churches across the U.S. that would allow them to be monitored could unintentionally become a Trojan Horse of religious persecution.

The recent pandemic showed all Americans that there are those in government who would shut down every church they could in a heartbeat. There are still lawsuits ongoing in states like California over the unjust and unconstitutional persecution some of the churches faced during the lockdowns.

How much worse would it be with an AI monitoring system in place keeping track of who attends the services, and what is being said during those same services?

To be clear, none of this seems to be the intent of the

company Mr. Hallowell talked to about increasing security, a noble objective in and of itself. But there remains the potential of unintended consequences should the coding and operation of such AI programs enter into the wrong hands.

The technology is here, today, it is no longer the stuff of science fiction. How this new technology will be used in the very near future, however, remains to be seen.

One thing is certain, that God always has been and always will be in control (see Joshua 1:9).

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