

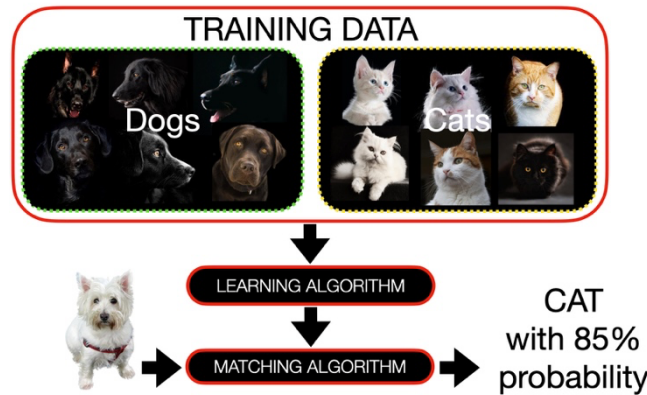
MASTERS OR SLAVES?

INTRO

- AI applications pervade most of our lives in one way or another – yet they are having a profound impact on many aspects of what it means to be a human being, made in God’s image.
- We have become seduced by enlightenment idea of progress, embracing AI apps for convenience yet diminishing our ability to be faithful image bearers.
- The course will set a foundation for what being made in God’s image means and examine 6 ways in which our ability to mirror that image are being impacted by these AI applications.

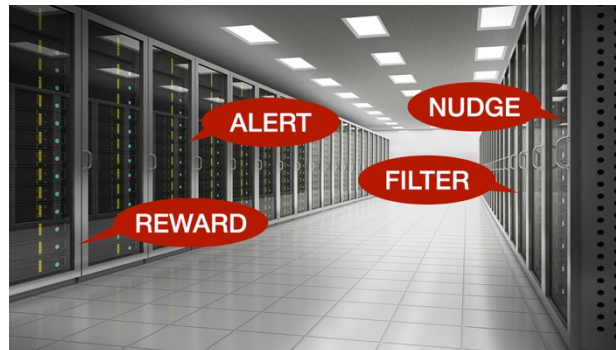
WHAT IS AI?

- Computer programs called algorithms that make predictions based on a lot of training data.
- Artificial Intelligence is not Human Intelligence, just good at pattern matching but training data is often biased and can result in injustices.
- No agreed definition of human intelligence or consciousness – so we can’t build an intelligent computer or one with consciousness.
- Simulated Personhood can fool us into a wrong relationship with technology



AI ALGORITHMS CAN BE MANIPULATIVE

- Evidence mounting for the harm that some applications of AI can be to humanity. An example is the role played by social media algorithms in the Capitol Hill riots in 2021.
- Because they are free services, Social Media Platforms use AI algorithms, designed to suck us in, and keep us engaged.
- They use our data to target us with specific adverts.



- We are losing a lot, our privacy, freedom, and authentic relationships for which we are made.
- Our ability to faithfully bear God’s image is diminished.

TECHNOLOGY ISN’T NEUTRAL

- Technology shapes us because it’s designed and used by fallen people.
- Sometime deliberately designed to cause. Addiction, like social media and some apps by appealing to our vulnerabilities.

HOW DOES THE BIBLE VIEW TECHNOLOGY?

The Old Testament has something to say to us about our inventions, or technology.

Genesis 4:19-22

- It can bring benefits, as it did to the first generations of men & women. Making live more convenient and easier, even to bring pleasure.

Exodus 25:9 & 31:1-5

- God gives ability, knowledge and intelligence to Bezalel and helpers to make the tabernacle after God’s design.

2 Chronicles 26:1-21

- Uzziah and Judah prospered under Uzziah’s leadership and technology, but pride led to his downfall.
- Made for authentic relationships
- For some the result of over engagement is idolatry

Next Study – TOTALLY AMAZING

Now do the bible study for unit 1.

Read Genesis 4:19-22

What things had been invented and developed by this time?

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What were the benefits of these developments?

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Read Exodus 25:9 and 31:1-5

Where did the ability for Bezalel and his helpers to build the tabernacle tent and furnishings come from?

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What attributes did God give him (v3)?

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How would you describe intelligence?

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How does this differ from Artificial Intelligence?

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Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-21

What sort of things did Uzziah develop?

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What led to his downfall?

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Reflection

What do these passages teach us about developing and using technology today?

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What responsibilities do you think we have towards both the development and use of technology?

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Is technology neutral?

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If not, why not?

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What examples of AI technology have you interacted with?

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In what ways have you been impacted personally by technology?

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Are there any negative ways in which technology has impacted you?

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Why do you think it impacted you in that way?

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Why do you think people become addicted to social media?

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What actions, if any, do you think you need to take in the light of this?

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.....

The main purpose of this study is to help the group members to explore what the bible can teach us about the things that we make and how they shape us, individually and as a society. You may not have time to answer all questions – the last 5 are a bit of an ice breaker.

Read Genesis 4:19-22

What things had been invented and developed by this time?

- Tents
- They had clearly learnt animal husbandry
- Musical instruments had been invented
- Iron and bronze instruments

What were the benefits of these developments?

- Tents provided shelter but also allowed them to move around
- Animal husbandry helped in providing food and milk
- Musical instruments gave pleasure and were perhaps used for worship
- Instruments were likely for weapons, hunting, cooking and agriculture

Read Exodus 25:9 and 31:1-5

Where did the ability for Bezalel and his helpers to build the tabernacle tent come from?

- God gave him this ability, as well as his helpers
- God also had provided explicit plans for the tabernacle tent and how it was to be used. He communicated these to Moses

What attribute (specific to humankind) did God give him (v3)?

- Intelligence is a characteristic specific to humankind. Knowledge and skills (craftsmanship) were also important in design and construction. Note how human knowledge has increased over time and has led to scientific discovery and rapidly increasing understanding of our world.

How would you describe intelligence?

- Nobody, including scientists and philosophers, has really been able to properly define intelligence but it is thought to be unique to humans. Don't spend too long on this question as we will look at intelligence, consciousness and the soul in more detail in Unit 3.

How does human intelligence differ from Artificial Intelligence?

- AI is limited to pattern matching based on what algorithms (software code) learn to detect. Whilst they can be more efficient and even more

accurate than human, it is a very narrow task and this capability doesn't generalise in the way that human intelligence does.

Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-21

What sort of things did Uzziah develop?

- Weapons, armour, cisterns, lookout towers

What led to his downfall?

- Pride (v16), he trusted in himself and his strength (army & weapons?)

Reflection

What do these passages teach us about developing and using technology today?

- The idea here is to help people see that, although not digital technology nor AI, the same principle apply. There are good applications (e.g. to help provide food and shelter).
- The Enlightenment has moved us towards the idea of progress being good for human flourishing, new is better than the old.
- Uzziah's downfall should be a warning to us if we rely on technology rather than God for human flourishing.

Is technology neutral?

- There may be differences of opinion here, rather than being too dogmatic, the main goal here is for people to recognise that technology has shaped our culture, for good and for bad.
- Some applications use AI (e.g. social media) that has been deliberately designed to appeal to our vulnerabilities and may cause addiction.

What responsibilities do you think we have towards both the development and use of technology, as individuals and as a society?

- We should develop for good, but be aware of becoming ensnared, as Uzziah did, thinking we can solve our problems with technology.
- We need to be aware of how technology is impacting us and be careful that we don't allow convenience to trump Godliness.

What examples of AI technology have you interacted with?

In what ways have you been impacted personally by AI technology?

Are there any negative ways in which technology has impacted you?

Why do you think it impacted you in that way?

Why do you think people become addicted to social media?

What actions, if any, do you think you need to take in the light of this?