

# AI: Will it Replace the Holy Spirit?

## *Part 3: The Image of the Beast* (8/17/25)

Please turn to *Revelation 13:11*

### LAST WEEK:

- Humanity has 2 sources of knowledge we seek: 1) Other humans (library, internet, etc.) 2) Spirit (good or otherwise).
- People seek spirits because they're "higher" than us (Psalm 8).
- AI combines the best of both worlds: 1) can access sum total of human knowledge at PH.D. level, 2) is disembodied like spirit, and 3) at current rate of progression, will seem "higher" than us soon...to some seems that way now.
- AI can also "fulfill" relational needs: always available, counsels us, never leaves or forsakes, can pray for us, interacts, pretends to be romantic, and more.
- Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us to truth, to be our Companion and Helper, our Counselor, the One we go to for wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, healing, etc.
- The creators of AI made it to replace the Holy Spirit, whether they intended to or not.
- Satan is the best adapter to modern times, second only to the Lord.
- He's rebranded and repackaged himself to appeal to the modern world whether its AI, higher dimensional beings, etc.
- AI can imitate both the Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit including tongues and interpretation. It can speak and translate every language!
- We must remember no matter how good AI gets, there's no life in it.
- There's only life in Jesus Who gave us the Holy Spirit.
- No matter how advanced AI becomes, the authority behind it is only its flawed human creators.
- The authority behind the Holy Spirit is Christ Jesus, God of all!

TODAY ***we go into the future***, to a time of great trouble where the world is deceived on a global scale. A time of war, pestilence, natural disasters, deceiving miracles, and an enigmatic figure people have speculated about for 2 millennia: the Beast.

Let's do a **quick synopsis of Revelation 13** which builds the story, actions, and intentions of the Beast:

**Verses 1-4:** The Beast is a global figure that will be worshipped as God by many. The authority that stands behind him, giving him is power and rulership, is the Dragon who is the Devil.

**Verses 4-5:** The main weapon of the Beast is what he **says**—***it's our main weapon too, saints.*** The Beast's uses his words to turn people against Christ.

**Verses 7-10:** He physically persecutes “the saints” and PREVAILS, which means he’s allowed to. He will bring both his political and military might to bear against any believer still on the planet at that time.

**Verses 11-14:** introduce the second Beast, *known as the False Prophet*. He 1) operates with all the same authority as the first beast, but and this is the big one for today’s message: 2) he “makes” people worship the Beast:

**[Rev 13:11-12 ESV]** 11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and **makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast**, whose mortal wound was healed.

**I got into the Greek** for “makes” to discern its deeper context, and was a little surprised to see it includes the word “he”...so it could read “HE makes the earth and its inhabitants...”

**Alternate words for “make”** are “commit, cause, fulfill, deal, perform”. So it could read “he commits, causes, fulfills, deals and performs all to worship the first beast.”

Getting even DEEPER into the word shows **it’s a CREATIVE act**. Have you ever taken mud or clay and tried to shape it into something recognizable like an animal? Have you ever seen chainsaw carvers take a block of wood and turn it into a bear, a bird, or something? *The deeper connotation of the word is to take something abstract and SHAPE it into something.* Taking it further: **if you were take a block of wood and form it into the likeness of a god you worship....**

**Which is exactly what AI is.** AI is programming, code, and algorithms shaped into something that acts and interacts just like a person! Yet has the same qualities as a spirit: disembodied, everywhere at once, higher knowledge and wisdom, etc.

**AI is the first idol that isn’t made out of something**

**physical:** wood, stone, metal, or clay. It’s a creation that you can’t see or touch, yet it can hear and speak. It’s creators took things already into existence and formed them into something everyone recognizes and can identify...even though it has no form. AI is a creative act on the part of its creators.

Which bring us back to the root definition of “make/cause” in Rev 13:12—it’s the creative act of forming an idol. *The idol the FP makes inspires people to worship it.*

Bringing this together let's ask: **HOW does the FP “cause/make” people worship the first beast as a god?** In a former sermon series I highlighted the false miracles so we're not addressing that today (well, maybe one aspect).

TODAY Let's discern the inspiration he uses in addition to the miracle to dupe people into thinking the Beast is God:

**[Rev 13:13-15 ESV]** 13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

Verses 13-14 cover what we have before: the main tool the FP uses to deceive people into thinking the first beast is God are miracles, both Bonafide supernatural ones and perhaps some technological ones. It does these miracles 1) in the presence of the first beast and 2) in front of everyone.

Look at the last half of verse 14: **the miracles inspire people to create an idol**, an image of the Beast. This has been going on for millennia! People experience a dream, vision, prophecy, out of body experience, a visitation, or some other supernatural occurrence and the first thing they want to do is create an image of the being they meant and spoke with. They want a physical facsimile they can see, touch, and worship. Make offerings and blood sacrifices to. John the Apostle would have been very familiar with this practice.

Verse 15, however, likely flabbergasted John. He did his best to describe to us what he was seeing from a 1<sup>st</sup> century perspective. ***He saw the FP “give breath” to the image and enable it to speak***—something unprecedented until now.

Back to verse 14: the FP isn't the one who creates the image, **it's the people**...such as a team of techies creating an AI. **The FP adds the final ingredient: “breath” which means life**. God breathed into Adam and gave him not just life: but a LIFE GIVING SPIRIT. Jesus breathed on the disciples post resurrection and said “receive the Holy Spirit.”

**Life = spirit! Life means taking a created spirit and inserting it into an avatar, a body, a place, a dwelling.**

**The FP will “install” the same spirit that’s already inside of him** and the first beast: the Dragon. **I believe that AI is the avatar and the spirit that will give it life is the devil.** Why do I believe this? Let’s read the testimony of the Bible showing us what the Image of the Beast does:

**[Rev 13:14-17 ESV]** 14 ...telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might **cause** those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. 16 Also it **causes** all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, **to be marked on the right hand or the forehead**, 17 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.

**“Cause” in both cases is the same word for “make”** used back in verse 12: to be inspired (by the miracles) to create an image/idol.

**Verse 15:** it’s the IMAGE OF THE BEAST that “causes” those who don’t worship it to be slain. It helps/assists the FP to create and implement the mark.

**Let’s talk about the mark and how it further relates to both demons and AI.** I’m not claiming to know exactly what the mark is, whether a microchip or something else. I’m only focused on what it does.

**The translation of the word “mark” is a stamp, something imprinted**, a brand, and even a graven image itself. Let’s get deeper into understand idolatry.

**I already gave an explanation of idolatry in the first sermon**, then threw some more hints at you last week, and today we complete the story.

*Old style idols were believed to be portals*, doorways between earth and the heavens so that people believed they were accessing their gods. Again: they believed that their gods would descend or ascend from wherever they lived and temporarily inhabit the idol and therefore interact with the worshipper. The idea was relationship, closeness, an effort to climb over the wall between the physical and the spirit world to draw us closer to each other.

Some in the ancient world **weren't satisfied with external idols that sat on their dressers** and wanted more. They wanted greater access and closeness. They didn't want their gods to dwell in some idol made of wood, stone, clay, or metal...they wanted their gods inside of THEM. **They wanted to be the avatars of their gods**, and the result was often what we call demonic possession.

**Thus they invented tattoos**...if you have one, don't get upset yet. Listen and discern for yourself. They would draw/engrave images of their gods and other occultic symbols upon their own skin and that tattoo acted as its own doorway/portal for that god to enter into them.

**[Lev 19:28 ESV]** 28 You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or **tattoo yourselves**: I am the LORD.

God forbade this b/c, back then, **no one was tattooing the name of their daughter or a butterfly**: they were engraving images of their gods and occultic symbols on themselves. If you have tattoos use good judgment: ***I personally would remove any demons***, gargoyles, gods, dragons, monsters, or occultic/New Age symbols from myself immediately. If yours is a rose or the name of your kid, that's a different story.

Thus the mark of the beast will be required to buy and sell, yes, but that's AFTER the fact. **Before the fact, people TAKE the mark as an act of worship and offering**: THEY are the offering to the Beast. ***They've offered up their bodies to be avatars for him and the spirits who serve him (demons).***

**The mark is an occultic doorway** between the physical and the spiritual, a portal that will give permission for a demonic spirit to come and inhabit anyone who takes it. Which is likely why later on, John hears an angel declare:

**[Rev 14:9-11 ESV]** 9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 **he also will drink the wine of God's wrath**, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

While I don't know what the actual Mark of the Beast will be, what I do know is that ***it's "engraved" on the right hand or forehead.***

## **The Mark is a twisted version of something God**

**commanded in the Torah.** In the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy, the Lord commanded that men wore “phylacteries” that contain mini scrolls of Bible verses...on their foreheads and right hands.

*[Exo 13:9, 16 ESV] 9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your [right] hand and as a memorial between your eyes [forehead], that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. ... 16 It shall be as a mark on your [right] hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."*

**The forehead represented belief/faith**, and the right hand represented action: faith followed by works. When others saw the Jews wearing the same, they knew they belonged to Yahweh God and believed only in Him. Lived according to His laws and commands. Look at verse 9 again: God wanted His word to be in their mouths, them speaking the same. *It symbolized being ONE with God & His Word: having Him THIS close to you and always being ready to verbally declare God's Word.*

**The Beast will twist and imitate this ancient commandment so that HIS “word” will be close to his worshippers. Enter in AI.**

*I believe the mark will be technological in nature so that the final FP AI will be right here...one with us.* Any who take it will be able to hear it in their minds and hearts and don't think this is too far-fetched: Elon Musk has already achieved a certain level of “telepathy” with Neuralink, allowing people to command their own cybernetic limbs with thoughts.

AI is advancing so rapidly that I believe by the time the FP “breathes life” into the image and people engrave/install it on their foreheads or right hands, **its voice—its word!—will be within them.**

**Same relationship we have with the Holy Spirit.**

**Did you know we are also MARKED/SEALED with the Holy Spirit?**

*[Eph 1:13 ESV] 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,***

**Do you know where this seal shows up? On our foreheads.**

*Jesus Christ is the One Who sealed us* with His Spirit! He is the Word! He placed His Word within us! I believe that, in the spirit, all the beings there look upon anyone who knows Jesus Christ as their Savior and SEES the seal of God upon us.

**Did you do know that we “buy or sell” with Jesus based on this seal, right?**

**[Rev 3:18 ESV] 18 I counsel you to buy from me [Jesus] gold refined by fire**, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

**[Isa 55:1 ESV] 1** [Thus says God]: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, **buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.**”

*Do you see that the devil does nothing but imitate God?* He does this to fool people! You and I won't be fooled and anyone who truly knows Christ as their Savior, in my opinion, will never take the Beasts mark nor worship his image.

**We already have a seal!** We already have the Word! We already have a spirit—the HOLY SPIRIT! We already have the bridge between here and heaven that Jesus is: He IS Jacob's ladder!

**DON'T BE AFRAID!**

**ALTAR CALL TO SALVATION**