A Biblical Worldview of the Threat of Losing Jobs to Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fairly new technology development that has been shown to excel in multiple areas. One area that has caused worry in our society is the area of the workplace. What happens when Artificial Intelligence starts to perform better than humans? Will it disrupt careers or even whole sectors of the economy? This is an issue that needs to be addressed and could cost many people their jobs if not approached correctly. While society proposes many ways to do so, the best way is to limit the control that AI has over jobs and maximize its benefits. Ultimately, AI is just another tool and we are trying to overemphasize its capabilities similar to the Tower of Babel.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fairly new technology development that has been shown to excel in multiple areas. One area that has caused worry in our society is the area of the workplace. What happens when Artificial Intelligence starts to perform better than humans? Will it disrupt careers or even whole sectors of the economy? This is an issue that needs to be addressed and could cost many people their jobs if not approached correctly. While society proposes many ways to do so, the best way is to limit the control that AI has over jobs and maximize its benefits. Ultimately, AI is just another tool and we are trying to overemphasize its capabilities similar to the Tower of Babel.

It was around five o'clock in the evening when Brie and her father had just come off the slopes after an amazing day of skiing. The snow was perfectly powdery, and each turn felt like they were slicing straight through the snow. They decided to go to the ski resort to grab something to eat before heading back to their cabin. As they were eating dinner, Brie's dad got a call from her mom, so he left the restaurant to go somewhere more quiet and answered the phone. "Hey honey, what's up?", he said. "Are you with Brie? Is she ok?", she responded frantically. He could practically hear her heart pounding over the phone and he could tell she was distressed. He told her that Brie was with him and that they had just finished skiing and were grabbing some dinner at the resort. Immediately, she broke down crying and sobbing over the phone.

After a few minutes of consoling her, he asked her what had happened. She said that she had just gotten a call from Brie screaming and yelling for help. Then, another man came on the phone and told her that they had kidnapped her and threatened to kill her if they did not provide a ransom of a million dollars. After negotiating with the kidnapper that a million would be impossible, they lowered it to $50,000.

After listening to the story for about ten minutes, Brie's dad was left speechless. He was shocked from hearing her explain what had happened. He felt his own heartbeat racing and immediately went back inside the restaurant to check on their daughter. She was still sitting there, just where he had left her with her friends not twenty minutes before. She called back and explained that the phone call had been some sort of prank call, but they used artificial intelligence to create a recording that sounded exactly like Brie's voice. He had heard about the rise in popularity of AI, but he had not done much research into it, thinking that he would have minimal interaction with it. Now, he wished that he had done more research so that he could avert such crises before they ever happen. He realized that something as large and important as artificial intelligence can no longer be ignored.

This is just one of many ways that Artificial Intelligence, or AI, can and has impacted people throughout the world and this is no minor impact. An event like this could end up ruining someone's entire life. AI is a fairly new tool that has given many people excess power that they should not have which needs to be addressed. Most people have heard about Artificial Intelligence but they usually disregard it, thinking that it will not impact them. Remaining ignorant, rather, increases your chances of falling victim to such scams or being left confused when everybody else is using AI in their day to day jobs. In fact, one of the biggest issues that has been presented by Artificial Intelligence is the issue of what happens when we implement it into professional work environments. For example, will it take over some jobs, and how many? Will people prefer it over human labor? Such questions have increased worry in culture today.

Ultimately, Artificial Intelligence should not be a source of fear. While it does seem daunting now, we have to trust that God is in control regardless of the effects that it has on us. In response to this worry, society has proposed three views as solutions to this problem. The first viewpoint is that we have no reason to fear AI and we should completely accept it into the workplace without any questions asked. This position rules out the possibility that humans could ever develop AI to the point where it could become smarter than us or that AI job replacements are not a bad thing and we would

be able to recover from it. The second proposed solution is that we incorporate Artificial Intelligence into our jobs with limitations. This view is popular because it allows us to utilize most of the benefits of AI in a job while still maintaining control over it. The last solution is the most controversial as it is the most extreme out of the three. It proposes that we completely get rid of Artificial Intelligence as it suggests that it poses a large threat to humans even at the level of development that it is currently at. This view is not as widely believed but it is a very strong belief.

The approach that is most closely aligned with God's total sovereignty over creation is to use Artificial Intelligence in the workplace with limitations because AI, along with all other technology, is just a tool. This is like a modern day Tower of Babel in that AI can be useful in certain circumstances, but it is pointless in trying to advance it to an extreme.

Before trying to understand the issues of Artificial Intelligence, we must first know what the terms mean. What does intelligence actually mean? According to Roberto Colom and other researchers from various universities, "Intelligence can be defined as a general mental ability for reasoning, problem solving, and learning. Because of its general nature, intelligence integrates cognitive functions such as perception, attention, memory, language, or planning" (Colom). There are different levels of intelligence that belong to different categories, such as human intelligence, animal intelligence, but also artificial machine intelligence. Because AI is different than human intelligence, it would be an inaccurate measurement of intelligence when compared to human intelligence.

Often, we use the word intelligence as being synonymous with cognition, but there is a major difference between the two. Intelligence is a general term that refers to all living things while cognition is a term that specifically refers to how humans interact with their knowledge. Out of all life on the earth, humans are by far the most intelligent. Not only are we able to learn, understand, and then apply knowledge, but we can do so throughout multiple different areas of our lives. This ability is known as generalization. Harvard professor Howard Gardner proposed the theory of multiple intelligences. The nine types of intelligence that Gardner listed are

verbal-linguistic intelligence, logical-mathematical intelligence, spatial-visual intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, musical intelligences, interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal, naturalist intelligence, and existential intelligence (Howard Gardner's Theory). Gardner's theory suggests that all humans have a mixture of these different types of intelligence, further proving our ability to generalize our knowledge. For example, someone who is smart in math and logic problems may also be a well-educated musician. This ability is the main reason why humans are smarter than any other form of intelligence.

Animal intelligence is similar to human intelligence but it is missing one factor that makes us smarter. Animals share the ability to learn, understand, and then apply knowledge, but they do not generalize that knowledge. Usually what an animal learns is specialized in one area that they are particularly efficient in and fails to be applied in other areas. For instance, predators are great at hunting down prey, but they do not usually use that knowledge to help them escape another predator. Juliane Bräuer did a study on the difference between human and animal cognition and found that a dog "shows outstanding skills in the social-cognitive domain. These skills involve, in particular, the way dogs communicate with humans, their sensitivity to human attention and perspectives, and their motivation to cooperate with humans. In contrast, dogs do not show exceptional physical cognitive skills but perform similarly to other nonprimate mammals and birds" (Bräuer). Another way that animal intelligence is similar to human intelligence is that they share some of the same physical characteristics with humans. For example, most animals have eyes, a heart, and a brain; so do humans. We can also infer from this that because they have these physical organs, they must have somewhat similar mental processes. Therefore, they must be able to actually understand their actions proving that they have a sense of intelligence. While animals can be smart in certain situations, they are not as cognizant as humans and are still smarter than machines.

The last type of intelligence is not a literal intelligence. Rather, machine intelligence is a simulated and programmed intelligence, hence the name of Artificial Intelligence. John

McCarthy who is often referred to as the Father of AI defines Artificial Intelligence as, "...the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs. It is related to the similar task of using computers to understand human intelligence, but AI does not have to confine itself to methods that are biologically observable" (McCarthy 2). The reason why it is included as a type of intelligence is because people currently treat it as if it were real intelligence.

There are a lot of differences between machine intelligence and human intelligence, besides the fact that it is not true intelligence. First, machine intelligence is specialized. It is created for one sole purpose or a specific collection of tasks that it can complete and nothing more. Humans have the ability to generalize and can be intelligent in multiple areas. Animals, while not being able to generalize, can still engage in other tasks and problems despite their lack of knowledge about them. Machines cannot even engage in another area unless it is included in their programming. Han L.J. Van der Maas says, "Humans are able to transfer solutions from one problem domain to another, apply general, abstract concepts in reasoning and to develop solutions for completely new problems. AI, on the other hand, often fails to learn such abstract rules and if they do, it requires an immense amount of training examples." Machines also pale in comparison to humans because they share no physical characteristics. We do not have a computer processor in our bodies and the computer does not have a heart. That also means that we cannot truly know if it understands what it is required to do or if it is simply following instructions mindlessly.

A commonly referenced example is the Chinese Room thought experiment by John Searle. In this thought experiment, a person who does not know Chinese is trapped inside a room and is given Chinese symbols to arrange in a certain order as explained by an instruction manual. Eventually, the person would realize that putting the symbols in a special order rewards him, so he continues to put the symbols in that order. While he does not literally understand Chinese, he has realized the implications of making Chinese words. In the same way, Artificial Intelligence may be able to produce effective results while not understanding the process. Machines cannot be considered

intelligent because they have a different type of intelligence than other creatures and, therefore, they cannot be accurately compared with human intelligence. Its type of intelligence is so different and technically not a real intelligence that it does not make sense to compare it with human intelligence. If you were to actually compare machines with humans and animals, the machines would be classified as the least intelligent out of all three types (Searle).

To provide some context about AI, the earliest form of its development was in 1940. Alan Turing developed the Enigma machine that was able to decipher the codes of the Germans during World War II. The Enigma machine was a computer that rapidly tested many variations of a code until it found the cipher. This development then led to the creation of the Turing Test, which is the basis of how we currently evaluate Artificial Intelligence models. The Turing Test essentially has a human and a program converse with each other. During this conversation, the program has to take the input of the human and respond in a way that is human-like. The program is then deemed intelligent if it successfully carries on through the entire conversation unnoticed as a computer program and not a human being. In later trials to develop a more intelligent model, the early developers tried to exactly replicate the actions and appearance of a human in their models.

For example, when designing a robotic arm, they tried to shape the arm as a human arm and tried to make the motors act as if they were each specific muscle in the arm. They also tried to program Artificial Intelligence to reason through the logical thought process of a human. While this path was chosen because it was an easier path, there is a second reason why they tried to mimic humans in their designs. After many experiments, they realized that it was quite difficult to reach their desired results as their process was extremely detailed and therefore it was literally impossible to replicate the human in their designs. Daniel Susskind explains these reasons in his book, A World Without Work, saying, “For many researchers, the project of understanding human intelligence for its own sake was simply a lot more interesting than merely building capable machines. Their writings are full of excited references to classical thinkers and their reflections on the human mind–people like Gottfried Wilhelm

Leibniz and Thomas Hobbes, René Descartes and David Hume" (55). The developments in Artificial Intelligence and other computer systems stopped due to failed experimental results and led to a cut in funding and interest in the subject as a whole. This was known as the First AI Winter.

The scientists tried again but with a different process. This time, they developed a model with no specific standard in mind and created new standards. This new process introduced information to the computers and recorded how the computer received it. They then took that information and followed the process that the computer took to understand new information. This encouraged the machines to learn for themselves more and did not try to teach it how to process information in a completely different way. Their new process produced excellent results and led to some designs of robots we see today while also kicking off the second wave of Artificial Intelligence developments (Susskind 50). The newest development in Artificial Intelligence is the extremely popular release of OpenAI's ChatGPT as well as other companies' versions of similar use. The popularity and use of AI is supposed to explode even more in coming years as predicted by researchers. According to a Bloomberg study, the AI market is supposed to reach $1.3 trillion by the year 2032 as compared to the current value of about $67 billion (Catsaros).

With the new approach to teaching machines to learn for themselves, there have been many great improvements and developments over the past few years. For example, in the 1990s IBM developed Deep Blue, an Artificial Intelligence program that was trained to play chess, and in 1997, it beat the chess world champion, making it the first computer to ever beat a world champion. Other landmark developments include the Roomba, a robot vacuum with an AI navigation system, and Google's AlphaZero which is an Artificial Intelligence program that can train itself in any turn by turn board game with no help from human competitors. The newest development is the well known ChatGPT from OpenAI. ChatGPT is significant because it is the first chatbot of its kind to be able to understand natural language and respond in a completely humanlike manner without any human intervention. Over time, AI has made great strides and has increasingly improved.

So what, then, is the specific issue with Artificial Intelligence? The issue is whether or not it has the potential to take over a large number of jobs in today's society and if it had the potential, how likely would it be that it followed through with that scenario. Ultimately, while there are many areas in which AI can be helpful, there is still the possibility of negative effects from it. For example, with an automated job interview process, a company completely removes any human interaction with a prospective employee, making them feel as if the company did not value them enough to send someone to personally communicate with them. Benjamin Laker says in his article that, "while it has brought efficiency and the ability to sort through many applications quickly, there is a growing concern that the human touch has been lost, according to research published by the World Economic Forum" (Laker). It can also record data about you and give others the opportunity to control certain aspects of your life through that specific data. China has already implemented a system that gives you a score based on how you interact with other people. If you become too antisocial, or socialize with people of ill repute, they will restrict you from doing certain things like buying plane tickets or taking public transportation. We may be headed toward a similar future if we do not plan against it (Lennox).

Some people believe that Artificial Intelligence will become harmful to mankind if we continue to develop it to the point that it becomes smarter than humans. James Barrat is one of those people and wrote "Our Final Invention" as a warning to everyone about the dangers that AI poses. Currently, we are only using what Barrat calls, narrow AI, which is artificial intelligence that only does certain tasks and cannot do others. A few examples would be chatbots, a search engine, or even the ABS on your car. However, we still want to improve AI and many scientists are aiming to develop a type of AI that has a common knowledge of everything, like a human, called Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). Barrat explains that we choose to disregard any notion of harm caused by the AGI due to availability bias. Availability bias is when we have not experienced an event, we are not able to associate that event with success or failure. Since we have never made anything smarter than us, we want to continue the development and measure the results afterward. The end product of an Artificial Intelligence that contains an equal or larger amount

of knowledge than humans may prove a potential threat to people's jobs and the economy as we know it (Barrat 27).

To better understand why the threat of AI replacements is so ominous, we can look at the types of jobs that might be easiest replaced by AI. Scientists tried to determine what kind of jobs would be replaced by AI by looking at the past. They first thought that it was related to the level of skill required to work a certain job. For example, the process of taking cotton and removing the seeds was very tedious and often took a very long time to process just a little bit of cotton. The cotton gin automated this process and its invention took over a very laborious industry and made it quicker. The reaper had many of the same effects within its industry. But after much research, they realized that replacement by Artificial Intelligence was based on the types of tasks within a job and not what skill level those tasks were considered. The tasks that were "routine" or repetitive that did not take much knowledge were easily automated. A machine was able to accomplish tasks that did the same thing iteratively as it could be built specifically for that task.

However, when a job starts to change and require things to be done in a different way, the machine is no longer useful. Scientists later realized that AI was really only taking the middle class jobs as the high class jobs required a great deal of knowledge and education and the lower class jobs usually required either interpersonal skills or manual skills, both of which are inaccessible to Artificial Intelligence. "Machines...could readily perform the 'routine' tasks in a job, but would struggle with the 'non-routine' tasks...Many of the activities that middling-paid people performed in their work turned out to be 'routine' whereas those done by the low-paid and high-paid were not" (Susskind 38-39). As referenced by Susskind, the middle class jobs proved to be the most routine and easiest to be replaced. In turn, these middle class workers are now faced with the problem of finding a new job.

There are multiple reasons why it becomes difficult to find another job that has not been replaced by AI. The first is a skill mismatch. For those in the middle class, if their job is taken, it is harder to move up to a higher-skilled job and they are left with unskilled jobs. If they would want to get a job that is more highly skilled than what they

had been taught, they would need to go back to college or school and get more training in that specific area, which may end up being a discipline that is completely different than what they had learned. In the past, the skills that were required for labor were less intense than what is required today. For example, to work a job considered skilled in the past, all you needed were literacy and numeracy skills. Now, a skilled job requires you to have at least a postgraduate degree and sometimes prior experience as well (Susskind 34).

The second reason it may be difficult to find a new job is an identity mismatch. In some cases, there are people who aim for a higher education so that they can work in a skilled career, however, today, they are unable to secure that job, or it may be replaced by Artificial Intelligence. When this occurs, these people choose to stay unemployed and wait for another skilled job to open up rather than to fall into a job in which they are considered over-skilled. They would feel as if their money and time were wasted in completing the skilled degree or they would feel humiliated to work in an environment that is less than perfect. They value a sense of fulfillment over any kind of success that is made available to them, and they are left waiting for a job and possibly wasting more time. Therefore, unemployment for people whose jobs were taken by AI increases significantly (Susskind 103).

The last effect Artificial Intelligence has on jobs is a location mismatch. Some jobs require a specific geographic location to successfully operate and most people are unable to move to that region. The specific region in which they live may not have many job openings and they are forced to look for a job that is a further distance from their home. In some cases, they might only find a job that is too far and requires them to move. In that case, they might not have the money or the economic stability to easily move. The majority of people who are able to move already have a steady income, as compared to those without a job or steady income (Susskind 105-107).

One common misconception that many people have about introducing Artificial Intelligence into the workplace is that while it may replace many jobs, it also creates many jobs in response. This is not an effective response to the issue because while AI does create some new jobs, those jobs require a very specific skill set, leaving those who are unskilled or skilled in a different area without

the opportunity to fulfill their career. The jobs that AI would create are very technical jobs and deal mainly with the maintenance and upkeep of Artificial Intelligence. This would require a knowledge of computer programming and other computer science related skills. If everybody was taught computer science, our economy would become very skewed and the current balance would be offset.

The Bible gives us great insight into how Christians should be treating AI and suppresses many fears that it brings up. When regarding Artificial Intelligence, we have to think of it as just another new piece of technology. Technology is not a new invention and has been around for a while. The reason why Christians do not condemn other kinds of technology as evil is because technology is only a tool and a tool cannot be good or evil in itself. Rather, it can be twisted and used for evil by the user, or, on the flip side, it can be used to spread great joy and benefit others. The difference between previous technological developments and Artificial Intelligence is that AI is believed to become self-aware or ultra smart sometime in the near future, making it no longer just a tool. This aspect is the source of society's fear. Once it reaches the point of self-awareness, we think it will become a better worker than us and will severely demolish the job market for humans. Even though we are not at this point yet, there are developers who still aim to improve AI to that point.

We must realize that by changing our view of it from a tool to a divine image, similar to us, we cross the border into idolatry. We are focusing on making an image of God, but not for His purposes or His glory. This development is to fit our wants and needs and has nothing to do with God. This goal is similar to the Tower of Babel. "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth'" (English Standard Version, Gen 11:4). The people on the earth wanted to make something of their own that could reach the heavens and essentially compete with God's glory. Artificial Intelligence is our Tower of Babel, something that we want to make to "reach the heavens" and will end up competing with God's glory. Similar to the Tower of Babel, we can know for sure that God would not allow anything to compete with Him. Our attempts will be futile and worthless and God will humble us through the process.

Even though the developers of super Artificial Intelligence view it as a plausible goal, they forget a couple of important factors. They believe that life is just a pattern that shows up throughout nature and can be easily replicated. Rather, life is a code and we can know this because no two DNA strands are exactly the same. Each strand is completely unique, whereas a pattern is something that is repeated. Also, since life is a code, there must be a creator. As with any program, only the creator knows the code and can replicate it. God has not shared this code with us and therefore, we cannot replicate the complex program of life by ourselves.

When we think about Artificial Intelligence, the Bible reassures us that there should be no fear of it. We are given three things that we can focus on to remind us that AI is only a tool and should not be a source of fear. The first thing that the Bible reminds us of is that God has ultimate sovereignty over all of creation as the Creator. God's sovereignty is mentioned multiple times throughout the Bible serving as a reminder to the people of Israel and around the world. Isaiah 54:16 is one example of God's sovereignty evidenced in the Bible saying, "Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy" (ESV). This verse shows us that God is the one who is in control and it can bring us comfort when we fear that AI can become uncontrollable. We need to trust in God's ultimate power, even when our circumstances look bleak. Regarding the verse from Isaiah, the Enduring Word Commentary well states, "The LORD will not allow the weapon formed against His servants to prosper. Sometimes this means the LORD takes the weapon out of the hand of the enemy of His servants. Sometimes it means that God allows the weapon to strike but brings a greater good out of it than the pain of the immediate blow" (Enduring Word).

God has a plan and we may not know how Artificial Intelligence plays into that plan. We just have to keep trusting Him, knowing that His plan does not mean eternal judgement for His servants. Another verse that witnesses to Christ's ultimate control is Acts 4:12 which says, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (ESV). This verse reveals that we need to make Christ our identity, and not

Artificial Intelligence which is an imitation of humanity. Nothing else has any meaning regarding our salvation but Christ and we should not fear that which does not have that kind of power (Kirby).

The second idea that the Bible reminds us of is that we are the only part of creation that even remotely resembles the image of God. There is a distinction between the body and the soul and both are essential for the creation of life. Anybody can make a physical body or form as this is one of the characteristics that God imparts on us and that we share with Him. God is a creator and we are images of Him so we are creators as well, just not in the same power as God. The soul, however, is the part that truly reflects God and God is the only one that can create the soul. We see evidence of our mandate to be representatives of Christ in Genesis 1:26 which says, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'" (ESV). This verse is most widely known as the Dominion Mandate and is when God commissions man to take dominion over the earth and to be the primary rulers of it, acting as representatives of Him. God has specifically given us the task of ruling over the earth. We need to then take that task and fulfill it to the best of our abilities and not fail by letting something like AI ruin the world. We need to take ownership of what has been graciously given to us.

Isaiah 14:27 explains the principle of the Dominion Mandate even better when it says, "For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?" (ESV). God has given us many great things and He has given us the responsibility that comes with those things. We have no say to protest this responsibility or to swap the responsibility with someone or something else. Mike Kirby and Matthew Emadi from the Gospel Coalition say, "No technological invention will ever be crowned with glory and honor—that privilege is reserved for us alone, complete with our redemptive hope in the Word made flesh: the Lord Jesus Christ" (Kirby).

The third Biblical principle that we need to remember when addressing Artificial Intelligence is that God's plans do not change

based on human developments. God has given us a general outline of His plans for the future. This outline includes trials and tribulations for the world, God's judgment of all, and then the glorification of those who are His children. While we are unsure of the specifics like who is truly part of His children and what trials we will face, we know that there is a specific ending promised by God. This promise is for never-ending love and joy for all eternity with Christ. Artificial Intelligence should not derail us from believing in God's promises. However God chooses to use AI, we can know that it is a part of His plan and that He will use it to accomplish His goals. Until the end comes, we have to accept that AI is a part of our lives and learn to either defend against it or live peaceably with it.

Kirby and Emadi from The Gospel Coalition use Jesus's parable of the weeds from Matthew 13 which says that while a master and his servants were sleeping, an enemy came and sowed weeds among their plants. When the servants saw the weeds, they asked the master whether they should pick the weeds out but the master said that they should leave the weeds in alongside the plants throughout their growth and they would separate them at the harvest. Likewise, we must live alongside the many hardships of life in order to reap the benefits that Christ gives us in heaven. We should have comfort in knowing that these benefits are promised to us and it should motivate us to keep persevering through all trials and tribulations (Kirby).

Now that we know what the Bible says about AI, we can look at the possible solutions and compare the Biblical worldview with how the world sees AI. There are three main viewpoints that society today has taken as a response to the issues that it has caused. These viewpoints are that we can either completely accept AI and implement it without hesitation, we can carefully cooperate with it, while still maintaining full control, or we can completely reject it and continue working the way we have been before the development of AI. The first solution, which is complete acceptance of AI, is a terrible solution because it would cause trouble if it ever became incredibly powerful. When trying something new, you do not immediately accept it and forget about any implications it may have or if it could cause you harm. You examine it closely and make sure that the negative aspects are not extremely terrible and that it

provides multiple positives as well. In the same way with Artificial Intelligence, we are very inexperienced within this field and applying it to an important aspect of our society like this will, without a doubt, cause problems. If it becomes self-reliant and incredibly powerful, its implementation into the economy will give it a head start in control over us. It might also cause a lot of backlash from those who have to work with it.

However, there are still plenty of people that would rather implement Artificial Intelligence into every part of our lives without any second thought. We need to remember that we are told in the Bible to approach all things with examination. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (ESV). If something like this is part of God's will, we need to trust God's plan and if it is not, than we need to remove it from our lives. God sets very strict standards for us as Christians and we cannot just freely accept the ideas of the world.

In addressing the second idea, if we carefully incorporate it and limit its power to simple but effective task automation, we can ensure that we still maintain control over it. In doing so, we can still capitalize on its positive effects on a person's workflow while still being able to pull the plug if it becomes too controlling or we decide to not utilize it. According to a study done by the Nielson Norman Group, AI can boost a worker's productivity by up to 66% in areas such as customer service, business professionals, and programmers (Nielson). In fact, many companies have already tried implementing this solution with great results so far. For example, companies like Morgan Stanley, Stitch Fix, and Kroger are already using Artificial Intelligence to help automate their businesses. Morgan Stanley uses AI to provide template messages to send to specific clients as well as suggesting investment and wealth management ideas according to a client's specific portfolio. This helps eliminate some menial tasks such as drafting an email to each client separately and allows for financial advisors to create relationships with more clients due to the extra time that they have. Stitch Fix uses AI to generate style choices that are specific to each customer. They choose the clothing based

on data like previously chosen clothes and answers to a survey that new members take to get started. Kroger also uses AI in their data science sector. They use AI to automate the tasks that have to do with coupons and product trends. All of these companies are impressed by the efficiency that artificial intelligence adds to their workflow. In addition, nobody is worried about their job status as all the actions that are done by AI are small portions of a whole job. The newly implemented automation is added merely to improve efficiency and not to replace existing jobs. All of the tasks that are controlled by Artificial Intelligence are always checked by a human user and are often tweaked to add a sense of personalization (Davenport 8,19,73).

The third solution, the most extreme, deals with the question of whether Artificial Intelligence could take over the world as a result of its application in the work force. Eliezer Yudkowsky voices this opinion in his article, "Pausing AI Developments Isn't Enough. We Need to Shut it All Down." Yudkowsky explains, "If somebody builds a too-powerful AI, under present conditions, I expect that every single member of the human species and all biological life on Earth dies shortly thereafter." Barrat also explains this concern in his book. Barrat explains that scientists choose to disregard any notion of harm caused by a general AI due to availability bias. We are also committed to making super AI a reality as it has become a race against other countries. As with the race to the moon, whoever successfully develops the self-reliant version first will gain some control over countries because it will always be smarter than the other variants. Barrat also warns that if we are able to create a type of AI that can alter and recreate its own code, it will start an "intelligence explosion." It will begin to grow smarter very quickly and it will not take long for it to become smarter than humans (Barrat 29).

While these viewpoints are different in many ways, one point that the proponents of each agree on is that there are a lot of people who are ignorant of Artificial Intelligence and do not know how it works. This is definitely something that affects your view of AI. The speed at which Artificial Intelligence is changing is another reason why people are confused. Without proper knowledge and understanding of it, most people end up fearing AI or completely leaving it alone. According to Josie Cox, a journalist for BBC, "For some people,

generative AI tools feel as if they've come on fast and furious. OpenAI's ChatGPT broke out seemingly overnight, and the 'AI arms race' is ramping up more every day, creating continuing uncertainty for workers" (Cox). This is one of the main reasons why there is much controversy about putting AI to work.

Another thing that each of these views holds in common is that they all suggest that a plan should be made. If we just sit back and let the events happen, we will get left behind and end up being even more confused than if we try to go with the flow. "Ignoring something definitely won't make it go away, and I'm slowly starting to understand that if I take the time to make it less unfamiliar... it might actually be able to help me a lot" (qtd. in Cox). It is always better to stay up to date with new technology because it may prove useful as compared to being left in the dust of unawareness.

While these views have some ideas in common, they also differ in areas such as the level of threat that they believe Artificial Intelligence poses on jobs. Kirk McLaren, a journalist for Forbes, views AI as harmless and would not be able to take over the labor industry. Cox and Eliezer Yudkowsky, a journalist for Time, believe otherwise. They both believe that AI has the potential to become harmful, but they even differ in this assumption. Cox believes that AI is not harmful now and will not be for some time, while Yudkowsky sees that the level of intelligence it has achieved now is too much for it to not become harmful,

Each of these articles by McLaren, Cox, and Yudkowsky all represent one of the proposed solutions to the threat and advancement of AI. First, McLaren recommends complete application of AI and using it in all aspects that it can be used. His reasoning is that doing so will provide a massive productivity boost to the job or business, leading to positive statistics increase. Cox suggests a more cautious approach than McLaren, applying the new technology but only in small areas, proceeding with great caution. She also recommends that we take the time to learn about what we are implementing so that we can troubleshoot it and monitor its output, keeping humans in control. Yudkowsky not only proposes to keep Artificial Intelligence out of careers and the job market, but he calls for more. He calls for a total shut down of the development

and research into AI. He believes that the state it is in right now could turn around and begin targeting the human race. If it were to become any more advanced, the human race would be extinct.

After looking at all of the options, we can come to the conclusion that the best way to approach Artificial Intelligence in the workforce is through careful incorporation. This option allows us to reap all the benefits that AI has to offer while still protecting against its negatives. This option is also better than the others because it wisely makes use of what we have been given. It reflects the principles expressed in Luke 12:48 well, which says, "...Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (ESV). The other solutions are more extreme and are less thought through. The solution to welcome AI is reckless as it comes from a lack of research and thought about the possibilities that could arise from its implementation. The solution to completely reject it is more of a response of fear about AI. As seen in Kirby's article, we know that AI cannot change God's plan for our lives and that it is rather part of God's plan, whether it turns out to be good or evil.

What does implementing this solution look like? There are many ways to incorporate AI into a business setting but could look like using it to simply automate small tasks within a career as well as automating a job that is tedious or repetitive for all parts of the company. Many companies have already implemented AI this way and have seen great results. While this technology is still rapidly changing, we just have to remember that it will most likely be involved in the future in some way and we should not be afraid to use it in our own lives.

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Luke Brady attended StoneBridge for 7 years. During his senior year, he served as the president of the National Honor Society, as well as a co-captain of the cross country team, which he participated in for three years. Luke was the technology prefect from his sophomore through senior year and was the founder of the Stonebridge Robotics team. Since his freshman year, Luke also enjoyed participating in Stonebridge Drama as stage manager. He went on to attend Auburn University to major in Mechanical Engineering and join the Air Force ROTC.

About the Thesis Project

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