

# NEWSBYTES

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A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

## BRICS Nations Buying Massive Amount of Gold Ahead of Plan To Dethrone US Dollar

Daily Hodl Staff



A group of economically-aligned nations are purchasing massive amounts of gold as they prepare to end their reliance on the U.S. dollar.

According to a new report from U.S. Global Investors, the nations known collectively as BRICS are piling into the precious metal and will continue to be “huge buyers”

of gold for the foreseeable future.

The firm’s CEO and chief investment officer, Frank Holmes, says the mass accumulation of gold led by China aligns with the theory that the world is on a long-term path to economic bifurcation.

*“If you look back at the list of net buyers [of gold], you’ll notice that three are members of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries. I point this out because, as I’ve been sharing with you for a couple of weeks now, we may be seeing the emergence of a multipolar world, with a U.S.-centric world on one side and a China-centric world on the other.*

*For the first time ever, BRICS countries’ share of the global economy has surpassed that of the G7 nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and U.S.), on a purchasing parity basis.”*

According to a report from World Gold Council, China has added 102 tons of gold to its stockpiles since the start of the year.

And gold is the key to this potential multipolar economic future, says Holmes, as it will likely be used to back the creation of a new currency that does not utilize USD.

*“The BRICS need the precious metal to support their currencies and shift away from the U.S. dollar, which has served as the global foreign reserve currency for about a century.*

*More and more global trade is now being conducted in the Chinese yuan, and there are reports that the BRICS—which could eventually include other important emerging economies such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and more—are developing their own medium for payments.”*

BRICS nations are reportedly in the early stages of designing a new currency that aims to end global dependence on the dollar.

It remains to be seen just how effective their efforts will be, with early critics like billionaire Chamath Palihapitiya stating the China will never effectively de-dollarize as long as the yuan remains pegged to the dollar.

## Canada gold heist: police investigating \$20m of ‘high-value’ cargo stolen from Toronto airport

Leyland Cecco *in Toronto*

Police in Canada are investigating a brazen heist of nearly C\$20m (US\$14.8m) in gold and other “high value” items at Toronto’s Pearson airport. On Thursday evening, Peel Regional Police said the gold and other goods were stolen on Monday after containers were offloaded from an aircraft.

“An aircraft arrived here at the airport in the early evening. As per normal procedure, the aircraft was unloaded and cargo was transported from the aircraft to a holding cargo facility,” inspector Stephen Duivesteyn said while announcing the theft.

“What I can say is that the container [had] a high-value shipment. It did contain gold but was not exclusive to gold and contained other items of monetary value.”

Investigators from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were also looking into the theft, which is one of the largest in Canadian history. The Greater Toronto Airports Authority, citing the “active police investigation”, declined to comment on the theft.

Goldmines from northern Ontario often ship bullion through the city’s airport, which handles nearly half of the country’s air cargo.

Duivesteyn said he wouldn’t call it a “professional” job at this time, adding that the investigation was ongoing and the incident was isolated. Police did not identify the intended destination of the stolen cargo, nor did they confirm the gold was still in the country.

“This is very rare,” Duivesteyn said.

But it isn’t the first time a Toronto-area airport has made headlines for a gold heist.

On 25 September 1952, \$215,000 worth of gold bullion was stolen at Malton Airport, the precursor to Pearson. At the time it was the largest gold robbery in Canadian history. Adjusted for inflation, the theft today would have been worth C\$2.3m.

During that heist, six wooden boxes of gold were taken from a steel cage from the airport’s cargo area before they were loaded on a plane bound for Montreal.

“It just seemed to vanish,” one investigator told the Toronto Star at the time. The seemingly perfect crime, with no witnesses, was never solved.

Trans-Canada Air Lines eventually changed its name to Air Canada in 1965—the same airline believed to have been hit by Monday’s theft.

Previous high value heists have targeted a priceless photograph and the country’s vast maple syrup stockpile. In 2014, mastermind Richard Vallières swiped C\$17m in syrup from a Quebec warehouse, part of the province’s strategic reserve. The caper spawned both a wide-ranging investigation that eventually took him down – and a Hollywood screenplay.

## Falling For The Oldest Trick In The Book: Google Co-Founder Wants to Build AI as a ‘Digital God’

April 27, 2023



According to tech mogul Elon Musk, for some, such as Google co-founder Larry Page, the ultimate goal of the race to build artificial intelligence is to create a “digital god,” a silicon-based lifeform that “would understand everything in the world. . . and give you back the exact right thing instantly.” Who would have even thought about discussions concerning a “digital god” just a few years ago? Will this dream become a reality?

Well, since the events of Genesis chapter 3, humans have been trying to create their own gods based on their own wisdom. This was the very temptation that Eve and then Adam fell for—attempting to become their own gods. So, it’s no surprise that their descendants want to do the same thing by crafting a god that, in their view, will solve their problems, answer their questions, and usher in utopia.

But digital AI is developed and programmed by . . . sinful human beings! So, their “god” will reflect that! As we’ve pointed out before, today’s AI, such as ChatGPT, is incredibly biased with leftist ideologies because it reflects the viewpoints of both those who program it and the voices it pulls from to answer questions.

Digital AI makes a sad god—a god crafted by humans and limited in its abilities by what we can create and program. It won’t save anyone, and it won’t turn this world into a utopia because it cannot solve the biggest problem every human being has—sin!

It’s only the one true God who solves our biggest problem. He came to earth in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ, and died on the cross, paying the penalty that we deserve because of our sin. Then he rose from the grave—conquering sin and death—and offers eternal life to all who will put their faith and trust in him.

Don't put your faith in a puny, man-made digital god who can't save. Put your faith in Jesus who made us and can redeem us.

In Genesis chapter 3, we read that Satan beguiled Eve, deceiving her into believing that she and her husband Adam would become "as gods" if they defied God's command.

Eve was not the first to fall prey to the draw of achieving god-like status. We are told by the prophet Isaiah that the fall of Satan and the fallen angels sprouted from Lucifer saying in his heart, "*I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High*" (Isaiah 14:13-14).

Although it will ultimately fail, Satan's 6,000-year-old goal to usurp God will reach its climax during the tribulation period when he will, through the antichrist, demand to be worshiped by the entire world:

*Revelation 13:14-18 KJV – "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."*

Pastor Barry Stagner, in a recent episode of The Line Up, explained why many believe that artificial intelligence could play an integral role in the beast system during the seven-year tribulation.

"In Revelation 13 we've got some type of lifelike statue erected, an image of the Beast that seems to be alive and there's a mark associated with his name, the number of his name, and the worship of the Beast. This is consistent with a lot of the things we see going on today and moving in that direction," Stagner noted. "We know in Revelation 13, that the whole world is going to go after the Beast. All the Earth dwellers, anyone not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, are all going to be in agreement. They are all going to be on the side of the Beast. A lot of people have been talking about whether it's artificial intelligence, this image that has life breathed into it, or seems to be lifelike. AI seems to be a pretty good candidate for how that's going to happen."

## **Israel at 75: A Rich Past, A Challenging Present and A Glorious Future!**

Against all human expectations and according to God's promises, Israel is still standing. We celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of the modern Jewish State on Yom Ha'azmaut, also known as Israel's Independence Day. Here are seven reasons to join the celebration.

### **We celebrate because of Israel's survival.**

In her entire history, Israel has been the epitome of survival. From the moment God created a people and gave them land and a law, Israel became a prime target in the world. From Pharaoh who didn't

know Joseph, to Haman to the Amalekites, the Bible is already replete with Israel's foes. Post-biblical history continues to trace the lineage of the Jewish people as it is punctuated by acts of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism, going from verbal to violent to lethal, peaking with the Holocaust. In spite of all the anti-Semitic hatred, Israel has survived. In spite of all the wars against her from 1948 to today, and miraculously, Israel has survived. In spite of the current waves of terrorism, Israel will survive because Israel's complete annihilation would make God a liar and covenant breaker (Jeremiah 31:35-37.)

### **We celebrate because of Israel's innovative spirit**



When the Jewish people started to organize under the leadership of Theodor Herzl and Chaim Weizmann in the late 1890s, survival was of the essence, but creativity went hand in hand with the spirit of survival. Zionism was the catalyst for a mass migration to the land of our ancestors. From a place of swamps, rocks, desert and almost no vegetation, Israel has become one of the world's foremost providers of fresh produce. Drip irrigation was an Israeli invention out of necessity. Much more has come to our modern world from Israeli ingenuity. It makes the job of the proponents of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) very

complicated if they choose to be ethically consistent, but they seldom do!

### **We celebrate because Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East**

This little sliver of land the size of New Jersey almost becomes a drop of water as one places it within the whole ocean of Arab countries surrounding her. Muslim governments vary from somewhat moderate to fully Sharia-compliant. Women, homosexuals and even people of other faiths are often abused verbally AND physically, with their rights taken away from them. The one country in the Middle East where Arabs and Jews can actually coexist (at least from an Israeli perspective) is Israel. There are even Arabs as members of the Knesset (Israel Parliament.)

### **We celebrate because Israel is a safe haven for the Jewish people.**

Jewish people have been in the Diaspora (Dispersion), since the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. We can be found just about anywhere in the world, even though there are only 15 million of us. Yet, it is becoming increasingly evident that the only safe haven for Jewish people worldwide is Eretz Yisrael. Anti-Semitism is on the rise everywhere. Jews are being killed in Europe, the Middle East and even America, simply for being Jewish. Nevertheless, God promised that the Jews would return to the Land of Israel (Ezekiel 37), and we see that very prophecy being fulfilled in our lifetime.

### **We celebrate because the re-birth of Israel set the stage for much of the Bible to be fulfilled.**

Unfortunately, today when it comes to Israel and the Jewish people, fact-finding is the last thing people are interested in! In 1948, when Israel was reborn, the stage was set for many prophecies to be fulfilled. The rebirth of Israel might not be specifically prophesied in the Bible, but without its rebirth, much of the end times events would not have become a reality.

1. Jacob's descendants would regain control of Israel – Amos 9:14-15
2. Israel would be brought back to life – Ezekiel 37:10-14
3. Isaiah spoke of Israel being reborn in one day after the Tribulation – Isaiah 66:7-8
4. Israel would be re-established as a united nation – Ezekiel 37:21-22
5. Israel would be more impressive the second time – Jeremiah 16:14-15
6. Ezekiel predicted when Israel would be re-established – Ezekiel 4:3-6

7. The people of Israel would return to “their own land” – [Ezekiel 34:13](#)
8. God would watch over the people of Israel – [Jeremiah 31:10](#)
9. Israel’s army would be disproportionately powerful – [Leviticus 26:3, 7-8](#)
10. The fortunes of the people of Israel would be restored – [Deuteronomy 30:3-5](#)

### **We celebrate because of God’s promises to Israel**

Some people believe in God, while others don’t, but that doesn’t prevent God from keeping his promises for Israel, and they are numerous:

- God made a covenant with Abraham: [Genesis 12:1-3](#)
- God gave specific boundaries: [Genesis 15:18-21](#)
- God’s covenant was reconfirmed through Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and his 12 sons: [Genesis 26:2-4, 28:13, 50:24](#)
- Israel will never be destroyed because of God’s promise of eternal protection: [Jeremiah 31:35-37](#)

### **We celebrate because of Israel’s glorious future promised by God.**

As bleak as the present looks, especially from a human perspective, Israel has a guaranteed glorious future, and that is indeed a cause for celebration.

- God promised Israel a New Covenant when He will remember their sins no more: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)
- Israel’s glorious future includes a final restoration to the land: [Ezekiel 39:25-29](#)
- Israel’s glorious future is secure because of God’s character: [Ezekiel 36:22-28](#)

Happy Independence Day, Happy 75th Birthday and Am Yisrael Chai!

## **‘Unstoppable Trend’? Tech Giants Becoming More Powerful Than Nation-States**

*U.S. citizens are being subjected to a relentless onslaught from intrusive technologies embedded in the everyday fabric of our lives, creating unprecedented levels of social and political upheaval.*

**By Tom Valovic**

A few years ago, I was having dinner with a friend who worked at Google. As we were discussing the ins and outs of the tech world, he casually remarked: “Google is going to take over the world you know.”

Driving home and reflecting on that remark I thought: “How curious.” But now, as I contemplate the shambles our democracy has become, I’m more inclined to think: “How prescient.”

Democracy is under threat — not just in the U.S. but in many other countries as well.

But the precipitous actions of newly minted authoritarian leaders and the turmoil in Western democracies are just a few of the puzzle pieces needed to figure out how we got to this point.

Another less discussed trend is that U.S. citizens are being subjected to a relentless onslaught from intrusive technologies that have become embedded in the everyday fabric of our lives, creating unprecedented levels of social and political upheaval.

Advanced computer technology and the internet have given us many wonderful gifts when rightly applied.

But we now know they can also be terrible taskmasters, impersonal forces that can dehumanize our personal interactions, cause severe mental health problems (especially for teenage girls), and serve as a de-facto wealth transfer mechanism to the billionaire class.

Still, we accept the negatives because of the positive benefits. In this sense, we might even call hyper-technology a Grand Seduction. Now, artificial intelligence (AI) has exploded onto the scene and threatens to monkey-wrench our lives in unimaginable ways.

The limitations of these widely used technologies are well known. They include social media and what Harvard professor Shoshanna Zuboff calls “surveillance capitalism” — the buying and selling of our personal info and even our DNA in the corporate marketplace.

But powerful new ones are poised to create another wave of radical change. Under the mantle of the “Fourth Industrial Revolution,” these include AI, the metaverse, the Internet of Things, the Internet of Bodies (in which our physical and health data is added into the mix to be processed by AI) and my personal favorite, police robots.

All of these technologies will be enhanced and amplified by the use of 5G and 6G communications via a rapidly expanding satellite system provided by Elon Musk.

This is a two-pronged effort involving both powerful corporations and government initiatives. These tech-based systems are operating “below the radar” and are rarely discussed in the mainstream media.

In addition to corporate surveillance, governments are also busy beefing up their own systems. While we tend to associate these sorts of initiatives with the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, a groundbreaking article in the Boston Globe has described how pervasive and intrusive surveillance has become even at the state level.

The article methodically details how law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts operate a huge apparatus of drones, license plate readers and devices called cell-site simulators, which pretend to be cell towers in order to capture cellphone signals to pinpoint the location of individuals.

### **The AI 'arms race'**

AI's precipitous and dramatic entry into the technology mix has ushered in what Time magazine and other mainstream publications are calling an "AI Arms Race."

The designation is telling, given that AI has been developed with significant funding from the defense and government sectors.

This accelerated deployment is happening without the benefit of thoughtful political oversight because elected officials, often at a disadvantage in the face of technologies they don't completely understand, are providing little guidance, regulation or pushback.

Parsing the subtler impact of technology in our lives is tricky. That's because it sneaks up on us. It doesn't happen by a vote or by some distinct series of events. Rather, it just creeps along, establishing itself in maddeningly minute increments.

The sum total of these technological intrusions, fostered by government and corporations often working together, constitutes a semi-invisible overlay of technocratic governance that has no central organizing principle, unlike the traditional government structures we're familiar with.

Just because these systems are "distributed" (to use a little computer jargon) doesn't mean that they are any less powerful. And while the internet presents the appearance of democratized participation, it's important to remember that its ultimate Oz-like control is centralized in the deep corridors of Big Tech companies.

### **Goodbye nation states?**

As we see democratic principles slowly vaporize even in Western nations, the fact that Big Tech continues to consolidate its power globally over and above that of nation-states is deeply concerning.

However (just to keep things nice and confusing) sometimes it does this in cooperation with governments via public/private partnerships, a kind of Faustian bargain.

The Time magazine article cited above offered this startling observation:



“Even if computer scientists succeed in making sure the AIs don’t wipe us out, their increasing centrality to the global economy could make the Big Tech companies who control it vastly more powerful.

“They could become not just the richest corporations in the world — charging whatever they want for commercial use of this critical infrastructure — but also geopolitical actors to rival nation-states.”

Some might argue that this has already happened and the nexus of world power is now corporate-leaning. The world’s biggest tech companies are now richer and more powerful than most countries.

According to an article in PC Week in 2021 discussing Apple’s dominance:

“By taking the current valuation of Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, and others, then comparing them to the GDP of countries on a map, we can see just how crazy things have become. ... Valued at \$2.2 trillion, the Cupertino company is richer than 96% of the world. In fact, only seven countries currently outrank the maker of the iPhone financially.”

For the moment, these trends appear to be unstoppable, given the levels of corporate investment already at stake and the supine posture and dependency of governments on their largesse.

The best available response for the moment is simply greater public awareness and a commitment to face the contours of this brave new technocratic world head-on and with a clear vision.

Given the astonishingly out-of-control power of the Big Tech sector, it’s also crucial to realize that simply regulating these systems while allowing them to continue to siphon off the power of traditional governments will not be enough to preserve our quality of life going forward.