

NEWSBYTES

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“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

The Warning Left Unheeded By Ebrahim Raisi: Don't Mess with Israel



On Sunday, May 19, the helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and other top government officials crashed and burned. All on board perished.

The Iranian president was a key factor in the October 7, 2023, Hamas' barbaric slaughter of Israelis as well as those from other nations, including the U.S. According to many sources, such as a recent article on Harbinger's Daily, he planned and funded the gruesome attack that resulted in the murder of over 1,200 people and the kidnapping of over 250 hostages, many of whom their captors later tortured and killed.

Was the May 19th helicopter crash the Lord's response to the man responsible for so much bloodshed and great suffering in Israel? I'm certain that what appeared to most as an accident was, in reality, God's response as well as a warning of what lies ahead for those who now seek to divide and destroy Israel and its people (see Joel 3:1-3).

The words of Ecclesiastes 8:11-12 reveal that because God's "sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil." In

the end, the best result is for those who trust God or, as Solomon put it, “I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him.”

We know that all those involved in the October 7, 2023, attack, barring repentance through Jesus Christ, will face the severity of God’s wrath after they die, if not also beforehand. Regardless of their fate in this life, the Lord’s judgment for their vile acts will be an eternal fate worse than we can imagine.

The wicked misinterpret God’s patience and continue in their wicked ways. Raisi, thinking he was above reproach for his monstrous actions, continued to breathe out threats to destroy Israel, never imagining that the Lord would so soon hold him accountable for his great wickedness.

At times, the Lord punishes sin as a warning for all to see and take heed. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was just such a time when He displayed His displeasure with all those who would defile His purposes for a man, woman, and marriage. Though recorded for all to read in Genesis 19, most today ignore the warning with some mistakenly thinking that God approves of such behavior.

The Warning: Don’t Mess with Israel

Last December, Hasan Bitmez, age 54, suffered a heart attack on the floor of the Turkish parliament immediately after declaring that Israel “will suffer the wrath of Allah.” The New York Post reported his death two days later. Perhaps Raisi regarded this heart attack as just a coincidence, but not anymore.

Former policeman and analyst Marty Breeden stated that Bitmez and Raisi were two “of the most vile and vicious leaders AGAINST Israel and the Jews.... They BOTH called for the annihilation of the Jewish State and the people, and God dealt with them accordingly!”

I agree; these deaths constitute this warning for all those who would dare to mess with Israel: *Don’t do it*. The Lord doesn’t always respond so decisively or quickly to evil. However, when He does, it’s dramatic and unmistakable for those paying attention.

Breeden also wrote, “One would THINK this should strike great fear in those who oppose Israel... but these are hard-hearted evil men, and it will likely not.”

Will Anyone Heed God’s Warning?

The world’s response to the death of the Iranian president tells us God’s warning here will go unheeded by the world’s leaders. Members of the UN, including the Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the UN, stood for a moment of silence to honor Raisi. In response, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan quipped, “What’s next, a moment of silence for Hitler?” President Biden showed his respect for Raisi with a message of condolences to Iran on the death of its leader.

How dare this administration honor a man who not only has much American blood on his hands but is responsible for the senseless slaughter of many of his own countrymen, as well as the barbaric and brutal atrocities of October 7, 2023? The key motto of his administration was “Death to America.” Why is the U.S. paying tribute to one who sought our annihilation as well as that of Israel?

Sadly, far too many Christians and church leaders will also regard the deaths of Raisi and Bitmez as having nothing to do with Bible prophecy or God’s promises to Israel. Blind to the many other signs of the last days, they will continue to teach that He has rejected Israel and replaced the nation with the church.

The Bible tells us a much different story. Although there’s much suffering ahead for the Jewish people during the latter half of the upcoming Tribulation, the Lord will most assuredly restore a glorious kingdom to Israel. In the end, God will fight for His people. The deaths of these two men are just warning shots across the bow for all those who continue to oppose Israel and seek to harm the Jewish people. In the end, they will pay a great price, just as will the coming antichrist.

The words of Psalm 92:6-9 speak to the fate of those who oppose the Lord, which, of course, includes His people: *“A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this. When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever: But thou, Lord, art most high for evermore. For,*

lo, thine enemies, O Lord, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered."

God's Word is sure, and though He most often shows restraint, He acts often enough to warn the wicked of their fate.

We expect those apart from Christ to miss God's warnings and the signs of the imminent Day of the Lord, but what about those who foolishly teach that the church has replaced Israel? Will they pause for a moment to consider the Lord's defense of His people, or will it go unheeded with them as well?

Conversations With The Dead Through AI?: Technology Is Taking Deception To A Whole New Level



If you could, would you want to talk with someone who has died? What if that person was someone you deeply loved and cared for? I asked if you could because we now have technology that promises to make that scenario possible. Here's a technology issue: it doesn't go backward once it reaches a certain level. It only advances. Our world is now promoting it has the technology to have a conversation with the dead.

Dadbot and HereAfter AI

How do these conversations take place? Through a chatbot called Dadbot. Dadbot is on an interactive app called HereAfter AI. This app promotes the idea that you can now talk to your deceased loved one, and they can talk back.

Dadbot technology and HereAfter AI were introduced within the last seven years. Both are technological platforms that, as they say, let the dead live on. Loved ones interact

with a customized voice avatar using a smart speaker, mobile app, or desktop app. The avatar responds to questions through Alexa voice recognition technology.

Digital Immortality

These companies set up interviews in which those who participate tell their life stories. It has already been experienced that sometimes the stories shared in these interviews are told for the very first time, and in those cases, their loved ones were not even aware of these life events until after their loved one had passed away. There was no opportunity for them to seek further answers or explanations. In a few cases, this lack of certain knowledge compounded the grief they were already experiencing.

The creator of Dadbot created this platform in 2017 after his father passed away. Because of this technology, the creator says he still constantly chats with his father. The deceased father tells his son stories about his childhood, a crush he had on the girl who lived across from his childhood home; he tells stories about his childhood pet rabbit and tells his living son about how he sang in operas and became an attorney.

Hereafter AI is not the only technology that promises digital immortality through chatbots. A startup tech company in Japan has designed robots that look like and act like the deceased. Using the digital footprint the deceased has left behind, the robot mimics the deceased's mannerisms, speech, and gestures. The robot is a humanoid, and it has a mask of the deceased's face so you can look into the face of your loved one as you communicate with them.

Now that we have this technology, what do we do with it? Those in this industry admit conversational AI tech is still in its infant stage, and as I said, this technology is not going to go backward; it will only advance. Designers are already working on future versions, versions that aim to better understand the intimacy of personal conversations.

Anthropicm and Claude 3

Another AI startup, Anthropicm, has publicly said its latest AI version of Claude 3 has already advanced in its human-like understanding, allowing it to have more intimate conversations. Anthropic said its Claude 3 family sets "a new standard for intelligence."

HereAfter AI was introduced in 2019, just two years after the debut of StoryFile, which is another company that produces interactive videos where avatars make eye contact, breathe, and blink as they respond to questions. One of their clients said she still turns to her father for advice, but she doesn't receive guidance in person because her father has been dead for more than a year.

Cambridge University

A study from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom is concerned with how these chatbots may cause psychological harm. Their study has concluded that the potential psychological effect could be devastating. The study, published in the journal *Philosophy and Technology*, highlights the potential for companies to use deadbots to advertise products to family members of a departed loved one by insisting a dead parent is still "with you."

Companies could use chatbots to spam surviving family and friends with unsolicited notifications, reminders, and updates about the services they provide, which Cambridge describes as being "stalked by the dead."

While this technology allowing loved ones to communicate and interact with their deceased family members is still considered new, my concern is where does this go from here? How evil will this technology become? Scripture repeatedly warns us to beware of false teachers and deception. This chatbot technology can take deception to a whole new level.

- *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Mathew 7:15)*
- *"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect." (Matthew 24:24)*
- *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)*
- *"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will*

follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned, and in their greed, they will exploit you with false words” (2 Peter 2:1-3)

1 Samuel 28

Not only does Scripture warn us about the deception of false teachers, but we are also given a clear direction that we should not seek advice from the dead. *“One who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord”* (Deuteronomy 18:11-12). In 1 Samuel 28, Saul went to a medium and asked her to contact Samuel from the dead and was judged by God for this practice.

There is a reason God has warned us to be diligent in being aware of the enemy’s lies and deception. There is a reason why Scripture prohibits the demonic activity of seeking connection with the dead. This new technological horizon has the potential to prey on the vulnerability of those who are sincerely grieving. I understand how, in grief, one may want to take advantage of the promises this software seems to offer. Still, I have to wonder, when God spoke through his servants and warned generation after generation of the coming deceptions, could servants like Moses, Paul, and Peter even imagine the depth of deception this modern-day technology makes possible?

AI Church Services

As this advancement in AI continues, I also wonder how deeply it will impact the Church and eventually prohibit the proclamation of the Gospel. The world has already experienced and embraced a forty-minute church service in Germany, which was written entirely with ChatGPT and delivered by a male and female avatar. Once the general population accepts this form of church service as a valid way to worship, it will not be difficult to mislead the sheep by twisting Scripture and pointing people away from Jesus instead of to Him

Putin Threatens West's 'Dense Populations' In 'Small Land Masses' In Response To NATO Escalation

BY TYLER DURDEN

More and more European officials and NATO countries are on board with allowing Ukraine to use Western-supplied weapons to strike deep inside Russian territory. Among the latest to speak openly

about this are NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, and the government of Sweden, which is the NATO alliance's newest member state.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday **issued one of his more dire warnings yet**, putting Europe on notice by commenting on their possessing **small land areas and dense populations**. The veiled threat is very ominous especially in light of the fact that Russia just wrapped up tactical nuclear drills near Ukraine.

Putin told reporters gathered in Tashkent during an official visit to the central Asian country of Uzbekistan, which is a former Soviet Republic, "**Constant escalation can lead to serious consequences.**"

He also hinted at the prospect of nuclear war in posing: "If these serious consequences occur in Europe, how will the United States behave, bearing in mind **our parity in the field of strategic weapons?**"

"It's hard to say - **do they want a global conflict?**" Putin questioned, warning that Ukraine hitting Russian territory with externally supplied long-range weapons would make the West directly involved in the conflict.

He also appeared to reference a new agreement between Kiev and Paris which will see French military trainers be deployed to Ukrainian soil. Putin remarked that this puts the situation a big step closer to major direct confrontation between Russia and France - and ultimately the NATO alliance. That's when he warned the following...

*They... **"should be aware of what they are playing with" as they had small land areas and dense populations.***

"This is a factor that they should keep in mind before talking about striking deep into Russian territory. This is a serious thing, and we are of course watching it very closely," Putin said.

Week after week, officials in the West find new ways to escalate (also in light of Russian forces making rapid gains in Kharkiv), and given that Zelensky has said it's 'impossible' to sit down at the negotiating table with Moscow so long as Putin is in power, there appears to be **no off-ramp whatsoever**.

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin this week. Kremlin Pool via AP

Indeed we might add to Putin's remarks that *everyone is playing with fire...* and this has been the case for a long time now. There are very few European leaders willing to openly resist this intensifying push to escalate at this point.