

HACKED REALITY

VR, AR & AI IN THE ANTICHRIST'S DIGITAL ILLUSION



by Joe Hawkins

WE'RE living in an Age of Immersive Illusions, a time where Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven environments are becoming ever more sophisticated. These modern technologies are blurring the line between reality and illusion in unprecedented ways. A teenager can strap on a VR headset and feel transported to a different world; a mobile AR game can overlay digital creatures onto our city streets; advanced AI can generate images, videos, and even *voices* that are nearly indistinguishable from reality. The proliferation of immersive, synthetic experiences may be conditioning our minds – especially those of youth and young adults – to be susceptible to future deceptions. The Bible warns of a coming time of great deception in the last days, when people who “*did not receive the love of the truth*” will readily believe lies (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11). Could our immersive technologies be preparing the world to embrace the ultimate deception, foretold to accompany the rise of the Antichrist?

In this article, we will explore how VR, AR, and AI are shaping perceptions of reality, using examples from popular media and real life. We'll then examine the psychological and spiritual implications of becoming immersed in these synthetic environments. Finally, we'll consider how these trends could play into the “*strong delusion*” prophesied in Scripture, including the deceptive signs of the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Matthew 24:24; Revelation 13). The goal is to sound a balanced yet urgent warning – urging discernment and spiritual vigilance as technology advances, without demonizing technology itself. As we shall see, believers must be aware of the potential spiritual dangers of our brave new virtual world, even as we continue to hold fast to the truth of God's Word.

THE RISE OF IMMERSIVE TECH: VIRTUAL WORLDS AND AUGMENTED REALITIES

Not long ago, the idea of *living* in a virtual world belonged to science fiction. Today, it is fast becoming reality. VR

headsets and AR apps are widely available, offering deeply immersive experiences that can mimic or alter our reality. In VR, users enter computer-generated 3D environments that can feel astonishingly real – complete with visual, auditory, and even tactile sensations. In AR, digital images or information are superimposed on our real-world view (for example, seeing a navigation line on the road through smart glasses, or Pokémon creatures on your sidewalk via a smartphone). AI-driven environments add another layer, with artificial intelligence generating dynamic content and interactions on the fly. Together, these technologies promise experiences that are interactive, all-consuming, and increasingly lifelike.

Popular media has eagerly extrapolated these trends, painting vivid pictures of worlds where the virtual overtakes the real. Some notable examples include:

- **Ready Player One (2018)** – This Steven Spielberg film (based on Ernest Cline's novel) is set in 2045, where much of humanity uses the OASIS, a virtual reality simulation, to escape the real world. The story's dystopian future shows people living in shanty conditions in the physical realm while they spend nearly all their time in the glamorous VR universe of OASIS. Society finds refuge in a digital illusion, blurring the line between genuine life and a fabricated world. The film's premise strikingly illustrates how an immersive virtual utopia can captivate the masses and supplant reality.

- **Black Mirror (TV Series)** – This anthology series is known for its eerie explorations of technology's dark side. One episode, “*Playtest*,” warns of the near-future dangers of virtual and augmented reality. In “*Playtest*,” a man tests an advanced AR/VR horror game that taps into his mind, making it impossible for him to distinguish simulation from reality – with nightmarish results. Another famous episode, “*San Junipero*,” envisions a virtual afterlife where people's consciousness lives in a simulated paradise. Throughout *Black Mirror*, the message is clear: the more immersive and realistic our technology becomes, the

"The surge of UFO sightings, especially those that defy logical explanation, fits precisely into this biblical framework of deception."

easier it is to lose our grip on what is real – sometimes with tragic consequences.

- **Modern Video Games and the Metaverse** – Today's video games and online platforms are increasingly immersive and communal. For example, the popular game **Fortnite** hosted a virtual concert featuring rapper Travis Scott that drew an astonishing 12.3 million players participating concurrently in the in-game event. Millions of youth experienced a dazzling concert together inside a virtual world, complete with a giant holographic avatar of the artist and surreal visuals – an experience arguably more spectacular than a real concert. This record-breaking event highlights how digital spaces can now bring people together en masse and evoke powerful emotions, all while bypassing the physical world. Tech visionaries speak of the coming "**Metaverse**" – a collective virtual shared space – which could further blend social life, commerce, and even education into a persistent digital realm. It's not hard to imagine young people spending the bulk of their waking hours in such a metaverse, effectively living in an illusion that feels as significant as "real life."

These examples show that the allure of immersive tech is no longer theoretical – it's here now, shaping culture and behavior. VR and AR are not niche gadgets for gamers only; they are being adopted in education, workplace training, therapy, and social media. AI-driven content (from deepfake videos to intelligent chatbots) likewise permeates our information ecosystem. As a result, we face a world where appearances can easily deceive. What happens, for instance, when AI can generate a video of a world leader announcing something that *never actually happened*? Or when a lonely teenager prefers his custom-tailored AI virtual companion to any human relationship? We are entering a paradigm where seeing is not necessarily believing, and where people can curate the reality they want to see.

BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN REALITY AND ILLUSION

One of the profound psychological effects of these technologies is how they can alter our perception of reality. Studies have found that immersion in VR can induce a measurable state of dissociation – a sort of mental disconnect from the real world. In one experiment, participants who spent time in a virtual environment showed "*an increase in dissociative experience (depersonalization and derealization), including a lessened sense of presence in objective reality*" after VR exposure. In simpler terms, prolonged VR use can make the real world feel less *real* by comparison. Users often describe a "VR

hangover" – a disoriented feeling when they return to normal life, as if the virtual world was more engaging than the mundane real one.

Augmented Reality, too, can make fictional objects or scenarios appear before our very eyes in the real environment. A person wearing AR glasses might see virtual arrows on the floor guiding his steps, or interact with a "digital pet" that isn't truly there. Our brains, remarkably, can begin to treat these illusions as real. If an AR headset shows a digital table in the room, someone might subconsciously walk around it to avoid bumping into it – even after taking the headset off! This illustrates how easily our senses can be fooled when technology is seamlessly integrated with perception.

The rise of AI-generated media further muddies the waters. "Deepfake" technology can create astonishingly realistic fake videos of people – making it appear that someone said or did something they never did. AI can clone voices with such accuracy that a phone scammer could imitate your family member's voice crying for help. Recently, reports surfaced of criminals using AI to mimic a child's voice in a phone call, tricking a mother into thinking her daughter had been kidnapped – a horrifying *real-life deception* facilitated by technology. Such examples show that the tools to deceive en masse are increasingly accessible. In the wrong hands, these could certainly be used to mislead the public with false "miracles" or manufactured narratives.

This blurring of reality and illusion is deeply concerning. God created us to live in truth and soberness of mind (1 Peter 5:8, Titus 2:6). Our ability to discern truth from falsehood can be dulled when we are constantly feeding on fantasy. There is nothing wrong with a healthy imagination or enjoying fiction, of course. But what happens when entire populations choose to escape into fantasy worlds daily, or when they come to prefer the comfortable illusions over uncomfortable reality? We risk a generation that, like the Bible says, "*will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables*" (2 Timothy 4:4). In a very literal sense, immersive tech provides endless "fables" – artificial scenarios – to occupy minds, potentially leaving less time and appetite for the grounding truth of God's Word.

Immersion in synthetic environments can also desensitize us spiritually. When someone spends hours battling virtual monsters or living as an avatar, the spiritual threats in the real world (such as temptation, moral compromise, the subtle lies of Satan) may not seem as urgent or real. It's reminiscent of the biblical warning to be spiritually awake: "*Let us not sleep, as others do, but let us*

"The convergence of extraterrestrial discourse with biblical prophecy forces us to

watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:6). Yet, if our minds are perpetually distracted by digital amusements, we can in effect fall asleep to spiritual realities. It's easy to see how an immersive fantasy, experienced daily, could become a sort of addiction that numbs one's desire for the things of God. As Jesus warned, "Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly" (Luke 21:34). Today's "cares of this life" and distractions might not only be partying or making money – they might also be endless scrolling, gaming, and escapism in virtual realms. The more hooked on unreality we become, the more vulnerable our minds are to deception.

CONDITIONING MINDS FOR THE ANTICHRIST'S DECEPTION

The Bible explicitly warns that a period of unprecedented deception will characterize the last days. Jesus said that false christs and false prophets will rise and "show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). The Apostle Paul, describing the coming of the Antichrist (the "lawless one"), said it will be "according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception" among those who refuse the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). Because people persistently reject the truth, "God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:11). These scriptures paint a dire picture: humanity, untethered from love of the truth, will be ripe to embrace a grand falsehood orchestrated by Satan's power. The Antichrist will deceive the world with impressive signs and miracles – so convincing that many will worship him as a savior.

How does this relate to VR, AR, and AI? In previous generations, one might have wondered how the masses could be so quickly fooled by one man's lying wonders. But today, we can easily imagine how technology could amplify and globalize deception. Consider a few possibilities:

- **False Signs and Wonders:** With modern special effects, holograms, and augmented reality, a leader could stage awe-inspiring "miracles" that are actually technological illusions. For instance, causing "fire to come down from heaven" in the sight of people (a feat attributed to the False Prophet in Revelation 13:13) might be trivially achieved through advanced weaponry or projection technology. A worldwide television and internet audience could be shown these wonders live, convincing billions. What *appears* miraculous could be a carefully crafted show. Even today, **deepfake videos** and CGI can produce very realistic footage of supernatural-looking events. In the hands of a charismatic deceiver, such tools would greatly

enhance his credibility as a messianic figure.

- **An Image that Speaks:** The Bible foretells that the False Prophet will urge the world to make an image of the Antichrist and even "give breath to the image of the beast, that the image... should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed" (Revelation 13:14-15). This was written in the first century, when the notion of a talking, animated image would sound like pure fantasy or magic. But in an age of robots and AI, such a thing is chillingly plausible. Some Bible prophecy teachers have speculated that this "image of the beast" could be a form of AI-driven avatar or robot, empowered by demonic influence. Imagine a towering holographic figure or humanoid AI that broadcasts the Antichrist's speeches 24/7, demanding loyalty under penalty of death – essentially a high-tech idol. The technology to create lifelike speaking images exists (through robotics, AI, or simply ubiquitous screens), meaning the infrastructure for this prophecy is ready whenever the Antichrist arrives. Our friends over at Got Questions notes that certain end-times prophecies "seemed impossible until the advent of modern technology" – and indeed, "the tools [the Antichrist] will use may very well be here already".

- **Global Mind Conditioning:** Beyond specific fake miracles, the very prevalence of immersive tech could be conditioning people's minds to *accept illusion without question*. The more comfortable people are with virtual experiences and "living in the matrix," the less likely they may be to question what is presented to them. If a future deceiver utilizes a combination of mass media, augmented reality displays, and AI-crafted propaganda, a populace that has grown to trust technology's visions might hardly stand a chance. We already see how social media algorithms create echo chambers where people accept whatever fits their desired narrative as truth. Scale that up with far more immersive tech, and you have a recipe for an entire society believing a "strong delusion" because it's broadcast in every home, on every device, in every VR headset, and perhaps even directly into AR contact lenses or neural implants. It's a sobering thought: the same innovations we celebrate could be turned into channels of overpowering deceit.

It's important to note that technology itself is not the Antichrist nor inherently evil. These tools can be used for good or ill. In fact, just as tech can spread lies, it can also spread truth – for example, the internet and satellite TV have allowed the Gospel of Jesus to reach the ends of the earth (cf. Mark 13:10), and Bible teachers leverage modern media to warn and teach. However, prophecy warns us that the end-times society will be extraordinarily vulnerable to deception. When we look at young generations today, many virtually live online or in game worlds, we can't help

but see a parallel: they are used to alternate realities. They crave the stimulation and often have a diminished attention span for slower, sober realities. If someone (say, a false messiah) comes along offering a dazzling "experience" – be it peace, unity, or spiritual fulfillment – packaged in the familiarity of high-tech wonders, how many would discern the lie? Paul said the reason people will be deceived is that they *"did not receive the love of the truth"* (2 Thess. 2:10). In a culture increasingly indifferent to absolute truth and obsessed with entertainment, we see that trend already. Loving the truth requires seeking God's reality even when it's not packaged in flashy graphics or convenient virtual form. That is a love that must be cultivated now, before the great deception is unleashed.

SPIRITUAL VIGILANCE IN A HIGH-TECH WORLD

Given these trends, how should Christians respond? It's neither realistic nor biblical to suggest we abandon technology entirely. These innovations aren't going away; if anything, they will advance more rapidly. Moreover, technology can be harnessed for God's purposes – for connecting believers, aiding education, even creating biblically themed content in creative formats. The key is discernment and moderation. We are called to be *"in the world"* but not of it (John 17:15-16), which today means we might use technology but not let it control or define us. Here are some principles for spiritual vigilance amid immersive tech:

- **Anchor to God's Truth:** More than ever, we must ground ourselves in Scripture – the ultimate reality and truth. God's Word is the lens that reveals deception. When you know the genuine truth well, you can spot the counterfeit. As Psalm 119:105 says, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* In a world where digital glamor can cast shadows on the truth, we need that lamp turned on bright. Regular Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with mature believers help renew our minds (Romans 12:2) so we can discern the schemes of the enemy, no matter how cleverly disguised. If some virtual experience or cultural trend doesn't align with God's truth, we should have the courage to call it out for the illusion it is.

- **Maintain a Healthy Relationship with Tech:** Enjoy technology's benefits but set healthy boundaries. Parents should be especially mindful of how much time kids spend in virtual play vs. real life development. Encourage activities that keep one's *spirit* engaged – such as outdoor time in God's creation, face-to-face relationships, reading, serving others. These help reinforce reality and keep our faculties sharp. When using VR or games, do so with intentional limits. Take regular breaks to "reorient" to real

life. Discuss as a family the difference between reality and make-believe, reinforcing that *truth matters*. By keeping one foot firmly in reality, we are less likely to get swept away by a flood of digital make-believe.

- **Cultivate Media Discernment:** Not every flashy experience is neutral. Some games or VR experiences carry messages or values contrary to Christ. Be willing to ask: *Is this drawing me closer to God or dulling my sensitivity to Him? We should "test all things"* (1 Thessalonians 5:21) – including the content and worldview of the media we consume. This doesn't mean we only watch or play overtly Christian content; but it does mean we have an internal filter alert to deception. Even something as subtle as a movie that glorifies escaping reality at all costs might warrant a conversation about why perpetual escape isn't the answer. Teach the next generation to *think critically* about the technologies and media they engage with. An aware mind is less easily manipulated.

- **Stay Watchful for Prophetic Signs:** Rather than being caught off-guard, we should stay informed about both technological developments and biblical prophecy. Jesus told us, *"What I say to you, I say to all. Watch!"* (Mark 13:37). This doesn't mean diving into wild conspiracy theories or seeing the Antichrist behind every microchip. It means keeping a sober eye on the world, recognizing how rapidly things are moving towards the kind of global conditions the Bible predicted for the end times. When we see VR, AR, and AI exploding, we don't merely think, "Cool, what's the next gadget?" We also think, "Interesting – this could be used to fulfill aspects of Revelation or 2 Thessalonians." Such a mindset keeps us spiritually alert. It also opens opportunities to discuss the Gospel: for instance, if a friend is fascinated with the idea of the Metaverse, you might gently turn the conversation to how living in a false reality can leave us empty, and how Christ offers truth and life *more abundantly* (John 10:10).

Above all, we must remember that our hope is in Jesus Christ, not in the works of man – and not in our own ability to resist deception either. Jesus promised that *"if possible, even the elect"* would be targeted by deception (Matt. 24:24), implying that God will protect those who truly belong to Him. We take comfort that God's grace is sufficient to keep us in the truth as we abide in Him. Our responsibility is to actively abide – to remain rooted in Christ and His Word – so that we are not easily moved. The Apostle John wrote, *"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things... concerning those who try to deceive you"* (1 John 2:20,26). The Holy Spirit within believers is able to raise a red flag in our hearts when something is spiritually off. We should pray for increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance in these perilous times.

EMBRACING TRUTH IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION


VR, AR, and AI technologies hold amazing promise, and they will likely define the coming decades of human society. Yet, as followers of Christ, we view them through a unique lens. We see not only the fun and convenience they offer, but also the potential they have to ensnare minds and propagate lies. The Bible's prophetic warnings about a future delusion are strikingly relevant as we watch people willingly submerge themselves in make-believe worlds today. It is no stretch to imagine the Antichrist leveraging every tool at his disposal – from miraculous signs (real or engineered) to ubiquitous media – to captivate a generation that's been groomed to prefer illusion over truth.

But we are not helpless bystanders in this trajectory. We are called to be *"the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:14) within this world. That means we can use these very technologies to spread the light of truth. For example, Christians are creating VR Gospel presentations, AR apps that visualize Bible stories, and AI tools to translate Scripture into every language. Scott Townsend, creator of the Rapture Kit, is a prime example—he is laboring day and night, leveraging technology to ensure the Gospel reaches those left behind after the Rapture. This is precisely how believers should strategically use technology; consider supporting Scott in this vital mission.

Even as deception grows, the truth of Christ can shine all the brighter. And on an individual level, our personal commitment to truth – living honestly, authentically, and anchored in God's reality – will be a testimony that cuts through the fog of fakery. When others see us refusing to bow to the idols of entertainment and escapism, maintaining joy and integrity in the real world, it will make them curious. Why aren't we intoxicated by the illusions like everyone else? That curiosity can lead to conversations about the eternal truth in Jesus. Modern tech is a double-edged sword: it can enrich our lives, but it can also deceive and destroy if misused. The line between reality and fantasy is thinning, just as the line between truth and lie is being blurred in

our culture. Christians must respond by clinging to the unchanging truth of Scripture and exercising wisdom. Let's heed the prophetic warnings and not dismiss them. This doesn't mean we live in fear; rather, we live in heightened awareness and with urgency. The Bible says the Antichrist's deception will ensnare those who *"did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness"* (2 Thessalonians 2:12). In contrast, let us be those who *love the truth*, even when it's unpopular or mundane. Let us find our ultimate pleasure in righteousness – in knowing God and experiencing the genuine reality of His presence – rather than in the passing pleasures of a virtual escape.

The technologies of VR, AR, and AI will likely play some role in the end-time scenarios, whether in setting the stage or actually executing the schemes of the Evil One. We can't say exactly how, but we can already see the conditioning at work. Now is the time to prepare our hearts and minds. Parents, educate your kids about these issues; pastors, equip your congregations to think biblically about technology; individual believer, examine your own habits and be willing to disconnect if something is dulling your soul. Remember Paul's counsel: *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong"* (1 Corinthians 16:13). With eyes wide open and hearts full of the Holy Spirit, we can navigate the coming illusions and stand firm in Christ.

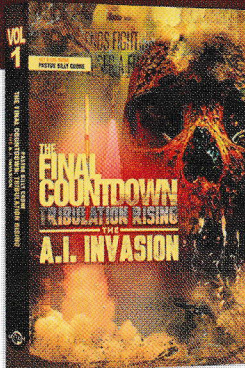
In the end, no virtual paradise can compare to the glorious reality that awaits believers in the literal return of Jesus. The Antichrist may offer a convincing counterfeit kingdom for a time, but it will pale before the true Kingdom of God. Our Lord is *"the way, the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6), and those who follow Him will not be ultimately deceived. May we hold fast to Jesus – *Truth incarnate* – as the world around us increasingly trades reality for make-believe. By doing so, we not only safeguard our own souls, but we also become beacons of truth for others, guiding them out of darkness when the virtual lights begin to blind. Stay vigilant, dear reader, and let no one deceive you (Matthew 24:4). The hour is late, but the truth is timeless – and the truth will set you free (John 8:32)! **Stay Awake. Keep Watch.** 

FINAL COUNTDOWN AI INVASION BOOK PACKAGE

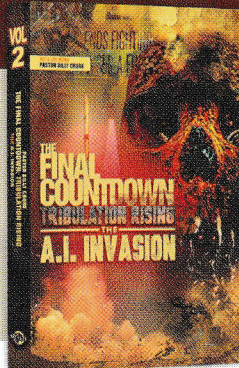
Understanding & Escaping The Coming Threat of AI by Pastor Billy Crone

BOOK - Vol. 1

BOOK - Vol. 2



BK898 \$25.00
FREE USA SHIPPING

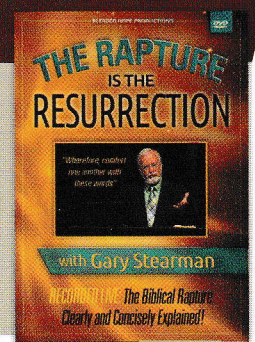


BK899 \$25.00
FREE USA SHIPPING

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (or AI) is beginning to permeate the whole planet, and yet very few people have heard about it, let alone comprehend the dire consequences that are coming from its recent development. In fact, hardly anyone, including Christians or the Church, are aware of how this technology was not only prophesied as a foreboding warning from God in the Bible some 2,600 years ago, but sure enough, just like He said, even the secularists involved in its creation are declaring the same message of doom as well. Billy is talking about the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its global invasion. The AI Invasion series seeks to equip you with the most exhaustive, current, up-to-date study anywhere on the planet concerning Artificial Intelligence and its Biblical ramifications. You will be immersed in the prophetic world of the Antichrist and discover how AI is the very tool he needs to pull off the wicked, dastardly deeds he will be committing in the final hour of humanity!

PP379 \$50.00 **FREE SHIPPING WITHIN THE USA!**

FREE BONUS!



DVD361 \$15.00
FREE USA SHIPPING