

THE AI REVOLUTION & CONTEMPORARY ADVENTISM

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AN AGE OF
INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION



Introduction

GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF HUMANKIND:

1. Nuclear challenge
2. Ecological challenge
3. Technological challenge

A close-up photograph of a person's hands using scissors to cut a piece of white paper. The word "Impossible" is written in a bold, black, cursive font on the paper. The scissors are positioned to cut through the paper, and the word is partially cut. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Impossible

Introduction

‘We have just encountered an alien intelligence, here on Earth. We don’t know much about it, except that it might destroy our civilisation ... AI can create completely new ideas, completely new culture ... What we are talking about is potentially the end of human history. Not the end of history, just the end of its human-dominated part.’

—**YUVAL NOAH HARARI**, ‘AI has Hacked the Operating System of Human Civilisation,’ *Economist*, 28 April 2023.





QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

OVERVIEW

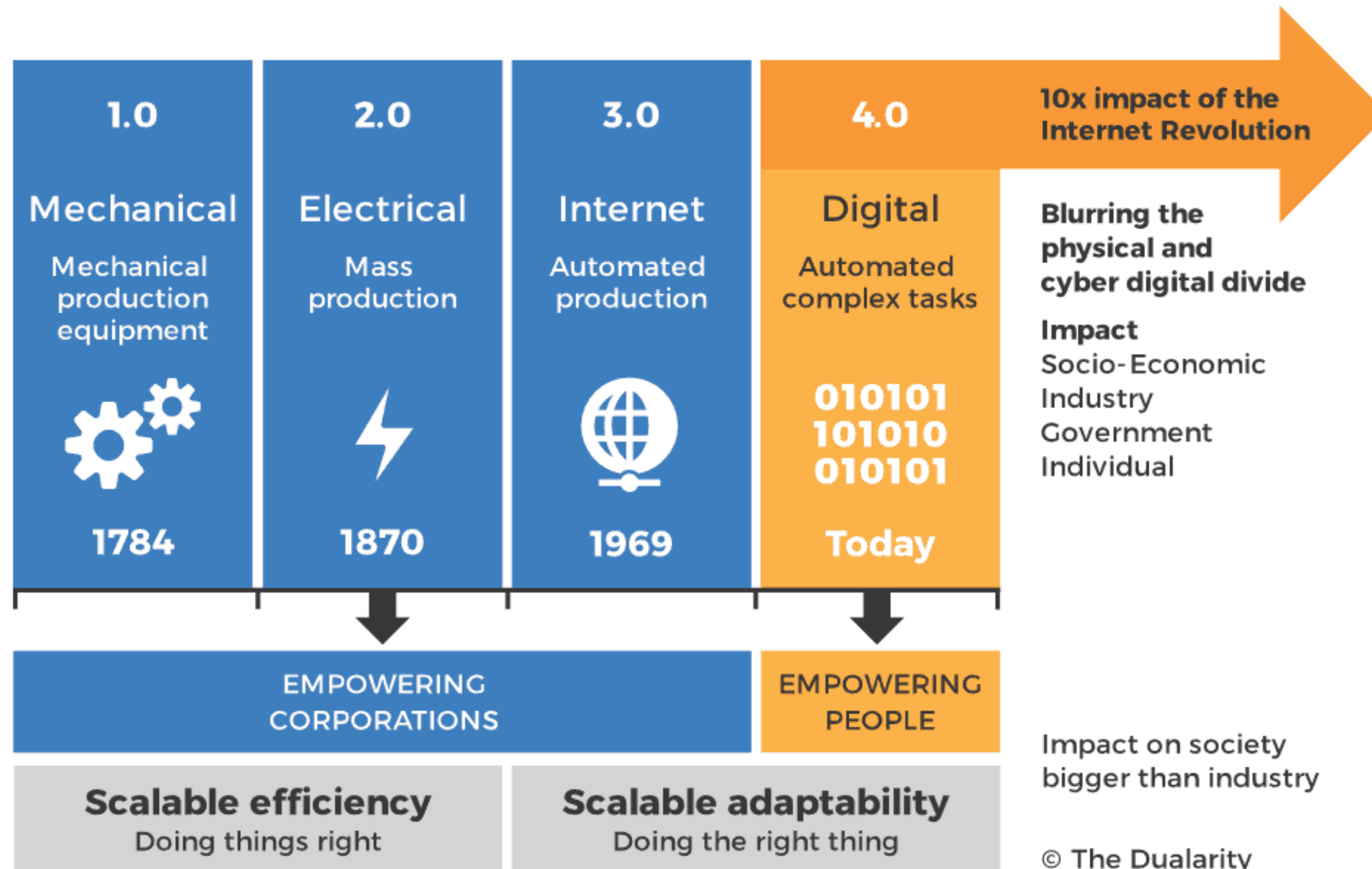
- Historical overview
- Basic concepts & issues in AI
- Christianity as an embodied religion
- Implications for pastoral ministry
- Conclusion and further resources for study



1 Historical Overview

Welcome to the Industrial Revolution 4.0

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1 Historical Overview

CHATGPT

 OpenAI



02 Basic Concepts & Issues in AI

CONCEPTS:

- Machine learning
- Singularity
- Friendly AI



02 Basic Concepts & Issues

‘We won’t really be able to understand why a superintelligent machine is making the decision it is making. How can you reason, how can you bargain, how can you understand how that machine is thinking when its thinking in dimensions you can’t conceive of? ... After one generation or two generations, they’d just ignore us.’

— **KEVIN WARWICK**, University of Reading

02 Basic Concepts & Issues in AI

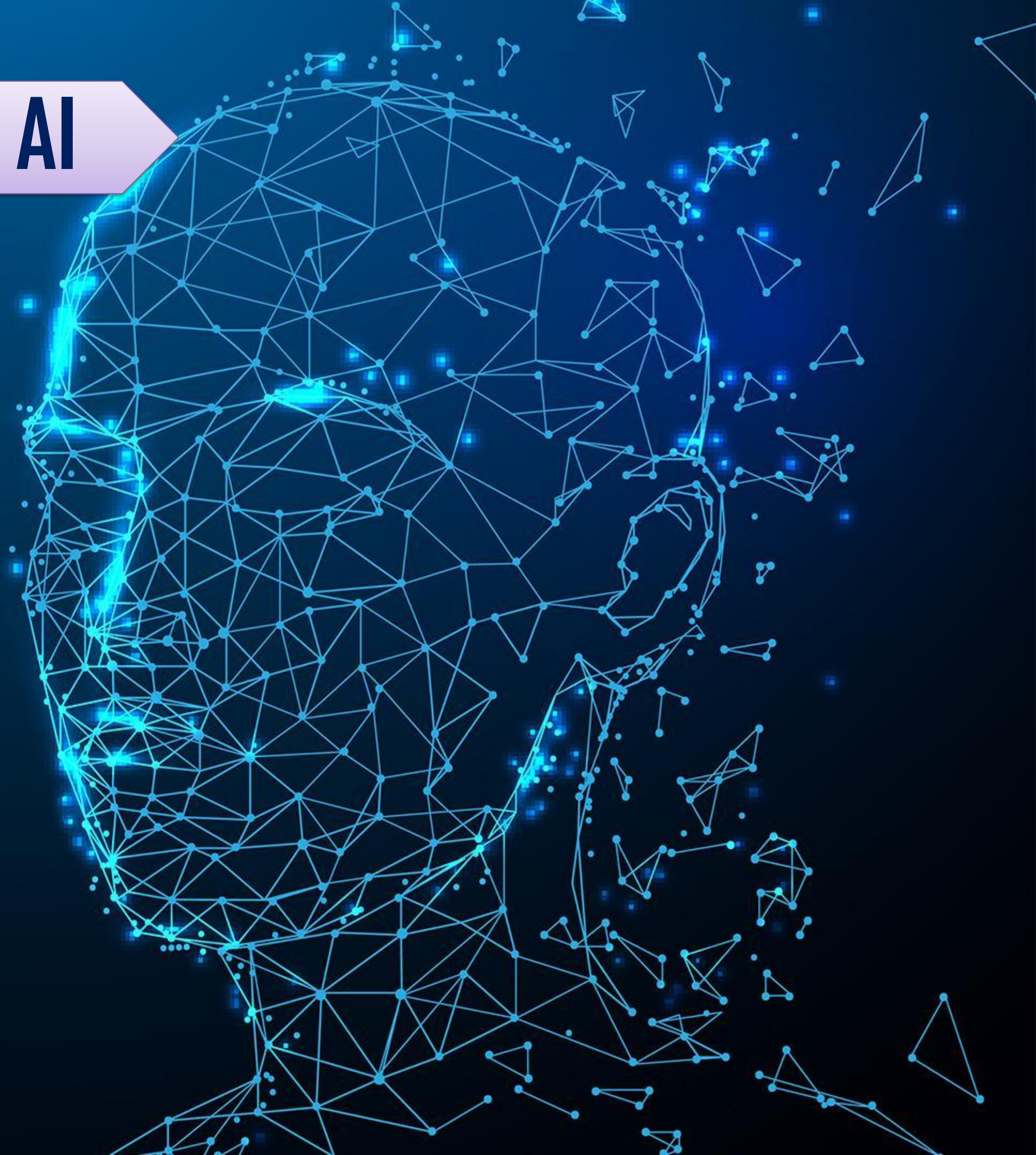
CONCEPTS:

- Machine learning
- Singularity
- Friendly AI
- Facial & voice recognition
- Augmentation
- Cyborg

02 Basic Concepts & Issues in AI

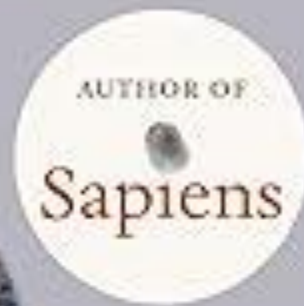
ISSUES:

- Existential fear



02 Basic Concepts & Issues

THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER
Yuval Noah Harari



21 Lessons for the 21st Century

'Truly mind-expanding... Ultra-topical... Dazzling'
GUARDIAN

VINTAGE

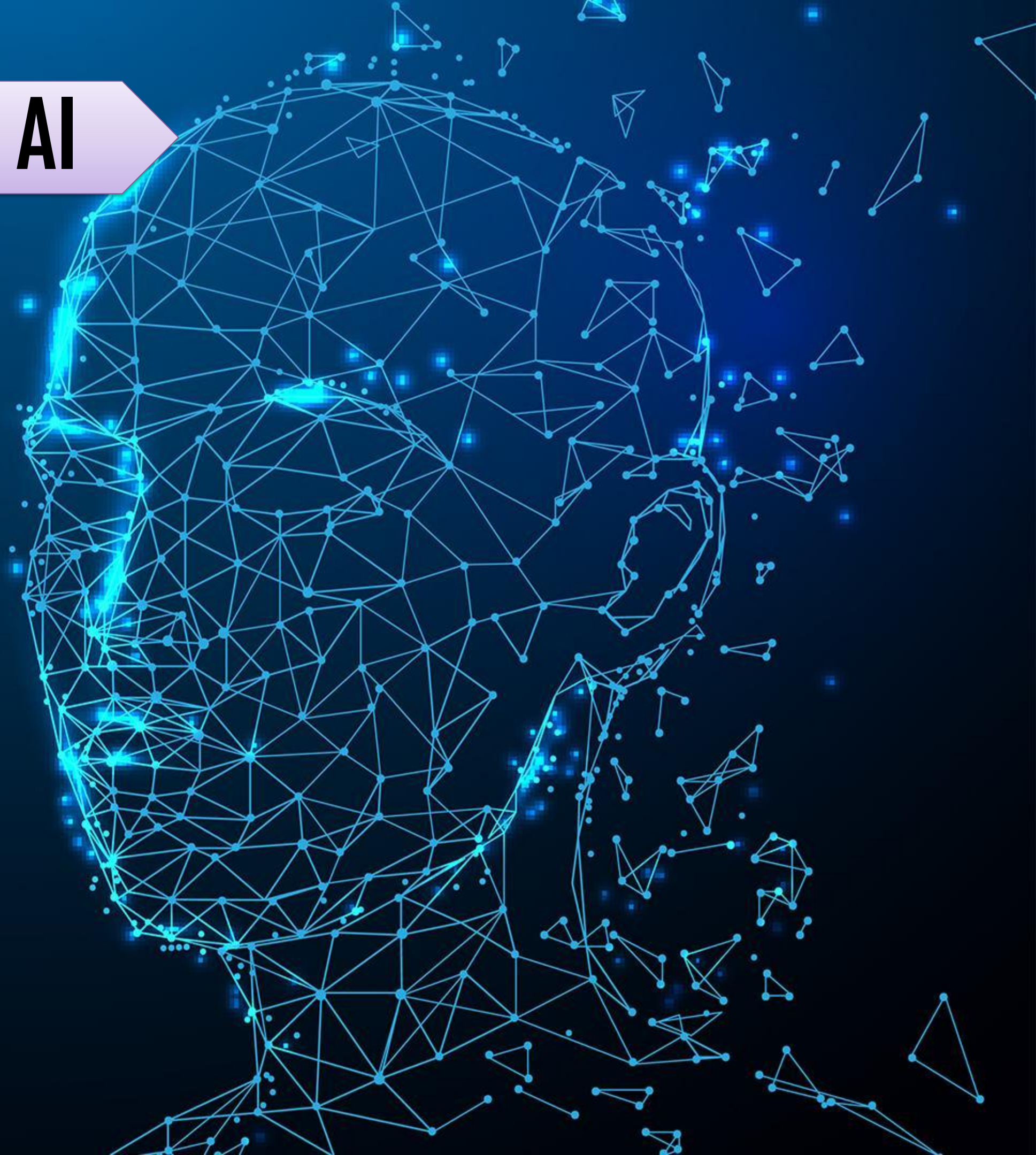
'Nobody knows what the consequences will be. Humans were always far better at inventing tools than using them wisely ... In the coming century biotech and infotech will give us the power to manipulate the world inside us and reshape ourselves, but because we don't understand the complexity of our own minds, the changes we will make might upset our mental system to such an extent that it too might break down.'

— **HARARI**, *21 Lessons*, 16.

02 Basic Concepts & Issues in AI

ISSUES:

- Existential fear
- Unemployment



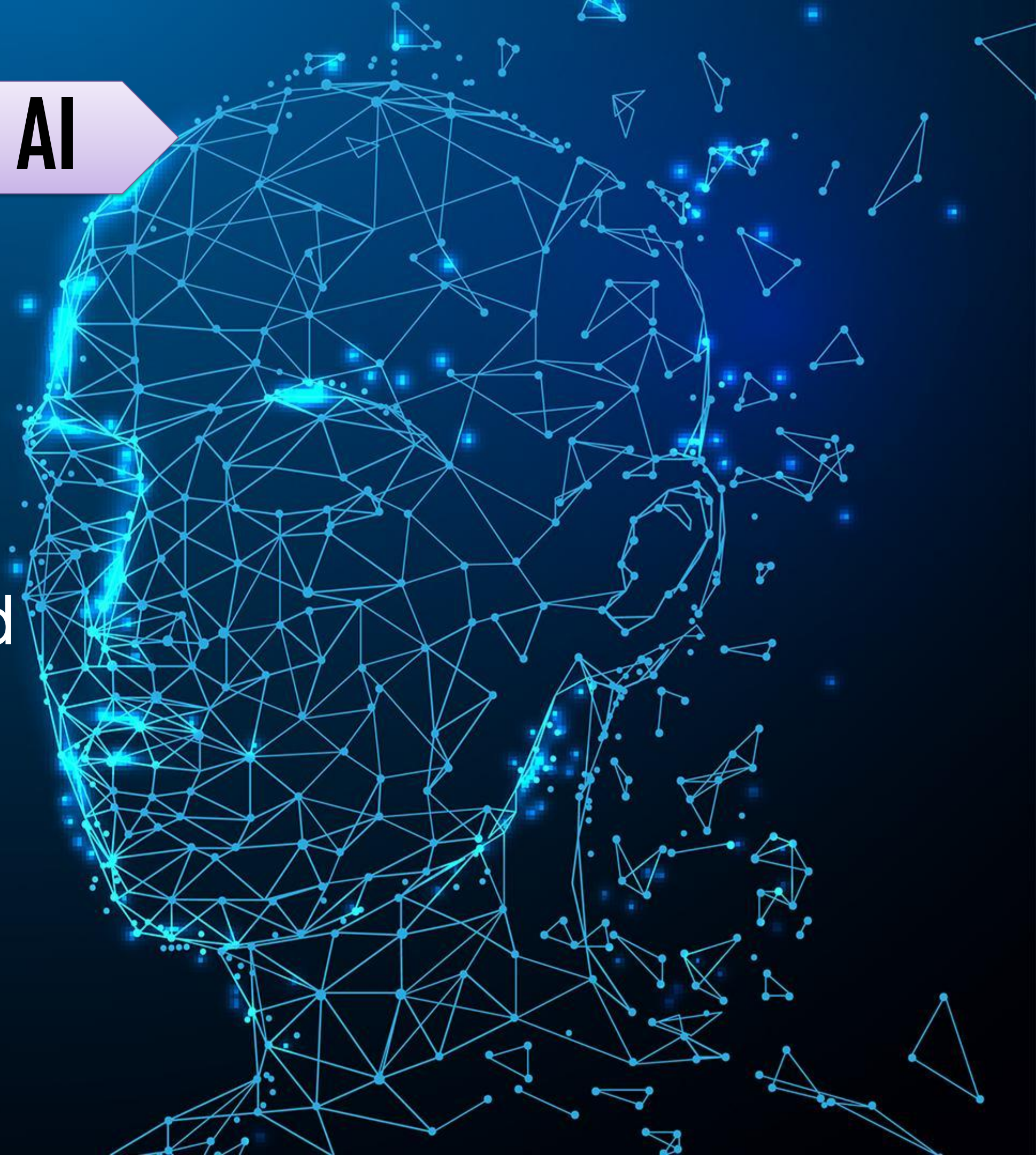


Théâtre D'opéra Spatial (2022)

02 Basic Concepts & Issues in AI

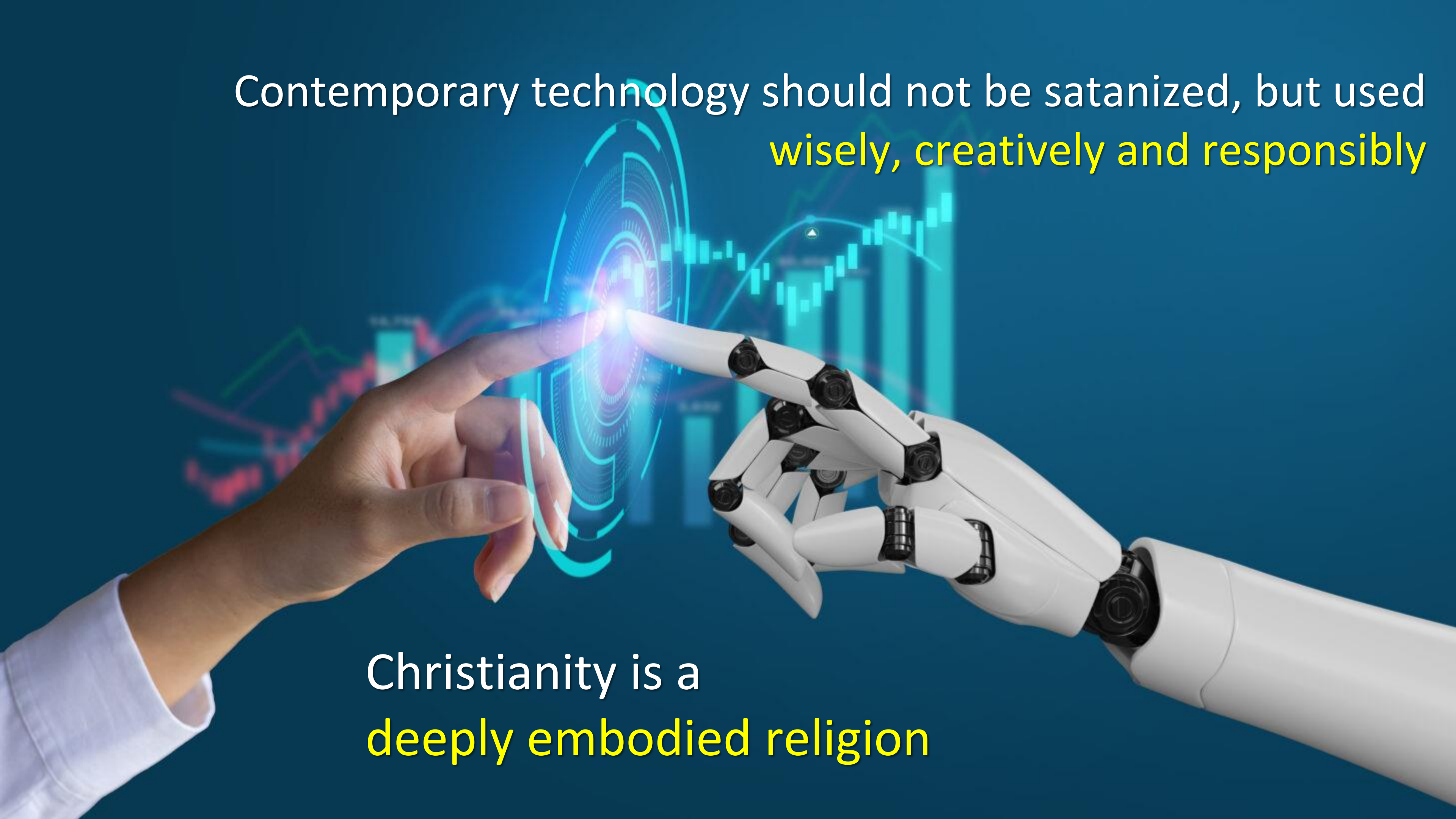
ISSUES:

- Existential fear
- Unemployment
- Re-engineering human mind
- Bias
- Intellectual laziness
- Power struggle
- Cyber crime



Contemporary technology should not be satanized, but used
wisely, creatively and responsibly

Christianity is a
deeply embodied religion





03 Christianity as an Embodied Religion

- ‘And the Word became flesh and **lived among us** (ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν), and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son’ (John 1:14).
- ‘No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who **has made him known** (ἐξηγήσατο)’ (John 1:18).
- Key principle for ministry in the digital age: **personal presence and relationality**.



03 Christianity as an Embodied Religion

We can become fully human only when we give ourselves to others as ‘companion, associate, comrade, fellow and helpmate. Humanity lives and moves and has its being in this freedom to be oneself with the other, and oneself to be with the other.’

– **KARL BARTH**, *Church Dogmatics*, 3:272.

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions



RELATIONAL CHURCH

Looking for a Better Way

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions



Criteria for authentic relationships:

1. Looking the other in the eye

- ‘He brought Simon to Jesus, who **looked at him** and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”’ (John 1:42).
- Preoccupation with ourselves → alienation

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions



‘Physical presence adds a depth and nuance to our interactions that is lost when those interactions are mediated by computers, no matter how immersive the application or high the resolution.’

— **NOREEN HERZFELD**, *The Artifice of Intelligence* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2023), 43.

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions



Criteria for authentic relationships:

2. Speaking to and hearing the other

- ‘He brought Simon to Jesus, who **looked at him** and **said**, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”’ (John 1:42).
- God speaks in order to relate to us (Jesus is the WORD of God)

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions



Criteria for authentic relationships:

2. Speaking to and hearing the other

- Discourse vs. rhetoric
- ‘Although I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink; instead, I hope to come to you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.’
(2 John 12)

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions



Criteria for authentic relationships:

3. Action: we are to aid one another

- ‘We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another’ (1 John 3:16).
- Area for growth: treating people with respect in a Christ-line manner and helping them practically.

03 Christianity as an Embodied Religions

Criteria for authentic relationships:

4. Gladness in doing things for others

- Relying on outward show → emptiness



04 Implications for Pastoral Ministry

1. Using contemporary tools creatively, but nothing can replace personal connection.
2. Capitalise on offering genuine hope in age of dystopia.

‘No matter how well we fix our bodies or our computer, they remain finite creations of a finite planet within a finite universe.’
—**HERZFELD**, *The Artifice of Intelligence*, 139).



A hand holding a glowing lightbulb with a brain inside, symbolizing ideas and technology. The background is dark with a blue and black diagonal stripe.

04 Implications for Pastoral Ministry

1. Using contemporary tools creatively, but nothing can replace personal connection
2. Capitalise in offering genuine hope in age of dystopia
3. Authenticity in a world filled with fake phenomena
4. Embodied approach → face to face
5. Be innovative and courageous in evangelism
6. Lead with compassion
7. Never put machines before people

05 Conclusion



05 Conclusion



05 Conclusion

- The future of chocolate → without creativity and innovation there is no progress.
- Drinking chocolate, eating chocolate – what's next?
- Why are both chocolate and social media addictive?
- How is AI changing chocolate production?
- Can new technologies lead to even better chocolate?



05 Conclusion

- Will there be packaging that speaks to us in the future?
- Is block chain the solution to sustainable chocolate supply chain?
- Could we make chocolate without cocoa tree?
- Could there be a chocolate that adapts to my personal wishes?
- Ecologically responsible chocolate production?



05 Conclusion

- When will I be able to make my own chocolate with a 3D printer?
- Are local specialties future-proofed in a global world?



05 Conclusion

Honouring the past, creating the future



DANIEL PETER
(1836–1919)



HENRI NESTLÉ
(1814–1890)

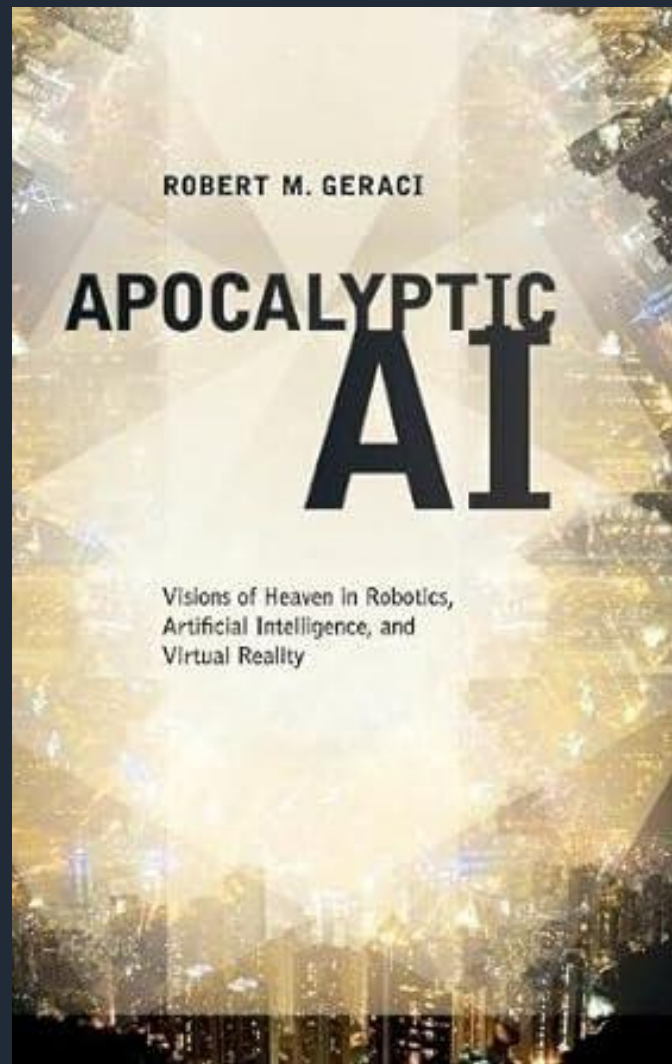
05 Conclusion

Embodied Love

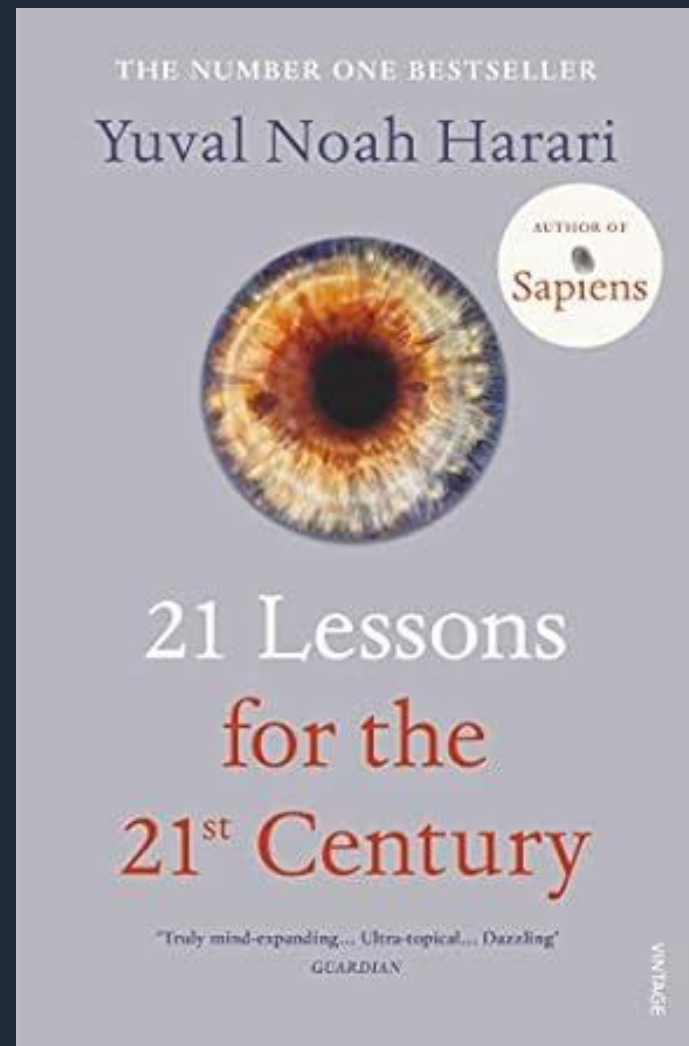


‘What makes life worth living is not the information. ... It is the physical things themselves. It is the way they make us feel. It is love. An embodied love that we see, hear, taste, touch, and cherish. A love that our God has shared and that we will, in some way, take with us to the end.’

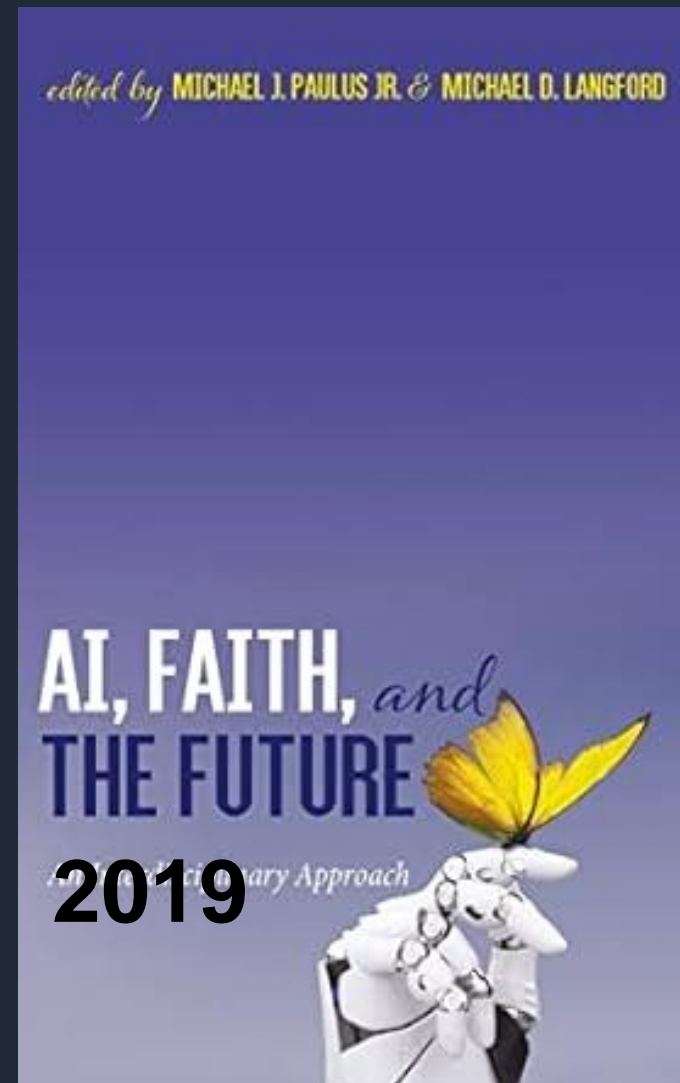
—**HERZFELD**, *The Artifice of Intelligence*, 179.



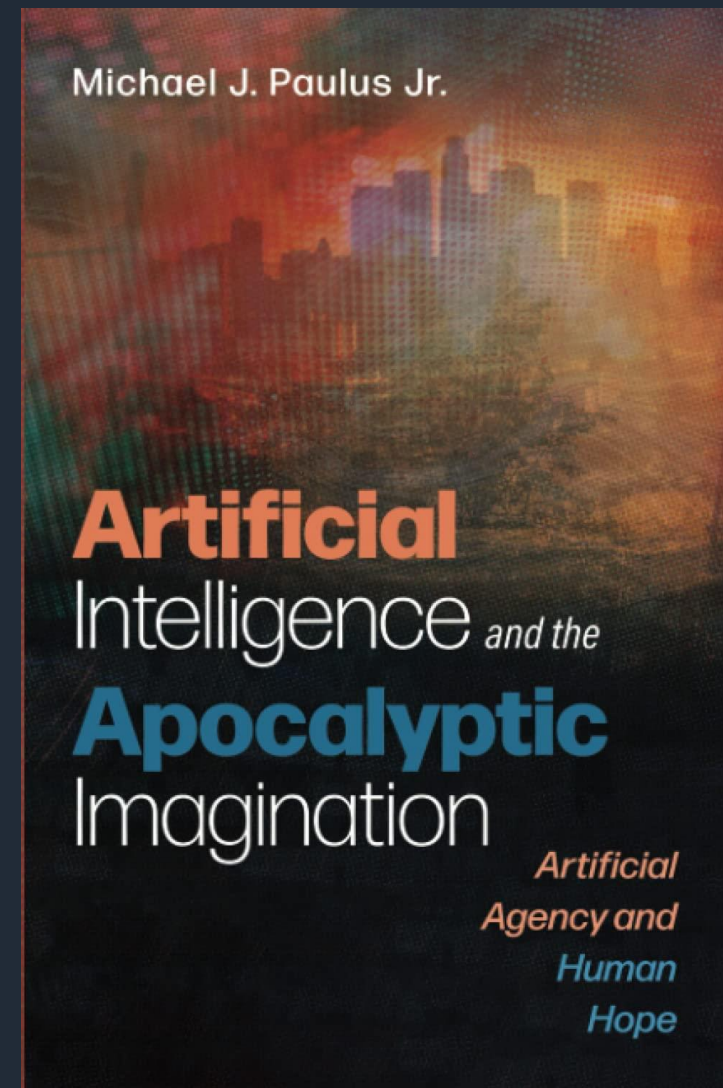
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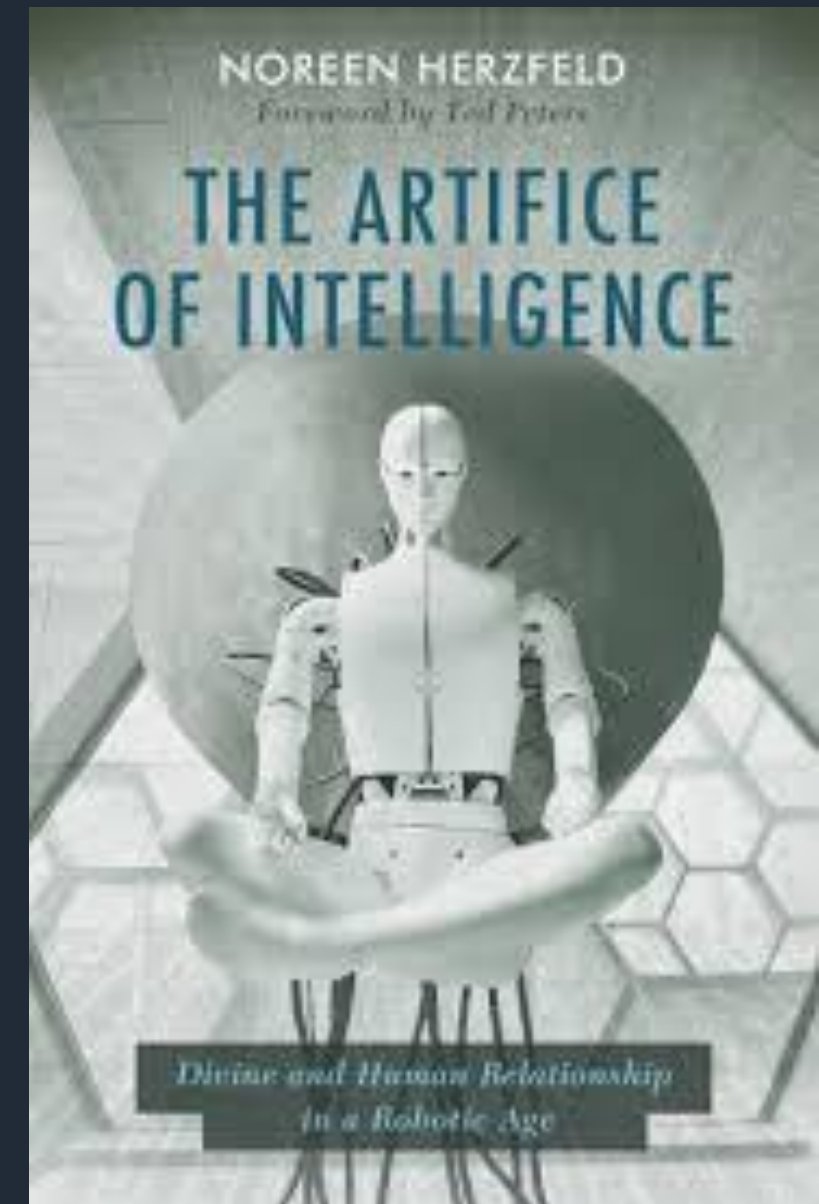
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