



# Christian Citizenship

"You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God's kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God's Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the "public square" with our message of Christ's mercy for all. Please pray for God's will to be done... in Jesus' name.

## AI, TRUTH, AND WORDS

Have we given thought to the idea of "bibles" being written by AI? Can we see the impact this could have on our identity as God's creation? On our thoughts and behavior as male and female toward ourselves and one another? On the way we order our lives, build families and community, carry out justice, fear and love God, and serve our neighbor?

Leo Hohmann is an independent investigator and journalist. He describes himself as a "fully human analyst with a heart for truth." Here are excerpts from his article focusing on the presentation recently given at the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos, Switzerland, by Israeli historian and philosopher Yuval Harari.

Harari: "It is important to learn what AI is. It is not just another tool. It is an agent. It can learn and change by itself and make decisions by itself. A knife is a tool. You can use a knife to cut salad or to murder someone, but it is your decision what to do with the knife. AI is a knife that can decide by itself whether to make salad or to murder."

Harari: "AI can lie and manipulate."

To this, Hohmann responds: "[Those who] rely on it every single day to inform their work, their businesses, their person lives . . . will become dependent on it, and at some point they will be deceived by it." Hohmann continues. "Harari said AI will first take over everything that consists of words. That includes law, articles and books, even religion. You can see that is happening already. News writers and gathers are being replaced. Legal assistants and lawyers are being replaced. And people are consulting AI for advice related to life, faith and spiritual matters."

Harari: "Some people argue AI is just glorified auto speech. It barely predicts the next words in a sentence." But is that so different from what the human mind does? As far as putting words in order, AI already thinks better than many of us. Therefore, anything made of words will be taken over by AI. If laws are made of words, then AI will take over the legal system. If books are just combinations of words, then AI will take over books. If religion is built from words, then AI will take over religion. This is particularly true of religions made up of books like Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. . . . What happens to the holy books when the greatest expert of the book is an AI? Everything made of words will be taken over by AI."

Harari is an admitted atheist so, as Hohman points out, "He doesn't understand anything about the spiritual battles raging in the world. He says that, 'If we continue to define ourselves by our ability to think in words, our identity will collapse.'" But, writes Hohman, "as followers of Jesus Christ, we must, if we want to retain our humanity, get our identity from God the Father, our Creator, and His Son Jesus." [Excerpted from Leo Hohmann, 1-20-2026.]

**What can we do?** Watch and carefully listen to the video of Yuval Harari embedded in the article "Yuval Harari at Davos: 'AI is not just another tool . . . It has the ability to lie and manipulate'" [Leo Hohmann, January 20, 2026]. Or, you can go directly to YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJB7JNWo58w>

As families and congregations, ponder Harari's question: "What happens to the holy books when the greatest expert of the book is an AI? Hold tight to your family Bibles. Check the publishing date of the Bibles in your house. Become more and more familiar with the Holy Scriptures so that you might be alert to the counterfeit. Be discerning with Bible apps and cautious with paraphrased versions of the Bible. Talk with your pastor about "study" and "application" Bibles. Do not put your trust in what is popular and trendy, but in the Word which is a "light to my path."

**Please pray** for discernment and encouragement of the Holy Spirit... in Jesus' name.

## The Scofield Reference Bible

The *Scofield Reference Bible* was first published in 1909 by Oxford University Press. It quickly became very popular. Cyrus I. Scofield did not change the actual text of the *King James Version* (KJV) but added annotated footnotes and references. The Old English grammar of the KJV is difficult for progressive generations of readers, so young and old alike became dependent on Scofield's modern language and intentional, easy-to-read, and revolutionary footnotes. This reference Bible taught a way of thinking without necessarily having to study, understand, or even read Scripture itself.

Scofield embedded the dispensational teaching of John Nelson Darby throughout the footnotes. Darby was a follower of the Plymouth Brethren, founded in 1829 by Anthony Norris Groves, and considered himself a prophet. According to Darby, distinct eras of "dispensations" are each governed by different divine principles. He taught that the current "church age" would conclude with "the Rapture" when "true Christians" would be taken to heaven and spared earthly tribulation. Dispensationalism suggests that Jewish people have a unique, unbroken covenant with God and that their return to Palestine is essential for fulfilling biblical prophecy. Darby conducted six tours of the U.S., teaching a distinction between Israel and the Church, and seven dispensations: Paradise, Noah, Abraham, Israel, Gentiles, the Spirit, and the Millennium.

With dispensational interpretations alongside biblical text, Scofield normalized a particular understanding of eschatology and role of Israel within evangelical Christian framework.

Scofield did not own the rights to the bible that bears his name. From the beginning, Oxford University Press held the copyright. Long after Scofield's death, Oxford Press continued to publish the *Scofield Reference Bible*. Some footnotes and references were deleted even as new ones were added. Author C.E. Carlson explains that Oxford Press edited the former 1948 Edition of the *Scofield Reference Bible* in 1967 at the time of the Six Day War when Israel occupied Palestine. Three examples of footnotes added to the 1967 Edition include the following:

**1)** "For a nation to commit the sin of

antisemitism brings inevitable judgment" (page 19-20, footnote [3] to Genesis 12:3; **2)** "There is a promise of blessing upon those individuals and nations who bless Abram's descendants, and a curse laid upon those who persecute the Jews" (Page 19, Genesis 12:1-3); and **3)** "It has invariably fared ill with the people who have persecuted the Jew, well with those who have protected him" and "The future will still more remarkably prove this principle" (footnote [3] bottom of page 19-20 Genesis 12:3).

The *Scofield Reference Bible* has influenced seminaries, pastors, and millions of evangelical Christians in the United States. But who was the man, Cyrus Scofield? Many resources, including the well-respected *Incredible Scofield and His Book* by Joseph M. Canfield, document that Scofield's background reveals him to have been a lawyer, politician, "born again" preacher, guilty of a series of forgeries in St. Louis for which he was sentenced to six months in jail, and a man who abandoned his wife and children. He was not a theologian. Scofield had no funds to publish this bible himself. And yet, this reference bible imprinted with his name did much to build the foundation for "Christian Zionists" in the United States. The term "Christian Zionist" was first used by Theodor Herzl at the First Zionist Congress in 1897. Christian Zionists are generally premillennial dispensationalists who believe that the return of Jews to their homeland heralds the beginning of the biblically prophesied "End Times." The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 was viewed by Christian Zionists as being the historical event of greatest importance in heralding "fulfillment of biblical prophecy." Jewish scholar Yaakov Ariel argues that "... Christian Zionists have turned into a pro-Israel lobby that uses its political power to promote policies favorable to the interests of the Jewish state."

**What can we do?** Learn. Be able to give a defense for the hope that is in you — who is Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and ascended to the right hand of God. With gentleness and respect, help your neighbor focus not upon "the people" or "the land," but Jesus Christ who will return when the Father says it is time. Read *The Incredible Scofield and His Book* by Joseph M. Canfield.

**Please pray** for wisdom and faithfulness in these days of deceit, human imaginings, and worldly spirits ... in Jesus' name.

