

Is The New Augmented And Virtual Reality Just Fantasy - Genesis 11

When God created everything, He gave the living beings the ability of communicate with each other. Insects, like the crickets, make their chirping sounds. The more advanced water creatures, like dolphins and whales make audible calls. Birds are known for their distinctive calls. While our song birds may not be as colourful as the parrots, they do not squawk. Animals have a more complex ability to communicate than the others. And as mankind is the crown of God's Creation, it is supposed to be the best. The question is, have modern communications increased man's literacy and ability to communicate in a civilized manner?

Having been involved in the field of communications since the late 1960s, there have been many changes. And as Our Lord Jesus Christ said in the Garden of Eden, there are two sides to the story. Genesis 2:16,17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. While modern communications can be used for good, much of it is not. Do people have the Godly discernment to tell the difference?

The history of communications is an interesting one, of which we will not be dealing with here. But over the last five hundred years, major events took place. The Word of God was being translated into English. Guttenberg was also able to make it available to the world with the help of his newly invented printing press. When electricity was harnessed, the telegraph led to cinematography, radio, then television, then computers etc. Now the internet has connected most of the world, so communicating is a lot faster.

While the modern communications are able to spread around current issues fast, more and more people are not satisfied with just that. They want more. And when Pokemon Go was released recently, it went ballistic. The young people mainly could not get enough of it, and went tramping all over everywhere to catch those little monsters.

What made it so enticing? It featured virtual objects superimposed over real video. They call this augmented reality. Wikipedia has an article on it. Augmented reality (AR) is a live direct or indirect view of a physical, real-world environment whose elements are augmented (or supplemented) by computer-generated sensory input such as sound, video, graphics or GPS data. It is related to a more general concept called mediated reality, in which a view of reality is modified (possibly even diminished rather than augmented) by a computer. As a result, the technology functions by enhancing one's current perception of reality. By contrast, virtual reality replaces the real world with a simulated one. Augmentation is conventionally in real-time and in semantic context with environmental elements, such as sports scores on

TV during a match. With the help of advanced AR technology (e.g. adding computer vision and object recognition) the information about the surrounding real world of the user becomes interactive and digitally manipulable. Information about the environment and its objects is overlaid on the real world. This information can be virtual or real, e.g. seeing other real sensed or measured information such as electromagnetic radio waves overlaid in exact alignment with where they actually are in space.

Augmented reality follows up on virtual reality (VR). If there was no VR, the modern gaming industry would still be using board games, like chess. VR is completely virtual and not real. In the early days, it was obvious. However, with faster computers & better graphics, there is a simulated reality in them.

Wikipedia has an article on it too. Virtual reality or virtual realities (VR), also known as immersive multimedia or computer-simulated reality, is a computer technology that replicates an environment, real or imagined, and simulates a user's physical presence and environment to allow for user interaction. Virtual realities artificially create sensory experience, which can include sight, touch, hearing, and smell.

Most up-to-date VR are displayed either on a computer monitor or with a virtual reality headset (also head-mounted display), & some simulations include additional sensory information & focus on real sound by speakers or headphones targeted towards VR users. Some advanced haptic systems now include tactile information, generally known as force feedback in medical, gaming & military applications. Furthermore, virtual reality covers remote communication environments which provide virtual presence of users with the concepts of telepresence & telexistence or a virtual artifact (VA) either through the use of standard input devices such as a keyboard and mouse, or through multimodal devices such as a wired glove or omnidirectional treadmills. The immersive environment can be similar to the real world in order to create a lifelike experience, for example, in simulations for pilot or combat training, or it can differ significantly from reality, such as in VR games.

People are having a harder time to distinguish between reality and the virtual realm, which is really fantasy. Will all the effects of this modern technology be beneficial, or will there be any malevolent attributes? Recent research has uncovered some disturbing facts about VR and the violent games. While not all of the games would fit into that category, I cannot name any that do not. There appears to be a rise in anti-social behaviour and aggression. Are these notable characteristics for Christians?

Many years ago, how would families spend their evenings? One of my ancestors friends 150 years ago, had daily evening gathering of family, servants, and guests. They would read the Bible, pray and sing Gospel hymns. And it probably lasted longer than most modern Worship Services today, and they were not clock watching. Other families would gather around the piano,

singing praises.

The submerging into fantasy did not begin with AR or VR. They have only built on what was started with the modern communications age. Remember those black and white silent films? How everyone seemed to go around so fast and funny, like the "Keystone Cops". Then the audio came along on the magnetic track, followed by the optical tracks. The audiences could now experience, as in almost actually being there, the action being portrayed. While truth is funnier than fiction, many wanted the fictions, with fantasy. Walt Disney was one of the first movie producers to capitalize on this. His first animation was "The Sorcerer's Apprentice". And almost all of his shows have been loaded with the occult. Is this fitting for Christians?

Then the radio came along, mesmerizing most. Sunday evenings just happened to have the best comedies and dramas on. The audiences were enraptured with this new technology. Many were drawn into this world of fantasy. Remember when HG Wells broadcasted his "War of the Worlds"? People freaked out everywhere. They believed that they had been invaded by the Martians. They were not able to differentiate between fantasy and reality. Then television came along and the illusional experiences expanded. The simple and harmless family shows like "My Three Sons" are long gone. And so are decent Christian values and morals.

One of augmented reality's main tools are the smartglasses. While they may offer assistance to the visually impaired, do most people really need them? Do you really need to read your E-Mails when you are walking, biking or driving to work etc.? Wikipedia has an article on it as well. Smartglasses or smart glasses or Digital Eye Glass or Personal Imaging System are a wearable computer that adds information to what the wearer sees. Typically this is achieved through an optical head-mounted display (OHMD) or computerized internet-connected glasses with transparent heads-up display (HUD) or augmented reality (AR) overlay that has the capability of reflecting projected digital images as well as allowing the user to see through it, or see better with it. While early models can perform basic tasks, such as just serve as a front end display for a remote system, as in the case of smartglasses utilizing cellular technology or Wi-Fi, modern smart glasses are effectively wearable computers which can run self-contained mobile apps. Some are handsfree that can communicate with the Internet via natural language voice commands, while other use touch buttons.

Like other computers, smartglasses may collect information from internal or external sensors. It may control, or retrieve data from, other instruments or computers. It may support wireless technologies like Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and GPS. While a smaller number of models run a mobile operating system and function as portable media players to send audio and video files to the user via a Bluetooth or WiFi headset. Some smartglasses

models, also feature full lifelogging and activity tracker capability. Such smartglasses devices may also have all the features of a smartphone. Some also have activity tracker functionality features (also known as "fitness tracker") as seen in some GPS watches.

So, the question is: do these AR and VR devices make people any more Godly? I have not seen any empirical data to prove this. Then, are these devices needed to communicate with Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, God's People have gotten by without them for the last 6000 years. In fact, when Our Lord Jesus Christ showed us how to communicate with Our Heavenly Father, there is no mention of what brand of smartglasses to be wearing.

Matthew 6:9-13 - After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. & lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory, for ever. Amen.

The amazing thing is, why do people turn away from Our Lord Jesus to get things done? Remember in John 3:19-21 - And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

If you want razzle dazzle, go through the Bible and you will see a lot of things or miracles happening. After the Creation, there was God destroying Egypt to get His People out. Ten mighty miracles defeating Egypt. He then miraculously provided for them in the wilderness for 40 years. Then there were real miracles, not fantasy, in getting them into the Promised Land and re-claiming it from the squatters. (Examples of God's miracles conquering the Promised Land. The prophets Elijah and Elisha did a lot with the Holy Spirit working through them. And they did not even speak in tongues.

Summarized of miracles in 1 Kings 18; 2 Kings 1; Naaman healed; 2 Kings 6; etc.

When Our Lord Jesus Christ came down from Heaven 2000 years ago, this was a pinnacle in human history. God had come down here in a human body. And when He was empowered by the Holy Spirit, things began to happen. Religious alcoholics, usually not sober, relish the fact that the first miracle was the making of more wine. And they are probably earnestly praying for that spiritual gift to-day.

But when you go on to more mature matters, what do you find? Matthew 4:23-25 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and

all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils (demons), and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan. Our Lord ministered mightily to those people.

If you were to sum up what Our Lord Jesus Christ did, it would fall under miracles. Does the Word of God have anything to back this up?

Mark 9:39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not (cast out demons): for there is no man which shall do a miracle in My Name, that can lightly speak evil of Me.

Luke 23:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see Him of a long *season*, because he had heard many things of Him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by Him.

John 2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him.

John 3:2 The same (Nicodemus) came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that Thou art a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him.

John 4:54 This *is* again the second miracle *that* Jesus did, when He was come out of Judaea into Galilee. (woman at the well)

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek Me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

John 7:31 And many of the people believed on Him, & said, When Christ cometh, will He do more miracles than these which this *Man* hath done?

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

So, it is obvious, Our Lord Jesus Christ performed miracles; and He wants His Followers to do so. Luke 10:17-24 - And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils (demons) are subject unto us through Thy Name. And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power (authority) to tread on serpents & scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, & said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise & prudent, & hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed

good in Thy sight. All things are delivered to Me of My Father: and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him. And He turned Him unto His disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

John 14:12-17 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My Name, I will do it. If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of Truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

How does all this apply to us now?

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Mark 16:15,16 And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, & preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Preaching the Gospel is #1.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Luke 8 Summarized of Our Lord Jesus Christ ministered to the Gadarene Demoniac who ran to Him and Jesus set him free.

Summarized of modern false deliverance tactics.

Referred to the baptism of the Holy Spirit & the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Not snake handling) Acts 28 Paul encountering a viper on Malta.

James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; & let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord:

So, who do you think will try to stop believers from following Our Lord's Commands? And he has many ways of doing this. By having people focus on getting power, he pulls many into the occult. Harry Potter has done that directly. The devil has also indirectly bewitched unsuspecting people by his many sorceries. Pulling gullible ones into fantasies (such as with AR and VR), takes their awareness off Godly Reality, and under devilish domain.

Referred to stage magicians, bewitching people.

The choice is yours. Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which

your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

If you need more proof that Our Lord Jesus still works to-day, read about the Indonesian revival 50 years ago, It is recorded in the book, "Like A Mighty Wind" by Mel Tari. Many miracles were performed there. And if God can use Presbyterians, He can use anyone, who is prepared, as Ezra was.

A Godly use for these glasses is helping the visually impaired to see.

Many video games are filled with the occult. As Christians get too immersed in Virtual reality it draws them away from Our Lord Jesus Christ. Christians need to get deliverance from the demons they picked up, break fellowship with them.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, & pray, & seek My face, & turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, & will forgive their sin, & will heal their land.

Psalms 23:3a He restoreth my soul:

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

Revelation 17:13 These have 1 mind, & shall give their power & strength unto the beast. Psalms 140 Pray for protection from the voilent man.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Genesis 6 Referred to "as in the days of Noah".

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Name of Jesus!

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