



FALLEN EXPOSURE
THE LIGHT WAS ALWAYS THERE

DISCERNMENT BRIEF
STUDY GUIDE
OCT 2026

TEST EVERYTHING · HOLD FAST WHAT IS GOOD

SILICON VALLEY'S ANTICHRIST

Peter Thiel, Effective Altruism, and What Scripture Actually Says

A sourced brief on The Verge's leaked-lecture report (Oct 20, 2026)

Thiel's documented Antichrist claims · the catechism · EA & AI safety
Scripture (NKJV) · critiques & fair defenses · study questions

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1 JOHN 4:1 · NKJV

SECTION 1

01 AT A GLANCE

Six things to know before you share, preach on, or react to the headlines.

- 1 **The news.** On Oct 20, 2026, The Verge published “The Gospel according to Peter (Thiel),” an analysis by David Gibson (director of Fordham’s Center on Religion and Culture) of recordings and transcripts of four private Thiel lectures on the Antichrist that it says were leaked to the outlet “months ago.” **VERIFIED**
- 2 **Thiel’s core thesis.** Across lectures, interviews and essays since 2023, Thiel argues that a future Antichrist is more likely to rise by promising “peace and safety” (1 Thess 5:3) from existential risks, such as AI, nuclear war and climate, than through runaway technology, and that a regulatory “one-world” state is the danger. **VERIFIED**
- 3 **Who he points to.** He has named Greta Thunberg, Eliezer Yudkowsky and Nick Bostrom as “legionnaires of the antichrist” and has sharply criticized effective altruism (EA), while also saying Thunberg is *not* the Antichrist. He has never definitively named anyone as the Antichrist. **VERIFIED**
- 4 **Real roots, new uses.** The “restrainer” (Greek *katechon*, 2 Thess 2:6–7) is an authentic theme in the church fathers. Tertullian and Chrysostom linked it to Rome, while Augustine admitted, “I frankly confess I do not know what he means.” Thiel’s application to modern regulation, America and AI is his own political theology.
- 5 **Critics across traditions.** Catholic voices (Paolo Benanti, Massimo Faggioli), evangelical writers (Joe Carter at TGC, Ryan Denison) and journalists (The Verge, The Guardian) fault Thiel for politicizing the Antichrist, for a reading that conveniently fits his business interests, and for prophecy-headline speculation.
- 6 **The discernment takeaway.** Scripture defines the spirit of antichrist first by its denial of Jesus Christ (1 John 2:22; 4:3), forbids date-setting (Matt 24:36), and commands “see that you are not troubled” (Matt 24:6). Test Thiel, his critics and EA alike by that standard, as the Bereans did (Acts 17:11).

How to read this brief

Every quotation carries a status marker: **VERIFIED** means we opened the cited source and confirmed the wording.

VERIFIED · SECONDARY means we confirmed the quote as reported by a reputable outlet but could not open the original.

UNVERIFIED means reported, not independently confirmed. Opinions are attributed to the people who hold them. This brief does not claim that Peter Thiel or anyone else is a heretic, the Antichrist, or involved in the occult. Scripture is quoted from the NKJV.

SECTION 2

02 WHAT HAPPENED: THE VERGE’S LEAK REPORT

A carousel post on Instagram promoted a long-form analysis of four leaked lectures.

THE POST

On Oct 20, 2026, The Verge (@verge, [instagram.com/p/DeuQei4lKq0](https://www.instagram.com/p/DeuQei4lKq0)) published an eight-slide carousel with illustrations by Lia Kantrowitz (@liakantro). Its caption calls this “a time of apocalyptic worldviews in Silicon Valley” and says Thiel “believes EA will bring about the Antichrist.” It also says that “somehow, Thiel has become America’s most provocative and visible Christian theologian.” The caption matches the article’s opening paragraphs word for word. **VERIFIED** (We could not retrieve the slide images because Instagram requires a login. Slide text is: **UNVERIFIED** :)

THE ARTICLE

FIELD	DETAIL
Title	“The Gospel according to Peter (Thiel)” , with the deck “We have Peter Thiel’s secret lectures about the Antichrist.”
Author	David Gibson, director of the Center on Religion and Culture, Fordham University. Additional reporting by Tina Nguyen.
Published	Oct 20, 2026, 3:45 PM UTC (9:45 AM, UTC–6)
URL	theverge.com/tech/1014252/peter-thiel-antichrist-lectures-analysis
Art	Illustrations by Lia Kantrowitz for The Verge (not reproduced here)

MAIN FINDINGS (AS THE VERGE REPORTS THEM)

- **Source material.** Recordings of Thiel’s lectures were “leaked to The Verge” months ago, and the outlet says it “listened to and read transcripts of all four.” It is publishing now because Thiel set out a version of the same ideas in the First Things essay “The Pope and the Antichrist” (July 2026). **VERIFIED**
- **The “peace and safety” thread.** Gibson writes that the phrase, “the slogan of the Antichrist, according to Thiel,” runs through all four lectures, alongside warnings against AI and general “safetyism.” **VERIFIED**
- **Gibson’s verdict** (opinion). Thiel, “a Protestant who likes to describe himself as a ‘heterodox Christian,’” offers “a fairly standard-issue American evangelical worldview, and a rather fundamentalist one at that”; he is “less a coherent religious thinker than a repackager of recognizable ideas.” **VERIFIED**
- **Katechon and EA.** Gibson reports that Thiel links promoters of “peace and safety” with a “restraining” force that will eventually pave the way for the Antichrist. He has cited Anthony Fauci as one such “restrainer,” and now has “the apostles of effective altruism” in view. **VERIFIED** (as Gibson’s summary. Note: in the 2025 lectures Thiel describes the katechon as what restrains the Antichrist, a force he says can “hijack” or flip into its opposite. See §4.)
- **Benedict XVI and the popes.** Gibson says Thiel enlists Pope Benedict XVI as a figure who secretly expected the end times, leaves open whether Pope Francis could have been the Antichrist, and, in earlier leaked remarks, called Pope Leo XIV a “Chinese communist agent” or Beijing’s “useful idiot” over AI regulation. **VERIFIED · SECONDARY**
- **Finance and Revelation 13.** Thiel reads Revelation 13:16–17 as the Antichrist abolishing “financial freedom,” pointing to tax treaties, financial surveillance and sanctions, and adds: “It’s become quite difficult to hide one’s money.” **VERIFIED**
- **Girard inverted.** Gibson argues Thiel made René Girard “a spiritual guide for America’s political right” while “completely inverting” his scapegoat teaching (opinion). **VERIFIED**

Which lectures leaked? An open question

The Verge does not say which four-lecture series it obtained. Several of its quotes closely match The Guardian’s Oct 2025 transcriptions of the **San Francisco** series (Sept 15–Oct 6, 2025, ACTS 17 Collective), and the Gates quote mentions telling “those people in San Francisco.” The surrounding text, however, discusses the **Rome** series (March 2026). Thiel has also lectured in Paris (Jan 2026) and Nashville (Sept–Oct 2026). **UNVERIFIED** ; which recordings The Verge used.

Earlier reporting on the leaks. Reuters (Oct 9, 2025), The Washington Post (Oct 10, 2025; a sample of the audio was judged “probably authentic” by UC Berkeley forensics expert Hany Farid), and The Guardian (Oct 10, 2025; Thiel’s spokesman “did not dispute the veracity” of the material) all reviewed recordings of the 2025 San Francisco series.

SECTION 3

03 WHO'S WHO

Four names and ideas you need in order to follow the debate.

PETER THIEL

German-born American investor; co-founder of PayPal and Palantir, first outside investor in Facebook, and founder of the venture firm Founders Fund. He is a major political donor credited with launching JD Vance's Senate career. He has called himself a "small-o orthodox Christian" (Guardian) and, per The Verge, a "heterodox Christian." He has spoken on the Antichrist since a 2023 talk at the Catholic University of America, then in private series in San Francisco (2025), Paris and Rome (2026), and Nashville (2026).

Sources: Guardian (Oct 10, 2025); The Verge (Oct 20, 2026); AP/Reuters (Mar 2026); Fortune (Oct 15, 2026).

EA, ANTHROPIC & METR

The Verge describes EA adherents as "embedded across the AI industry, from Anthropic to newly appointed AI safety watchdog METR." On Oct 15, 2026, Anthropic announced that METR, an independent AI-evaluation nonprofit, would get "employee-like access" to its systems and could publish findings without an Anthropic veto. Press reports trace social and funding ties between EA and both organizations.

Fair note: those ties do not make either one an "EA organization" in any formal sense.

EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM (EA): A FAIR SUMMARY

80,000 Hours, which helped found the movement, says: "Effective altruism is the search for the best ways to help others," made up of a research field and a community. Philosopher Peter Singer describes it as "the form of altruism in which we bring our rational capacities to bear in order to do the most good that we can." Many in the movement focus on global health, such as malaria nets. A "longtermist" wing argues that the size of the future makes reducing extinction risks (pandemics, nuclear war, AI) an urgent priority.

EA is not a single creed, and many adherents are not strict utilitarians. Its reputation was hit hard by the 2022 FTX collapse (Sam Bankman-Fried). Christian EA groups exist (e.g., EA for Christians).

RENÉ GIRARD (1923-2015)

French Catholic literary theorist at Stanford, whom Thiel knew there and often cites. Girard taught "mimetic desire" (we want what others want) and the "scapegoat mechanism" (communities unite by blaming a victim). He held that the Gospels expose this mechanism through Christ, the innocent victim. Thiel draws heavily on Girard and says the jurist Carl Schmitt's work helped form the core of his beliefs. His 2025 lectures also drew on Bacon, Swift and Newman.

Critics (Gibson; Genealogies of Modernity, Dec 2025) argue Thiel's apocalyptic use of Girard is in tension with Girard's own thought.

THE KATECHON ("THE RESTRAINER")

Paul tells the Thessalonians that "you know what is restraining" and that "He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way" (2 Thess 2:6-7, NKJV). The Greek participle (*to katechon / ho katechōn*) is the root of the term. Paul assumes his readers know what it is. We do not.

- **Tertullian** (c. 200): "What obstacle is there but the Roman state, the falling away of which... shall introduce Antichrist" (*On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 24). His *Apology* 32 adds that Christians pray for Rome's continuance for this reason.
- **John Chrysostom** (c. 400): "Some indeed say, the grace of the Spirit, but others the Roman empire, to whom I most of all accede" (*Homily 4 on 2 Thessalonians*).
- **Augustine** (c. 420): "I frankly confess I do not know what he means. I will nevertheless mention such conjectures as I have heard or read" (*City of God* 20.19).
- **Carl Schmitt** (20th c.) made the katechon a category of political theology. Thiel quotes Schmitt's 1947 diary and proposes candidates such as Cold War anti-communism (1949-89) and, today, possibly America.

SECTION 4

04 THIEL'S CLAIMS IN HIS OWN WORDS

Short quotes, each linked to where we checked it. Read them in context before drawing conclusions.

VERIFIED wording confirmed in the cited source **VERIFIED · SECONDARY** confirmed as reported by a named outlet **UNVERIFIED**

DEFINITION **VERIFIED**

"What I will focus on is the most common and most dramatic interpretation of antichrist: an evil king or tyrant or anti-messiah who appears in the end times."

Lecture 1, San Francisco, Sept 15, 2025, via [The Guardian](#), Oct 10, 2025

HOW HE RISES **VERIFIED**

"The antichrist comes to power by talking constantly about Armageddon, about rumours of wars and scaring you into giving him control over science and technology."

Lecture 1, via [The Guardian](#), Oct 10, 2025

PEACE & SAFETY · 1 THESS 5:3 **VERIFIED**

"This is, by the way, the slogan of the Antichrist: 1 Thessalonians 5:3. It's "peace and safety," the unjust peace."

Leaked lecture, via [The Verge](#), Oct 20, 2026 (also in [The Guardian](#), Oct 10, 2025). To Douthat he spoke of the world submitting for 50 years to "Peace and Safetyism."

ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT **VERIFIED**

"We need a one world government to control all the computers, log every single keystroke to make sure people don't program a dangerous AI. And I've been wondering whether that's sort of going from the frying pan into the fire."

Thiel describing the "default political solution" he opposes. Ross Douthat, "Interesting Times," [NYT](#), June 26, 2025. Wording checked against a third-party transcript ([Singju Post](#)). The NYT's edited transcript may differ slightly.

GRETA THUNBERG **VERIFIED**

"In our world, it's far more likely to be Greta Thunberg."

Douthat interview, June 2025 (same sources as above). Later, in a lecture: "Greta is not, I mean, she's maybe sort of a type or a shadow of an Antichrist... but I don't want to flatter her too much" ([The Verge](#); [The Guardian](#)).

"LEGIONNAIRES" **VERIFIED**

"In late modernity, where science has become scary and apocalyptic, and the legionnaires of the antichrist like Eliezer Yudkowsky, Nick Bostrom and Greta Thunberg argue for world government to stop science, the antichrist has somehow become anti-science."

San Francisco lecture, via [The Guardian](#), Oct 10, 2025. Also: "In the 21st century, the antichrist is a luddite who wants to stop all science. It's someone like Greta or Eliezer."

EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM **VERIFIED · SECONDARY**

"The effective altruist ideology has brainwashed a significant portion of the people working on AI."

Nashville lecture (Sept–Oct 2026), from recordings obtained by Politico's Decoded newsletter (Oct 8, 2026), as quoted by [Gizmodo](#), Oct 8, 2026. We could not open the Politico original (blocked).

KATECHON **VERIFIED**

"It's just that America is, at this point, the natural candidate for katechon and antichrist, ground zero of the one-world state, ground zero of the resistance to the one-world state."

Lecture 4, "The new Rome," Oct 6, 2025, via [The Guardian](#). He also warned that "the antichrist might even present himself or itself or herself as the katechon, or hijack the katechon."

SELF-DESCRIPTION **VERIFIED**

"I'm a libertarian, or a classical liberal, who deviates in one minor detail, where I'm worried about the antichrist."

Lecture 3, via [The Guardian](#)

WHY THIS TOPIC **VERIFIED**

"The Antichrist interests me for several reasons, mostly because nobody else is talking about it—which, for most of Christian history, would have seemed a clear sign of his impending arrival (2 Pet. 3:3–4)."

Thiel & Sam Wolfe, "The Pope and the Antichrist," [First Things](#), July 2026

THE DOUTHAT EXCHANGE **VERIFIED**

"Douthat: I think you would prefer the human race to endure, right? / Thiel: Uh— / Douthat: You're hesitating. ... Should the human race survive? / Thiel: Yes."

NYT, June 26, 2025; quoted in [Commonweal](#), Aug 18, 2025. Fairness note: Thiel went on to say he wants humanity to "radically solve these problems" through transformation, and cited Orthodox Christianity's call to transform the soul.

Reported but not independently confirmed

UNVERIFIED That Thiel called Pope Leo XIV a "Chinese communist agent" or "useful idiot" (reported by The Verge and NCR; original audio not reviewed by us). **UNVERIFIED** Thiel naming Anthony Fauci as a "restrainer" (The Verge's summary only).

UNVERIFIED Any explicit statement by Thiel that "Pope Francis was the Antichrist." The First Things essay raises the question but, in the text we reviewed, does not assert it.

SECTION 5

05 TESTING IT BY SCRIPTURE

"They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). All quotations are from the NKJV.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1–12 (KEY VERSES 2–4, 6–8)

"...not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled... Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped... And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth..."

Aligns: Thiel treats a personal, end-time "man of sin" and a restraining force as real, which is the historic reading. **Departs:** Paul's aim is pastoral, so that believers are "not... shaken" (v. 2). The man of sin is defined by *self-deifying worship* (v. 4), not by regulation, and Christ destroys him (v. 8). Paul never names the restrainer, and identifying it with a modern nation or policy agenda goes beyond the text.

1 JOHN 2:18, 2:22; 4:3: THE APOSTLE'S OWN DEFINITION

"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come..." (2:18) · "He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son" (2:22) · "...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist..." (4:3)

Aligns: John speaks of a coming Antichrist and many present antichrists, which matches Thiel's idea of "types or shadows."

Departs: John's test is *Christological*: denial of the Father, the Son and the incarnation. Thiel's test is mainly political and technological (who wants to "stop science"). Russell Moore makes the same point in *Christianity Today*.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:2-3: "PEACE AND SAFETY"

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

Aligns: The verse does warn against false security before judgment. **Departs:** In context the speakers are unbelievers lulled into complacency before the *Day of the Lord*. Paul does not call the phrase the Antichrist's slogan, and the verse says nothing about safety regulation. Scripture also commends prudence: "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself" (Prov 22:3). Taking precautions is not inherently antichristian.

MATTHEW 24:4-6, 24:36

"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled..." · "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

Aligns: Thiel rightly highlights "see that you are not troubled": fear makes people easy to manipulate. **Departs:** Jesus' first warning is about *religious* deceivers claiming Messiahship. Speculating about the Antichrist's age ("33," or "66 is the new 33") and "velocity," or saying the odds favor an "unjust peace" in our era, edges toward the timeline-building that 24:36 rules out.

DANIEL 7 (ESP. VV. 25-27) AND REVELATION 13 (ESP. VV. 7-8, 16-17)

"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints... But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion..." (Dan 7:25-26) · "All who dwell on the earth will worship him..." (Rev 13:8) · "...that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast..." (Rev 13:17)

Aligns: Scripture does depict a world power that persecutes the saints and controls commerce. Christians have long been wary of concentrated, surveilling power. **Departs:** In both texts the defining marks are *blasphemy, persecution and demanded worship*, and God's court wins. Reading Revelation 13 mainly as a warning about tax treaties and sanctions ("difficult to hide one's money") narrows a text about worship into one about financial privacy.

FAIR EVALUATION AGAINST HISTORIC CHRISTIAN ESCHATOLOGY

- **Within the tradition:** a personal Antichrist; a restrainer that the fathers often linked to Roman order (Tertullian, Chrysostom); suspicion of a counterfeit peace; and Newman's and Solovyov's portraits of an attractive, humanitarian Antichrist, which Thiel draws on and which R. R. Reno echoes in *First Things*.
- **Outside it:** treating particular living people and policy camps (climate activists, AI-safety researchers, EA, a sitting pope) as "legionnaires" or "types"; converting the catechism into a geopolitical scorecard; and age- and odds-based speculation. Augustine's humility ("I do not know what he means") is the better guide.
- **Red flags for any teacher:** date-setting or timeline-building (Matt 24:36), politicizing the Antichrist so that it lines up with one's own opponents or interests, and teaching that leaves Christ at the margins (1 John 4:2-3). These cautions apply just as much to Thiel's critics and to EA's own apocalyptic forecasts.

SECTION 6

06 CRITIQUES AND FAIR DEFENSES

The strongest objections, the best case that can be made for Thiel, and where each one falls short.

CRITIQUES

WHO	MAIN POINT (ATTRIBUTED OPINION)
David Gibson The Verge, Oct 20, 2026	Thiel repackages American fundamentalist apocalypticism, misreads Ratzinger and inverts Girard, and uses eschatology to divide "the saved and the damned" in support of a libertarian agenda.

WHO	MAIN POINT (ATTRIBUTED OPINION)
Fr. Paolo Benanti (Franciscan; papal AI adviser) Le Grand Continent, Mar 2026	Calls Thiel “above all a political theologian” whose “pathological radicalization” of “competition, technology, the individual” diverges from the democratic project. Benanti’s essay is titled “American heresy: should we burn Peter Thiel?” He uses “heresy” mainly in a political sense (a “heresy against the liberal consensus”). VERIFIED · SECONDARY (via The Verge and NYT; full French text not reviewed)
Massimo Faggioli (Villanova) NCR, July 15, 2026; Catholic Outlook, July 24, 2026	Calls the First Things essay “extreme”: “It is not theological traditionalism. It is something new and different that comes from authoritarian technocrats posing as theologians.” VERIFIED
Joe Carter The Gospel Coalition, Nov 5, 2025	Compares the lectures to Hal Lindsey’s 1970s prophecy charts. Warns against turning “the daily headlines into a prophetic countdown clock” while urging Christians to take AI risk seriously and hope in Christ. VERIFIED
Ryan Denison Denison Forum, Mar 20, 2026	Agrees fear is easily exploited, but notes Thiel stokes the same fears. Points to Christ’s victory, the history of failed identifications, and Matt 24:36. VERIFIED
Russell Moore Christianity Today, Dec 10, 2025	Without naming Thiel, observes that “Silicon Valley tech oligarchs are giving lectures on the Antichrist even while creating systems that promise to make us gods while surveilling us like slaves,” and roots the antichrist spirit in denial of the incarnation. VERIFIED
Alexander Stern Commonweal, Aug 18, 2025	Reads the Douthat hesitation as a “zealous faith in progress” and argues that calling regulation the Antichrist sidesteps democratic accountability for tech power. VERIFIED
Ross Douthat (sympathetic interviewer) NYT, June 2025	Pressed Thiel: wouldn’t an Antichrist “be using the tools that you were building” (Palantir surveillance)? Thiel: “I obviously don’t think that that’s what I’m doing.” VERIFIED (transcript)

FAIR DEFENSES

- **A real concern.** Fear of a global power that surveils, controls commerce and demands allegiance is biblical (Rev 13). Many Christians share Thiel’s worry about speech laws, financial surveillance and centralized “compute governance.”
- **He hedges.** Thiel repeatedly says things are “not written in stone.” He states that Thunberg is not the Antichrist and rejects Gates as a candidate, and he frames his claims as a “speculative thesis” (Hoover, per The Verge, Sept 2025).
- **Serious sources.** He engages Newman, Solovyov, Benedict XVI, Augustine and the Fathers rather than prophecy-chart sensationalism. Some conservative Christian writers have engaged him sympathetically. R. R. Reno, summarizing Thiel and Wolfe, writes that the Antichrist “comes not as a vile beast, but as a savior, a peacemaker and healer” (First Things, Nov 17, 2025), and Anne Hendershott reads the lectures as Girardian (First Things, Apr 27, 2026). **VERIFIED**
- **Courage over fear.** His appeal to Matthew 24:6 (“see that you are not troubled”) is a sound pastoral note, and EA’s own doom forecasts deserve scrutiny too.

Where the defenses fall short

Hedging does not undo repeated public pairings of named people with the Antichrist. Several outlets (The Verge, Gizmodo) note that Thiel’s reading lines up with his heavy investments in AI and technology. That is a fair question about motive, not proof of bad faith. Most of all, the Bible’s antichrist test is about who Jesus is, and that test is largely absent from the public record of these talks.

SECTION 7

07 DISCUSSION & STUDY QUESTIONS

For small groups, Bible studies, or a Fallen Exposure live discussion.

1. Read 1 John 2:18–23 and 4:1–3. How does John define “antichrist”? How does that compare with Thiel’s focus on regulation and a “one-world state”?
2. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12. What was Paul’s *purpose* in writing about the man of sin (v. 2)? Does today’s Antichrist talk, from any side, serve that purpose?
3. Augustine admitted he did not know what the restrainer was. When is it faithful to say “I don’t know” about prophecy? What do we lose when we fill in the blanks?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 in full. Who says “Peace and safety”? What does Paul tell believers to do instead (vv. 6–8)?
5. Proverbs 22:3 praises the prudent who foresee danger. How can Christians tell biblical prudence about AI risk apart from fear-driven control? And how can they tell healthy caution about regulation apart from greed?
6. Revelation 13 centers on worship. Where in our culture, whether in tech, politics, or activism, do you see demands for ultimate allegiance?
7. Matthew 24:36 says no one knows the day or hour. What is the difference between “watching” (Matt 24:42) and date-setting or timeline-building?
8. EA tries to “do the most good.” What does it get right that Christians should affirm (e.g., Gal 6:10)? Where does a strictly utilitarian ethic conflict with the gospel’s view of persons?
9. Why is it spiritually dangerous to identify the Antichrist with one’s political opponents? Have Christians done this before (popes, emperors, Soviet leaders, presidents)? What happened?
10. Acts 17:11 commends the Bereans. Take one claim from this brief (by Thiel, a critic, or EA) and “search the Scriptures” on it this week. What did you find?

BOTTOM LINE FOR DISCERNMENT

Take the Antichrist seriously because Scripture does. Do not take any billionaire, pundit, activist or movement as the Bible’s interpreter. The safeguard is the same in every generation: confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, refuse to set dates, love your neighbor, and “see that you are not troubled.” Christ, not any katechon, destroys the lawless one “with the brightness of His coming” (2 Thess 2:8).

SECTION 8

08 SOURCES

All links accessed Oct 20, 2026. Research was gathered with a live-search research tool and then checked by hand. Illustrations in The Verge’s coverage are by Lia Kantrowitz (@liakantro); none are reproduced here.

Primary reporting & Thiel’s own words

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3. Tina Nguyen, “Silicon Valley’s latest anti-regulation argument: AI laws will summon the Antichrist,” The Verge, Sept 25, 2025. <https://www.theverge.com/ai-artificial-intelligence/785407/peter-thiel-antichrist-tech-regulation>
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Text on the eight Instagram slides (login wall). Which lecture series The Verge's leaked recordings come from. The Politico Decoded original (blocked; quoted via Gizmodo and Fortune). The full Washington Post article and full NYT transcript (paywalls). Benanti's complete French essay. The original audio behind Thiel's reported remarks about Pope Leo XIV and Anthony Fauci. Who wrote the *Genealogies of Modernity* essay.