

Bible and the Headlines: Death Clock

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Dec 4, 2024

Two things are certain in life: Death and taxes. Since April 15th is five months away, it is the certainty of death making headlines this week. For users of a new app, they can even find out what day the Grim Reaper will take them.

On November 30th, Bloomberg published, “AI-Powered ‘Death Clock’ Promises a More Exact Prediction of the Day You’ll Die.” The article examines the recently released ‘Death Clock’ app that creates a second-by-second countdown to the user’s demise. The creator of the app said, “There’s probably not a more important date in your life than the day that you’re going to die.” The app relies on input from the user about their sleep habits, exercise regimen and nutritional choices, along with family heritage.

December 1st, the e-magazine The Week featured, “Death Clock App's AI Can Predict the Date You'll Pass Away and Financial Experts Are Interested, Here's Why.” The explanation offered by the headline is that governments and financial institution use broad statistical studies and the law of averages to predict life expectancy. The ‘Death Clock’ app produces algorithms that, “. . . can deliver a more tailored measure regarding the life expectancy of people.”

The Times of India on December 2nd carried the story, “Your Death Date: This AI App Claims Can ‘Predict’ When You Will Die.” Besides the background information on the app’s development included in all articles on the Death Clock, this piece included an extensive list of healthy habits that could be embraced to extend time on the ‘clock.’ The article notes, “The idea is to encourage individuals to take better care of their health, using the predictions as a framework for decision making.” In case someone should take the clock’s death-day literally, there is a disclaimer, “These AI-driven tools aren’t guaranteed to provide exact dates.”

The Bible reveals there was a Divine ‘clock’ long before artificial intelligence. The human scribe for Psalm 139 sang to God, “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psa139:16). Jesus confirmed God’s control over every creature’s demise, “Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent . . . so don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Mat 10:29-31). The Holy Book reveals that God also included healthy tips for His people: “Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool— why die before your time?” (Ecc 7:17). God used Moses to say, “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live” (Deut 30:19).

The Bible makes clear that my earlier statement about the two certainties of earthly life was in error. Only taxes are inevitable: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”