Perspective

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Are You Ready for Cyberwar?

Anciently, Daniel the prophet was told the end time would be a time unlike any other in history: Daniel 12:1, *"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book."* He also prophesied in verse four, *"Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."* Incredibly, prior to the 1900s, knowledge doubled every hundred years. In today's fast-paced world, human knowledge is estimated to double roughly every 12 hours, a dramatic acceleration from centuries-long cycles of the past. Over the next five years there will be a tremendous growth in knowledge as it doubles 1,040 times by 2032. Artificial Intelligence (AI), when fully applied to robotics for manufacturing, will revolutionize the world. Applying AI to high-tech robots could produce android-type warriors for the battlefields of the future. It is already being done in the Ukraine-Russia War in a more rudimentary manner. *Forbes* magazine published an article, March 17, 2026, titled "Robots Are Dueling with Robots in The Russian-Ukrainian Kill Zones." That is not all, more advanced technology will make cyberwarfare even more effective for the future. What about this prospect of Cyber War?

What would a real cyberwar look like?

A real cyberwar would probably look quite different from the movies. There would be no dramatic "the internet shuts off" moment. You wouldn't be attacked by your toaster or scalded by hot boiling water in the shower because the hot water heater is hacked. Instead, it would likely be a series of coordinated attacks against critical systems, communications, and military networks designed to cause panic.

In international relations, the word "enemy" has a very specific and often political meaning. Often threats are referred to with words like "adversary," "competitor," "rival," or "threat actor" to be more precise. The reason for this---U.S. national security agencies consider the actors to be generally a mix of hostile nation-states, criminal organizations, and terrorist or extremist groups. According to the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the most significant nation-state cyber threats come from the governments of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. These actors conduct espionage, theft of data and intellectual property, influence operations, and in some cases develop capabilities to disrupt critical infrastructure.

This threat may look like the disruption of supply chains so people cannot get produce and other foods we have grown accustomed to in daily life. It could cause issues with banking so people couldn't get to their money, or cause issues with smart cell phones and computers to inhibit communication. The goal is to create panic.

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 24:6, *"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*

This verse is part of Jesus' Olivet discourse in Matthew 24 where He describes signs that will precede the end times. In this specific verse, Jesus warns His disciples that they will hear about wars and reports of wars, but they should not be disturbed or panicked. He emphasizes that while these events are inevitable, the final end has not yet come. Jesus also admonished His disciples: *"Peace I leave with you… Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"* (John 14:27).

An adversary could target the electric power grids, water treatment facilities, transportation systems, telecommunications networks, fuel pipelines, or the banking system. Their goal might be to create confusion, economic damage, or reduce public confidence rather than cause mass destruction. CISA has warned that nation-state actors seek access to critical infrastructure networks and may position themselves for disruptive attacks way in advance.

A cyberwar could involve disrupting cellular networks, attacking internet service providers, interfering with military communications targeting satellite systems, and this could make coordination more difficult for both military and civilian authorities. Even nuclear weapons could be a target.

The Bibles warns of perilous times

The apostle Paul warned the early church, *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come"* (II Timothy 3:1). The word "perilous" has a footnote; it says "times of stress."

Since no time has ever been like it, it will be a time when people will be inclined to panic and be fearful due to the immense pressure placed on them to make decisions—when they don't know what to do. *Jamieson-Faussett-Brown Commentary* says of this passage: "literally, '*difficult* times,' in which it is difficult to know what is to be done: 'grievous times.'"

Many don't fully realize it, but we live in a world which is making every individual more vulnerable because of the electric appliances which fill most homes, cell phones, and computers. We have a nationwide electric power grid system run by computers. All of it could be accessed by the World Wide Web by talented computer hackers.

The U.S. federal cyber workforce includes at least 63,934 federal employees and 4,151 contractors performing IT, cybersecurity, and cyber-related functions, according to a 2025 U.S. Government Accountability Office report. However, that figure includes defenders, analysts, engineers, and other cyber personnel, not just hackers. The U.S. likely has the more advanced overall military cyber capability, especially for global operations.

China is considered one of the world's top cyber powers and is often viewed as a leading competitor to the U.S. in cyber espionage and information operations. Both countries possess capabilities that are far beyond what is publicly acknowledged. The biggest unknown is the scale of operations---no government reveals to the public how many offensive cyber operators it has. Any exact comparison of "state-sponsored hackers" would be speculation. However, we need to be aware of this threat to the stability of society so we can be prepared spiritually and as much as is practical physically.

Several Bible passages describe the end times as a period marked by great fear, confusion, panic, distress, and deception. Jesus Christ warned in Luke 21:25-26: *"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*

Only be strong and very courageous

"Men's heart failing them" will no doubt be brought on by the immense stress and fear of the end of the age and what they see coming. Paul admonished the early church: *"Do not be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed…"* (II Thessalonians 2:2).

This reinforces the call to exercise discernment of the times and to strive to be stable, staying the course even in the face of troubling trials. In Isaiah 41:10 the Almighty says, *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God… I will strengthen you and help you."*

In the same manner God commanded ancient Israel: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified… for the Lord your God goes with you"* (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Afterall, even as Paul wrote in II Timothy 1:7, *"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power, love and self-control."* Like the patriarch Joshua, we can be strong and very courageous!

God is always with us through His Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches God's presence and peace are the antidote to fear and panic. In times of turmoil, the saints are taught to watch (Matthew 24:42; Luke 21:36), don't lean on your own understanding, trust in God and He will direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6), and hold fast to the truth and His promises (John 14:27; Revelation 3:11; Isaiah 41:10).

The Bible does not deny the reality of challenges in the time of the tribulation, but it commands believers to reject panic and fear, stay grounded in God's truth, and live in the peace and confidence that comes from His presence in our life.

Jesus Christ greatly encourages us, *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."* (Revelation 3:11)