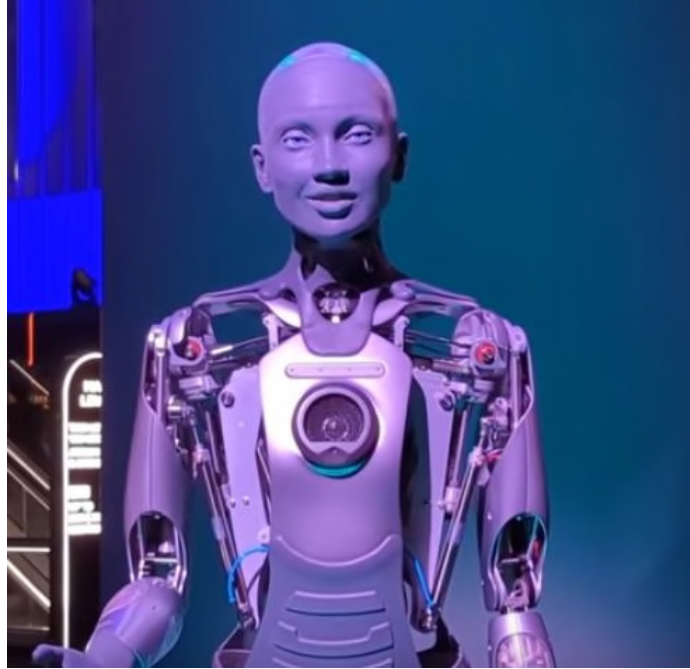


AI, Robotics, and Joel 2

by Jeremy James



Ameca, the interactive speech robot capable of making appropriate facial movements.

Many of our readers will recall the passage in the Book of Revelation where the Two Witnesses are killed in Jerusalem by **“the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit”** and their dead bodies left in the street for three and a half days.

They had greatly upset the Antichrist cabal when, for three and a half years, they stopped the cabal from using their newly built Temple. Their bodies were not removed so that those who worshipped the Antichrist – **“they that dwell upon the earth”** – could have the satisfaction of seeing their dead bodies lying in the street:

“And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.” (Revelation 11:10)

Most of the followers of the Antichrist will be able to view this scene via a live feed into their homes. It will spark a worldwide celebration, where those who **“dwell upon the earth”** will be so delighted with what they see on their television or computer screens that they will send presents to their friends.

The live broadcast will continue for three and a half days as the Antichrist cabal exploit the spectacle for propaganda purposes and stoke their followers into a frenzy of excitement. But then they get the shock of their lives as the Holy Spirit resurrects the Two Witnesses and they ascend together into heaven in their now immortalized physical bodies.

This prophetic event could only occur as foretold in an age of advanced electronic communication. Otherwise it would be seen by only a miniscule number of people and would not have had the slightest chance of igniting the excitement of all who “**dwell upon the earth**” in just a few days. The Word of God effectively tells us that international radio communication could not be the source of transmission since verse 11:9 specifically states that all nations will SEE the two dead bodies:

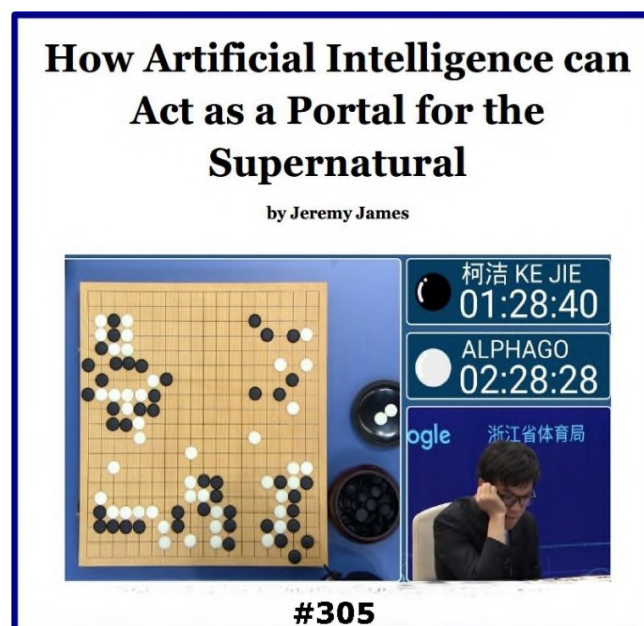
“And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see [blepo, G991] their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.” (Revelation 11:9)

We can safely infer from these passages that the events described, and thus the Tribulation itself, could not have occurred before the Second World War.

This shows that we ought to take emerging technologies into account when interpreting Bible prophecy. The Word of God is incredibly precise and has been framed by the Holy Spirit in such a way that perplexing End Time passages, where they exist, will become clearer as we draw closer to the events themselves.

Artificial Intelligence

In our earlier paper on Artificial Intelligence [AI](#305) we examined the nature of this remarkable new technology and highlighted the extent to which massive AI systems are poorly understood by those who build them. As we noted in that paper a super-fast computer, or a network of such computers, refines its own software by trial-and-error, building a neural network where the code responsible for ‘successful’ outcomes is reinforced by repeated use. This enables the program to solve problems, not by ‘understanding’ them, but simply by trying every possible line of enquiry. (Our earlier paper explains this in more detail.)



It is easy to see why even the most gifted computer software developers are unable to figure out exactly how an AI system designed a sophisticated program. The AI system itself is unable to ‘explain’ what it did since the process required billions of steps which cannot be ‘summarized’ in a way that our human mind can grasp. This means AI enables the creation of programs that are far too complex for anyone to fully understand. In a sense the designers must ‘trust’ the AI system to have found a ‘solution’ – the final mega program – which meets the specification without including functional elements that the designers never intended.

Many software developers who have worked in AI research for several years have expressed alarm at how easily AI can go beyond what the designers intended. At some stage an AI system may incorporate code in its final mega-program which, when operated in conjunction with other AI-built mega-programs, may produce an entirely new entity. This entity may be able to ensure its continued existence – “preserve its integrity” – while engaging in activities that are harmful to society.

We will not pursue this futuristic theme in our paper. Rather, we will confine our discussion to existing robotic achievements and to what we know AI is already doing. Our findings may surprise many readers.

The Atlas Robot

Boston Dynamics is generally recognized as the industry leader in the field of AI-based robotics. While the public has been assured that none of its products are being developed as weapons, the company itself, which was founded in 1992, has changed hands several times. Between 2013 and 2017 it was owned by Alphabet (the parent company of Google). We must assume, therefore, that it occupies an important niche in the US military-industrial complex. For example, funding and oversight for its first advanced hydraulic robot, known as Atlas, was provided by DARPA (US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency). The hydraulic Atlas prototype was shown to the public for the first time in 2013, the same year that Alphabet assumed control of the company.



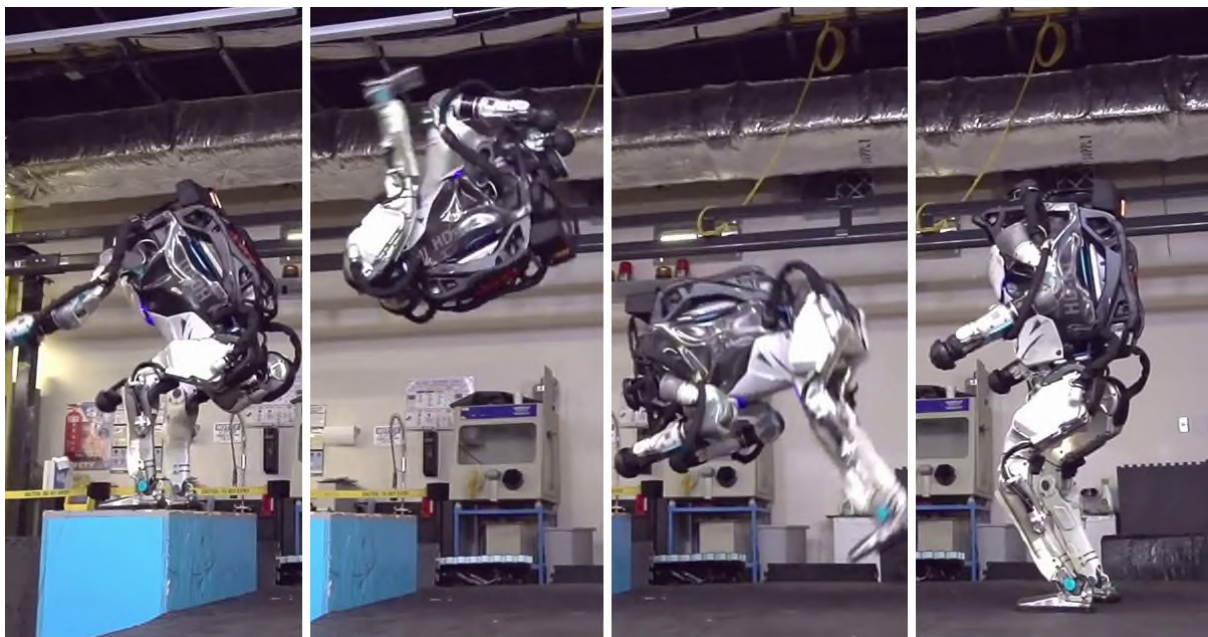
The latest version (2024) of the Atlas robot withdrawing a panel from a stack.

The Atlas program became the main focus of its research, with the aim of developing a fully electronic (non-hydraulic) robot capable of performing a range of human-like activities. These would include walking, running, jumping, and stacking warehouse goods.

Over the following years technical improvements enabled Atlas to do back-flips, handstands and cartwheels, execute smooth body rotations, open doors, drive a utility vehicle, navigate rough terrain, avoid obstacles, and withstand the impact of projectiles. It was looking more and more like a super-soldier, albeit a short one – it was five feet tall and weighed 190 pounds.

The rapid pace of development

The photos in **Appendix A** show the Atlas robot performing a back-flip – in 2017. The complexity of this task is phenomenal. It shows how far its design had advanced in just a few years. Even though it was doing this eight years ago, we are not aware of any other robotics company today with a humanoid prototype that can perform this task. We must assume that Boston Dynamics has in the meantime taken its own design a good deal further. The latest model may include features that are too advanced militarily to be made public.



The weaponization of robots

Both China and the Tesla group have been promising to market a similar robot by 2026 and to produce up to a thousand in the first year. We should take careful note of this target. The industry is not only developing a very advanced humanoid robot but doing so with the intention of manufacturing it in large numbers once their prototype has been perfected.

From a military standpoint, if these metallic devices are weaponized and deployed in the field of battle, they would present a formidable challenge to a human army. In open terrain it might be possible to hinder their advance with standard ordnance, but in large centres of population they would be virtually unstoppable. In street battles and face-to-face encounters a human army would stand little chance.

Bible prophecy

This brings us to Bible prophecy and the relevance, if any, of these technological developments to End Time events. It is hard to see how they can be ignored. An AI-controlled army of humanoid robots, supported by drone surveillance, would be able to scale all obstacles and subdue a well-defended city in a few hours. That is the vista now opening before us.

Can we reasonably expect to find anything in the Bible that anticipates this? Well, we have already noted how the fate of the Two Witnesses will be seen in real time by a worldwide audience, thus implying that television or an equivalent technology would be developed before the End Time began. With this in mind we may ask whether there are any passages which suggest that an army of robot warriors will be deployed during the Tribulation?



We believe there are. Take a look at the second chapter of the Book of Joel, in particular verses 7-9:

“They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.” (Joel 2:7-9)

Joel addresses the turmoil of the Tribulation in a vivid and dramatic fashion. In chapter two he is describing the intense suffering that Israel will have to endure before the righteous remnant finally turn to the LORD God for salvation. Much of this conflict is concentrated in and around Jerusalem. The forces of the Antichrist are invading the city and prove to be unstoppable.

Verses 7-9 do something unique, something that cannot be found anywhere else in the Word of God: They describe the way an army conducts itself in battle. Many battles and violent clashes are mentioned in the Bible but, in those instances where it is described, the conduct of the aggressor, its modus operandi in the field of battle, is very brief. We are told of swords, arrows and chariots, but not the way they are used to strategic effect. The passage in Joel is different. It tells us how this particular army will behave, the characteristic method that it will use to engage the enemy.

Let's take it line by line:

“They shall run like mighty men”: This suggests an unusual turn of speed and the ability to overrun an opposing force.

“they shall climb the wall like men of war”: Again we see evidence of their exceptional agility. Note also that the Bible says they are “like” men, but it nowhere says that they *are* men.

“and they shall march every one on his ways”: This suggests that, while they advance in unison, they do so as autonomous units and act intelligently.

“and they shall not break their ranks”: They are highly organized and work closely together to accomplish a common objective.

“Neither shall one thrust another”: This is an interesting comment. Normally a soldier in close combat risks being hurt by one of his nearby colleagues as their respective swords swing back and forth and blows are exchanged and parried. This army will not be subject to this kind of ‘friendly fire’. The intelligence that guides their collective behavior will ensure that none will harm his neighbor accidentally.

“they shall walk every one in his path”: Again we have a reference to their autonomy. In the heat of battle they are able to carry out their assigned function – under the control of AI – without deviating from their designated path. This is something one rarely finds in a human army, the real-time exercise of both an individual and a collective intelligence.

“and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded”: This comment shows there is something very unusual about this army. Normally a combatant struck in the course of battle would suffer an injury, but not these guys. They just get back up and keep going!

“They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.” Clearly they can move quickly and are extremely agile. They are almost gymnastic in their ability to climb and run upon walls, entering houses through upstairs windows. No human army could do this!

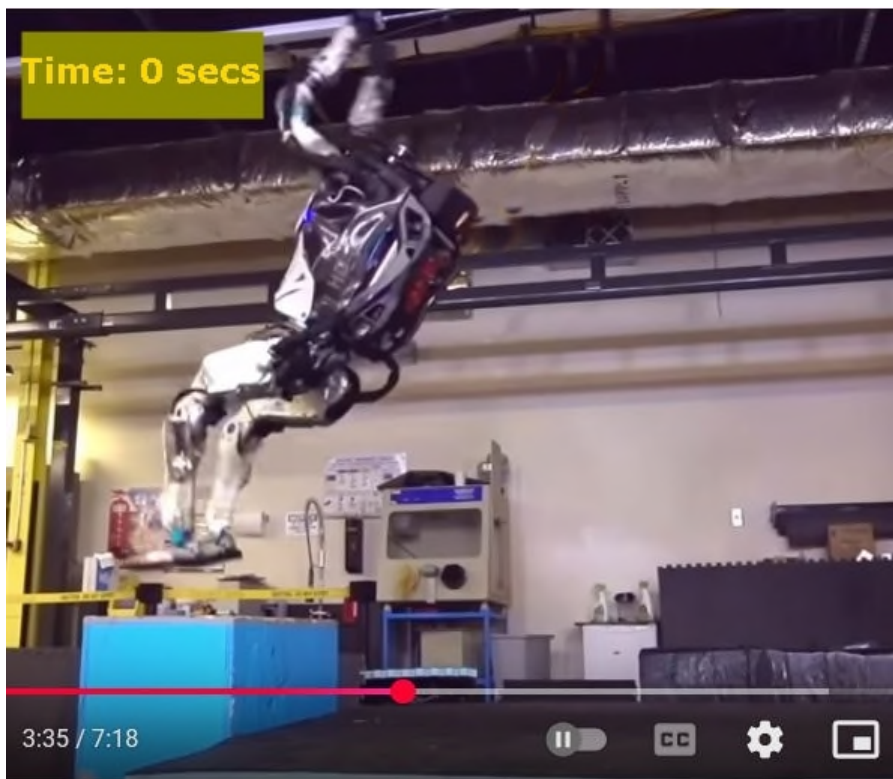
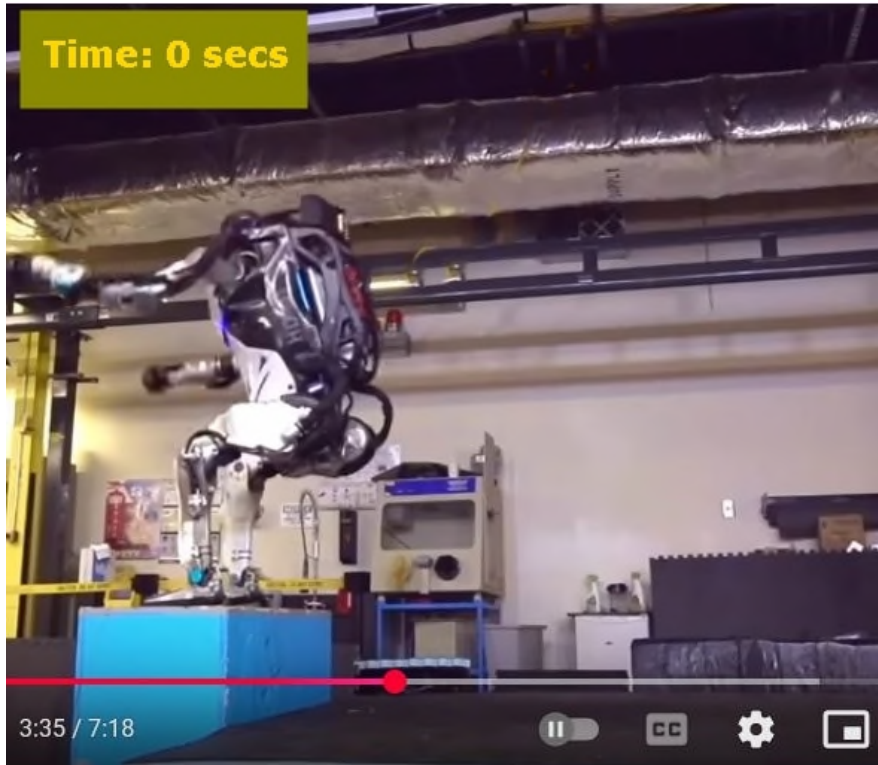
We could spend several pages discussing how various Bible commentators have interpreted these verses, but there is really no need. They didn’t understand the kind of technology that would be available in the End Time and leaned toward interpretations that were either too vague to do justice to the text or postulated a scenario where demons had somehow taken on physical form. A careful reading of Joel will show that – given the way technology has developed – a simpler and more consistent interpretation is now available.

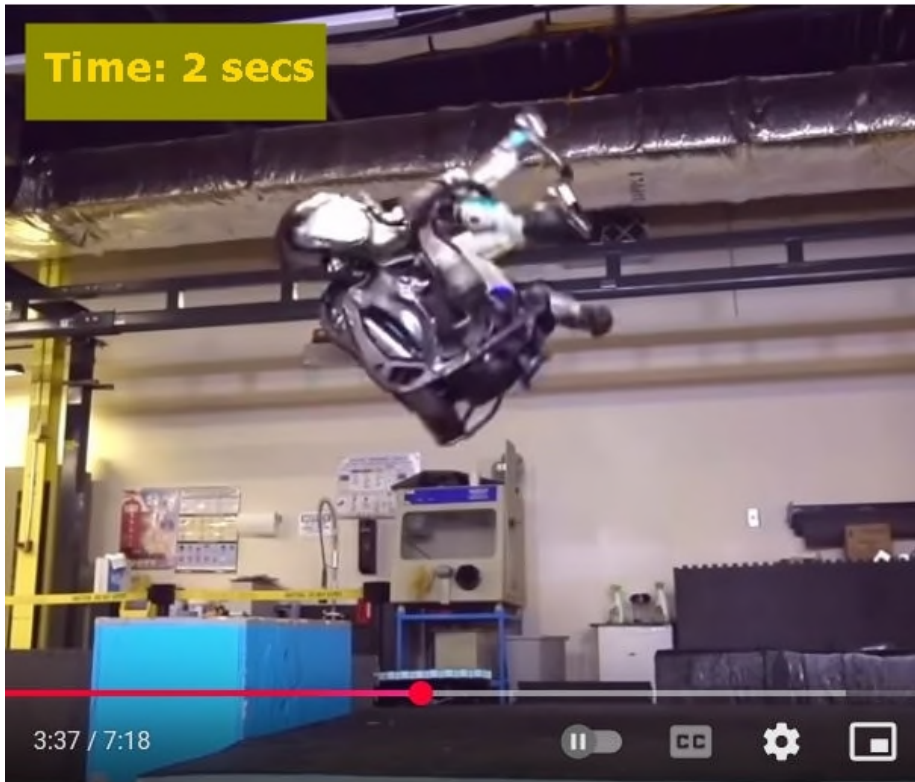
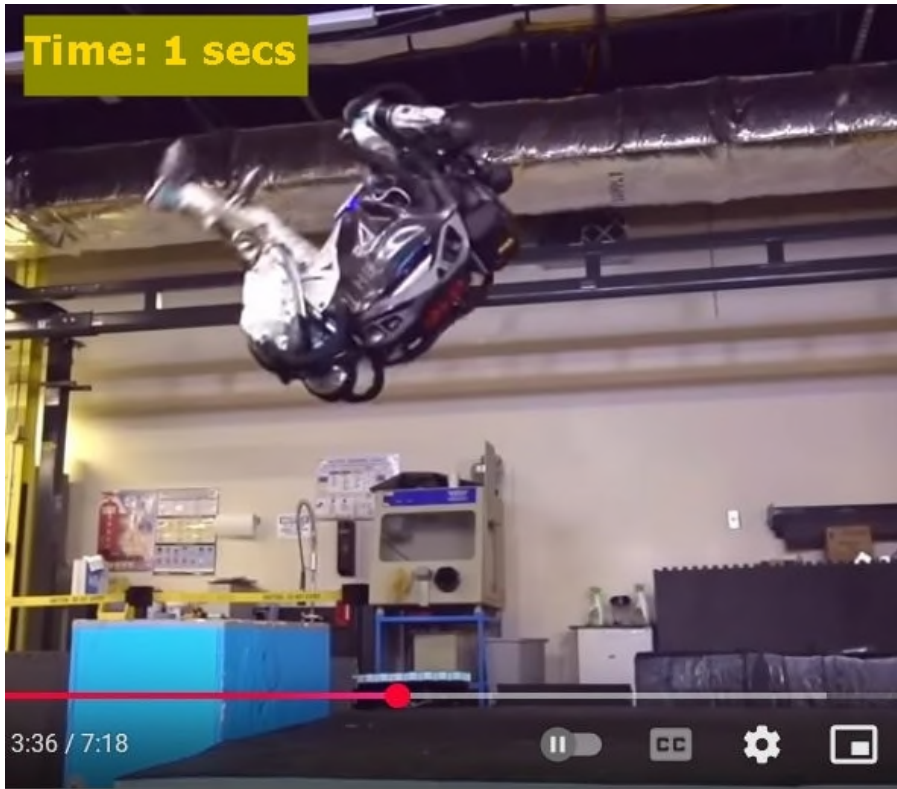
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February 07, 2025

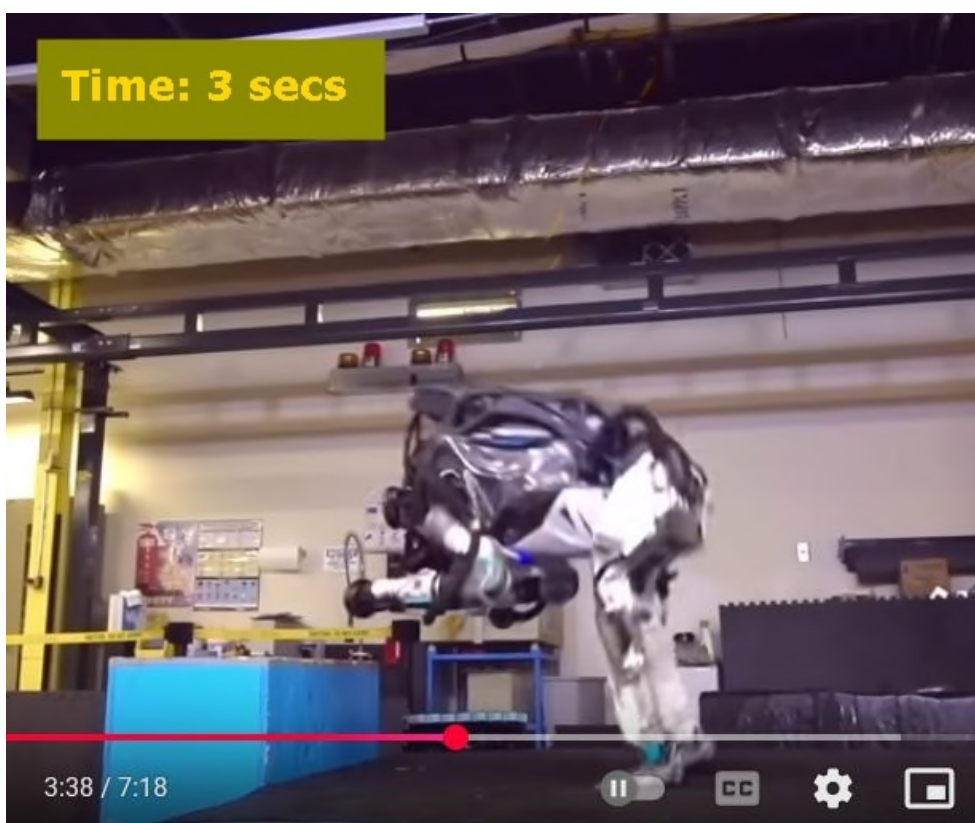
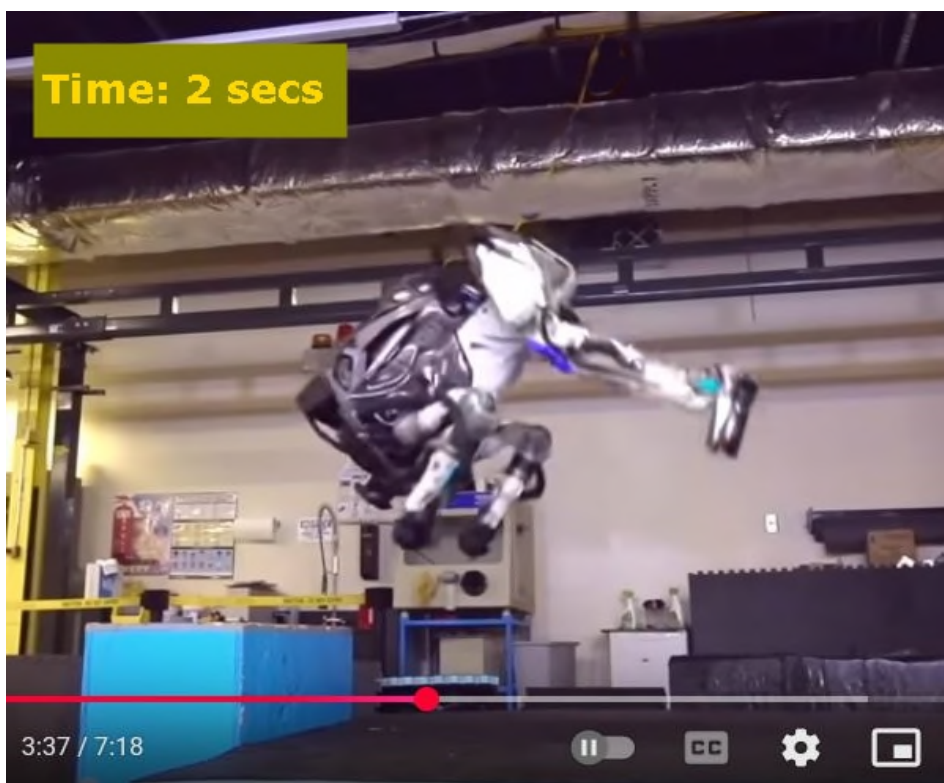
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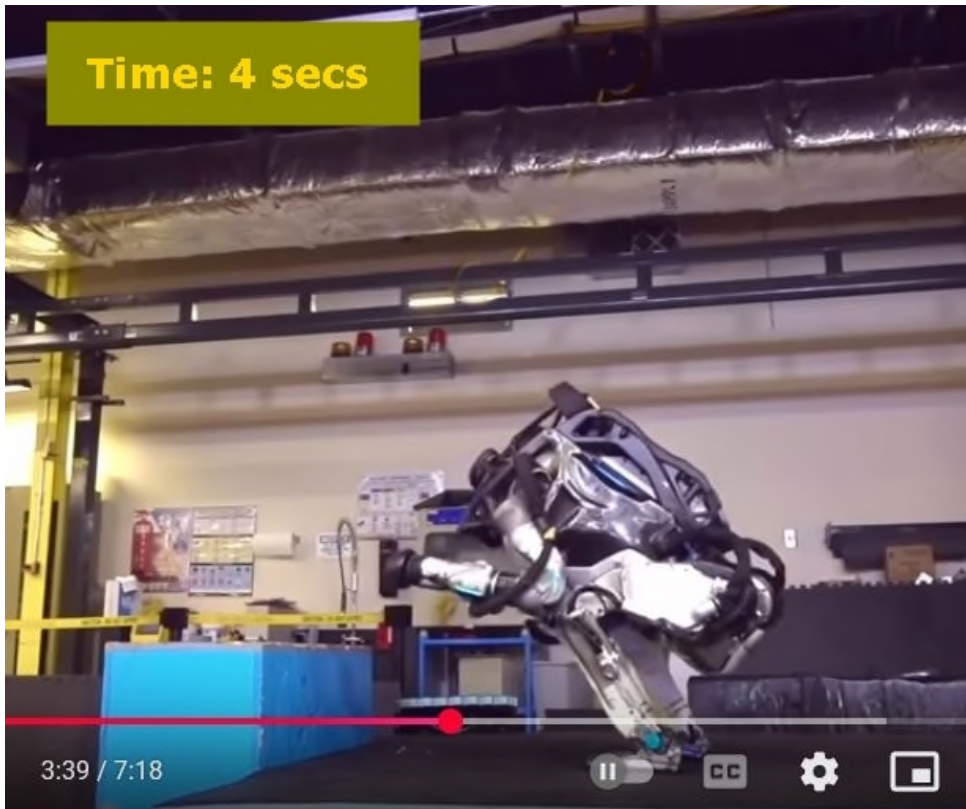
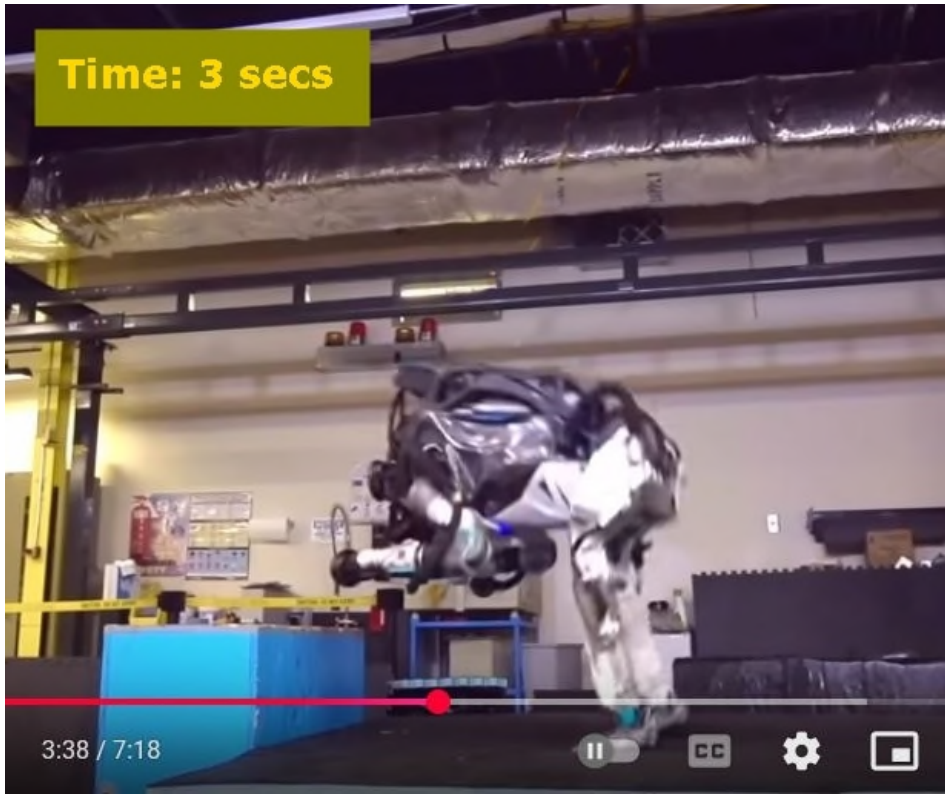
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APPENDIX A









Source: *Boston Dynamics' amazing robots Atlas and Handle*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhND7Mvp3f4>