

Sunday, July 21, 2024—The Conspiratorial Mindset: A Scriptural Investigation (Biblical Conspiracies)

## Introduction

- Now that we are done with Galatians, I am going to be preaching topically for a while. There are some topics that I would like to cover that don't fit nicely into an expositional book series.
- One of these topics is a scriptural analysis of what I am calling the conspiratorial mindset. Consider the following definitions from popular online resources:
  - Conspiracy Theory— “a theory that explains an event or set of circumstances as the result of a secret plot by usually powerful conspirators; also : a theory asserting that a secret of great importance is being kept from the public.” (Merriam-Webster.com)
  - Conspiracy Theory— “A conspiracy theory is an explanation for an event or situation that asserts the existence of a conspiracy by powerful and sinister groups, often political in motivation, when other explanations are more probable. The term generally has a negative connotation, implying that the appeal of a conspiracy theory is based in prejudice, emotional conviction, or insufficient evidence. A conspiracy theory is distinct from a conspiracy; it refers to a hypothesized conspiracy with specific characteristics, including but not limited to opposition to the mainstream consensus among those who are qualified to evaluate its accuracy, such as scientists or historians.” (Wikipedia.com)
  - Conspiracy Theory— “a) a theory that rejects the standard explanation for an event and instead credits a covert group or organization with carrying out a secret plot: b) a belief that a particular unexplained event was caused by such a covert group: 3) the idea that many important political events or economic and social trends are the products of deceptive plots that are largely unknown to the general public:” (Dictionary.com)
  - Conspiracy Theorist— “a person who proposes or believes in a conspiracy theory.” (Merriam-Webster.com)
- I am doing this out of an abundance of concern particularly for men, husbands, & fathers in the body of Christ. It has been my observation over the last 4 years that men are being grossly and negatively impacted by overindulgence in the conspiratorial mindset.
  - Mid-Week Message: [Is COVID-19 Scrambling Your Eggs? \(4/29/20\)](#)—I addressed my concerns about this topic many times during COVID.
- It is my opinion that the conspiratorial mindset is negatively impacting marriages, families, the body of Christ, and local churches (including ours). It is taking people's focus off “things above” (Col. 3:1-3) and causing them to focus, fixate, and obsess on things below.
- We live in a time when conspiracy theories are prevalent. They are everywhere online.

- We are not going to focus on specific conspiracy theories. They are endless.
- There are conspiracies that have & do exist.
  - Up to 60 Roman senators conspired against Julius Ceaser.
  - The assassination of Abraham Lincoln was part of a larger conspiracy that included a plot to Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward.
  - Michael Jordan's 1<sup>st</sup> retirement.
- The Bible recognizes the existence of conspiracies.
- The fact that conspiracies do exist does not mean that any particular conspiracy theory is true.
- There are fewer conspiracies than people think. There are two reasons for this:
  - Humans are not good at keeping secrets.
  - Humans are not good at cooperating with one another.
- *Conspiracy Mindset*: The willingness to believe/accept conspiracy theories in the absence of proof. Coupled with the propensity to pattern one's life accordingly.
- To tackle this subject matter, we will be considering the following points (assistance provided by David Reid's message titled "[The Conspiracy Mindset](#)"):
  - Biblical Conspiracies
  - The transdispensational standard of proof is two or three witnesses.
  - In the absence of proof asserting the existence of a conspiracy is evil surmising and false accusation.
  - The believer should be known for moderation.
  - Focus on worldly matters and not "things above."
  - God will handle all conspiracy theories that actually exist.
  - The conspiracy we should be concerned about is the Satanic conspiracy to hide the gospel.

## **Biblical Conspiracies**

- The Bible recognizes the existence of conspiracies.
- Forms of the word “conspiracy” occur 30 times in 30 verses in the KJB.
  - Conspiracy—10 times in 10 verses
  - Conspired—19 times in 19 verses
  - Conspirators—1 time in 1 verse
- Noah Webster defines these words follows in his American Dictionary of the English Language:
  - [Conspiracy](#)
  - [Conspired](#)
  - [Conspirators](#)
- Genesis 37:8-27—Joseph’s brothers “conspired” against him.
- II Samuel. 15:1-12, 31—Absalom conspired against David.
- I Kings 16:8-10, 16—Zimri assassinated Elah
  - The books of Kings & Chronicles record multiple similar instances.
- Jeremiah 11:9—Israel conspired against the Lord by failing to keep the Law.
  - Ezekial 22:25— “conspiracy” of Israel’s “prophets” against the Lord.
- Acts 23:12-22—forty men conspired to kill Paul.
- The Bible records other conspiracies that don’t explicitly use the word.
  - Esther—Haman conspired to murder Israelites.
  - Daniel 6—the leadership of Media-Persia conspired against Daniel.

## **Conclusion**

- The fact that conspiracies exist does not mean that any particular conspiracy theory is true.
- A “theory” is by definition a speculation or conjecture based upon a “hypothetical set of facts, principles, or circumstances.” (Merriam-Webster.com)
  - Evolution is a theory.
- When the Bible informs us of the existence of a conspiracy we don’t need to conjecture, speculate, or imagine the Bible is explicit.
- II Corinthians 10:5—believers aren’t supposed to be subject to their imagination.