

Conspiracy theories are a waste of time

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By Dennis J. Mouland

PHOENIX, Ariz.—Throughout time there have been conspiracy theories that have impacted the behavior of people. World domination by the Illuminati is an example of a theory that has been around for centuries. Aliens captured in the 1940s and a secret government file about them is another. With the advent of the Internet, there seems to be no limit to the number of theories and their proliferation into the minds and hearts of men.

Some dabble in these theories simply for the challenge and the thrill of predicting events. Others try to match Bible prophecies to their theories, thus seeming to be a prophet. Still others develop or expound these theories to simply frighten others. Recent movies, such as *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons* and a movie actually titled *Conspiracy Theory* have further fueled these often complex ideas and predictions.

All wrapped up

A number of religious people get wrapped up in these speculations, spending more time and effort in proving them than they spend looking into God's Word to improve themselves. These people can be referred to as the Black Helicopter Church of God. They are watching government activities closely and are convinced the government is planning sinister events, using its secret superquiet helicopters to kidnap those of us who figure out their plans!

I ran into a man outside Wal-Mart a few years ago whom I had not seen in 15 years. We used to attend the same church. He did not initially recognize me, but after I introduced myself his opening greeting was "You sure got fat!"

When I replied that I had actually lost weight recently, he said, "Wow, I'd sure hate to have seen you before!"

He then launched into a strange diatribe about how the government was plotting against him and his small splinter group of the church because they had discovered a conspiracy by the government. He told me the black helicopters were looking for him. I think he was trying to keep the Wal-Mart security cameras from getting a shot of his face.

45 years wasted

My point with this story is simple. After 45 years in the church, all this man had to show was a total lack of Christian conduct and a paranoia about his theory. What a sad state for one supposedly housing the Holy Spirit for so many years: little or no personal growth and a stupid theory that he alone had "discovered."

I have no doubt there are all sorts of things going on around us in government, society and organizations that would shock us. Some of the theories may be absolutely true. I just do not have enough time or energy to look into them. Besides, I already know there is really only one conspiracy that matters. And it is no theory, just fact.

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7-9).

Always there for us

The Bible tells about a powerful being who has already deceived the whole world. He was there to deceive Adam and Eve, he was there to try to destroy the Christ child, he was there at the death of Jesus, and he was there when every evil thing that rose up against the name of God was thought up and acted upon.

Be it the governmental changes we see in the United States today, the splintering of the church or the arrogance of the intellectual elites of this world, he has always been there. His conspiracy is not to destroy God; he already knows this is not possible. He wants to hurt God by "taking as many with him as he can." He invented the "scorched-earth" attitude and will not give up until he is finally locked up by the power of Almighty God.

The Web site Dictionary.com defines *deceit* thus: "to mislead by a false appearance or statement; to *delude*."

It comes from a Latin word meaning "to ensnare," to deceive someone means to teach him lies as if they were true and to *convince* him of those lies. While many Christians would assume this deceit to be limited to doctrine, I believe this conspiracy is far more reaching.

On our own

Mankind has been on his own almost from the beginning. While God attempted to establish Adam and Eve in the garden in a perfect way, the deceiver soon changed that. Since that time, mankind has been on his own in every aspect of life!

We have invented our own:

- Cultures.
- Governmental systems.
- Educational systems and goals.
- Standards of conduct.
- Laws, standards and morals.
- Lifestyles.
- Entertainment.
- Religions.

When you combine this satanic conspiracy with the fact that mankind is built with a faulty line of reasoning, you have a recipe for disaster. That disaster is the subject of the majority of prophecies in the Bible.

“Thus saith the LORD; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings*” (Jeremiah 17:5-10).

Judgment based on reality

Thank God He does know reality and will judge us based on it, not man's reasoning or imagination. The conspiracy is to have us believe that man can govern himself, make right choices and be as good as God is good. That is the intellectual vanity of this great conspiracy.

God will not punish this world just because the world is a member of the wrong splinter group of the church. He does not make drastic judgment on us just because we ate the wrong foods. The end of the world will not come just because man did not model his governments after God's model. God will bring the *entire system* down because it is false and built on the lie that man is smarter, or at least just as smart, as God. That is the conspiracy of all conspiracies.

Between our own vanity and the willing deceit of Satan, we have an entire planet enslaved to the teachings and values of the father of lies.

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not” (John 8:44-45).

Man, on his own, cannot even recognize the truth, even when it is spoken by God Himself. That is one successful conspiracy.

Forget conspiracies

Don't waste your precious time studying possible conspiracies and their possible connections with Bible prophecies. Use your time to study God's words for you, to make you more like Him, less like this world.

God has started a lifelong process with those He has called, and it is to recognize and eliminate the intellectual vanity that Satan has so successfully implanted into our world. Do you really have time to study the Illuminati and worry about helicopters kidnapping you? Are secret prophecies hidden in the symbols on our money? Will the Trilateral Commission play a role in the end of the world?

Beats me.

Spend more time on your knees and reading in His Word so you can recognize the real conspiracy that threatens to separate you from your God.