

CONSPIRACIES in the BIBLE

*Scriptural Accounts
of Plots, Schemes & Collusions*

Luis C. Ruiz, Ph.D.

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BY

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this work to my yet unborn grandchildren. As the world continues to turn away from the Truth and spiral into delusion, I hope that this book provides explanations and comfort. Solace will become more and more valuable as we move closer to the return of Christ our Lord. As you move into adulthood and its unique set of challenges, please remember to not look unto man but unto Jesus and His Words.

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Chapter One

Introduction

The 21st century has been a distinctively fascinating and uniquely polarizing time. Through what is ubiquitous technological unity, threads of disunity have sown their way into society through those same means of communication. The immediacy and permanence of “social media” interaction has seemingly exacerbated differences among people segments in ways never before experienced. This situation has galvanized groups into different factions, such that, almost any word, phrase or position can be used as a tool to divide the populace. One such word used to ridicule and isolate is “conspiracy”.

In this last generation, the word conspiracy has become a surprisingly provocative word. The word seems to illicit dichotomous thought in various population segments. On one end you have individuals that believe that conspiracies never occur. This group believes that conspiracies are mere fabrications from alarmists that have nothing better to do than to connect disparate and seemingly innocuous events. Calling their antagonists “conspiracy theorists” they hold that these “tin-

hatters” are constantly on the look-out for schemes and plots in all segments of life.

On the opposite end you have individuals that believe that everything is a conspiracy and that they occur everywhere. This group holds that conspiracies can be readily identified through diligent research. They believe that “conspiracy deniers” willingly chose to ignore obvious facts; sometimes even benefitting from keeping the plot active. They also hold that some deniers have outmoded notions that people are not capable (or smart enough) of coming together to foment an evil, self-benefiting plan.

The reality is that both of the above extremes are flawed. It is historically documented that high level collusion has always existed. To state otherwise is truly an uninformed and naive perspective. Do not even courts of law convict individuals of varied forms of conspiracy? Contrarily, to state that anything suspicious is a conspiracy is equally misguided. The truth is that some conspiracies will always remain in the unproven category. As such, either excess is mistaken, since history and common sense evidence prove the error of each extreme.

Additionally, whether right or left; religious or agnostic; young or old, all people embrace some conspiracies even though not called such. Maybe they call it collusion or plot or sedition or institutionalization but the underlying motive

remains the same. Another truth that needs to be addressed is that there is a difference between “Conspiracy” and “Conspiracy Theory”; the former is proven with quotes, events and results while the latter is not proven and may never be.

Building on these points, the Bible communicates the reality of men and women conspiring. Not surprising, Scripture does not equivocate on whether the conspiracy is true or mere theory, it plainly positions it as factual. This fact is undergirded by the twin doctrines of Biblical inspiration and preservation. One can say that *“Biblical conspiracy is upheld by Biblical inspiration”*.

As this book will outline, the Holy Spirit describes multiple accounts of political heads, religious leaders, global elites and common people conspiring. Conversely, these conspiracies are directed towards individuals, beliefs and/or nations. Surprising to some, the Bible contains well over 50 unique cases detailing conspiracies. Many of these examples are grouped into 15 different chapters in the book.

At this point, it would be important to define the words conspiracy and conspired. Definitions seem to vary slightly but the core elements are the same. Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary offers a timeless definition. Other older dictionary versions

(Oxford, Cambridge, and American Heritage) also offer accurate definitions. (At the risk of sounding conspiratorial, the author highly recommends avoiding some online dictionaries such as Google or Yahoo for reasons that should be obvious to a discerning researcher.) Webster's definitions of conspiracy and conspired, along with its accompanying scriptural references, are offered below:

CONSPIRACY, n.

1. A combination of men for an evil purpose; an agreement between two or more persons, to commit some crime in concert; particularly, a combination to commit treason, or excite sedition or insurrection against the government of a state; a plot; as a conspiracy against the life of a king; a conspiracy against the government. More than forty had made this conspiracy. (Acts 23)

2. In law, an agreement between two or more persons, falsely and maliciously to indict, or procure to be indicted, an innocent person of felony.

3. A concurrence; a general tendency of two or more causes to one event.

CONSPIRATOR, n.

1. One who conspires; one who engages in a plot to commit a crime, particularly treason.

2. In law, one who agrees with another falsely and maliciously to indict an innocent person of felony. By the British statute, a conspirator is defined to be one who binds himself by oath, covenant, or other alliance, to assist another falsely and maliciously to indict a person, or falsely to maintain pleas.

CONSPIRE, v.i.

[L., to plot; to breathe. But the primary sense is to throw, to wind; hence spira, a fold, circle, wreath or band; and the sense of the verb is, to breathe together, or more probably, to wind or band together.]

1. To agree, by oath, covenant or otherwise, to commit a crime; to plot; to hatch treason. The servants of Ammon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house. (Second Kings 21) They conspired against Joseph to slay him. (Genesis 37)

2. In law, to agree falsely and maliciously to indict an innocent person of felony.

3. To agree; to concur to one end. The press, the pulpit, and the stage, conspire to censure and expose our age. All things conspire to make us prosperous.

Several points about the definitions solicit mention. At its foundation, to conspire means “to breathe with” or “to breathe together”. It also

illustrates the notion of being “spired” or “bound” by a common goal or cause. Hence, there is always some form of agreement, covenant or oath whether formal or informal. Two or more parties are required. They can be individuals linked by a common cause, institution and/or government. What is pivotal is that the agreement deals with orchestrated events and activities in order to achieve a desired result. Thus, its primary focus is the end with the means simply being a vehicle to achieve it.

Interwoven in the definition and foundational to the success of a conspiracy, is stealth. Stealth is the ability to plot and execute without the knowledge of the targeted person or group. Hence, another maligned word becomes essential...secrecy. The success of the plot frequently hinges on being undetected for a period of time. Even individuals involved in the execution of part of the plan are unaware of the final and overall objective. History is replete of people being an oblivious cog that furthers an overarching goal. Vladimir Lenin appears to have coined the term “useful idiots” to describe those that unknowingly assist a conspiracy.

It is documented that as the group of collaborators increase, combined with a longer time period, conspiracies tend to become less concealed. Further unveiling also occurs when a “critical mass” of people becomes aware of the plot. Some believe

that the uncloaking of the plot can at times be premeditated. This typically occurs when the plot passes the point of resistance. Even when the number of collaborators is small, some conspirators employ “Sun Tzu” style psychological warfare where intimidation creates the desired outcome against a larger group without physical engagement. Along these lines, some maintain that the advent of the internet has been a “double-edged sword” that both exposes and may also strengthen conspiratorial designs.

While the essential definition of conspiracy could be considered benign (people working together to accomplish a common end) most Scriptural conspiracies involve a negative act. Some exceptions to this general rule are found in the chapter called: Counter Conspirators. In these examples, men band together to overcome evil despots; some of which previously used conspiracies to gain power. The other caveat to evil conspirators occurs in the circumstances whereby individuals unite in vigilante fashion against a known evil doer. An instance of this is found in 2 Kings 21:23 (cf. 2 Chronicles 33:24) where evil Judean King Amon was murdered by his servants in his own home. We are subsequently told how the vigilante conspirators were slain by Judean citizens. (2 Chronicles 33:25). We’ll discuss this more in a later chapter.

Most agree that it is generally a good thing to desire to be in group. The Bible speaks of the importance of having close and healthy relationships with Christian brethren, blood-relatives, neighbors, co-workers etc. It also isn't frowned upon to join common interest groups that are social, political, athletic and so on. However, there is a temptation within man to sometimes join groups that may have nefarious inclinations. Even though it appears that they are prospering in the short-term, Holy Scripture forewarns us from being in league with such schemers. God tells us that in the long-term their efforts are futile:

If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. (Proverbs 1:11-17)

Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them

away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage. (Micah 2:1-2)

To reiterate, this book will exclusively emphasize the inspired and preserved conspiracies found in the sacred pages of Scripture. As such, it will not address any possible “conspiracies theories” *about* the Bible as those are truly vain, speculative and largely untrue. Sadly, the world is replete with unregenerate mockers of the Bible. This book will also not focus on the varied worldly conspiracies (true or unproven) that seem to be forefront in today’s consciousness.

Our study will take an up-close look at man’s conspiratorial heart and the consequences that ensue. For this reason, the book can at times appear bleak. We also get to see the difference in God’s perfect/desired will and His allowed/permissive will. To any reader, it is scripturally plain that the Lord does not want anyone to sin (desired will) but allows it (permissive will) in order to accomplish His eternal purposes. Given this, the author’s objective is to bring glory to the Creator Jesus Christ. The hope is that this book draws believers closer to the Lord Jesus and somehow draws souls that are still searching for the Savior of the World!

The next chapter truly encapsulates how all it takes is one evil slanderer to conceive a nefarious scheme of subversion in order to enlist an army of

co-conspirators. In what the author has labelled: “The Proto Conspiracy”, this scheme takes place in the “shadowy” parts of heaven. We shall read how this executed plot has been impacting the world and its dwellers since the beginning.

Chapter Two

The Proto Conspiracy

The first conspiracy in the Bible (chronologically speaking) can also be called “The Father of Conspiracies”. This first evil plot was spearheaded by “The Master Conspirator” Biblically known as Satan or the Devil. Prior to being called the adversary (Satan) and the accuser/slanderer (Devil) he was known as Lucifer.

At this point a little bit of historical context would be helpful. Ezekiel 28 informs us that as the created “Anointed Cherub”, Lucifer lived with his Creator God and was a being full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. We’re told that he was covered in every precious stone and walked on the Holy Mountain of God. Lucifer also was endowed with musical dominion from the very moment he was fashioned. This may explain why music has often been a catalyst to promote youth rebellion against parents and other authority. In sum, he was perfect in his ways from the moment Jesus Christ created him.

It is via these Biblical descriptors that the name Lucifer displays its literal meaning of “Light-Bearer” or “Son of the Morning/Dawn” (Isaiah 14:12). Satan’s worldly radiance and luminescence is further

illustrated by his ability to transform himself into an “Angel of Light” (2 Cor. 11:14). Hence, the seeming contradiction of “dark” light is eradicated when one realizes that evil can portray itself as bright and beautiful.

Even though Lucifer was given everything he could ever need, in his heart, he wanted to exalt his principality above the stars of God. He also desired to place himself on the mount of the congregation. There he could ascend into the greatest heights of the clouds and be like the most High God. His refusal to have anyone above him was fully conceived in his hubris.

It is at this juncture in the Ezekiel 28 record that a dramatic shift occurs from Lucifer’s “perfection” onto his iniquity. Scripture begins outlining several conspiratorial elements.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the

multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more. (Ezekiel 28:15-19)

Lucifer's sin and violence appears to have emanated from "the multitude of his merchandise". The Hebrew word for merchandise is "*rkullah*" (pronounced rek-ool-law'). This feminine noun is only found four times in Scripture; all of them in the book of Ezekiel. Translated twice as "merchandise" (Ezekiel 26:12; 28:16) and twice as "traffick" (Ezekiel 28: 5, 18) it has been historically thought of as trading or peddling. Today, a person who "trafficks" can be considered a "lobbyist", who is someone that conducts activity to persuade and convince others to their position. Biblically, to "traffick or merchandise" signifies an effort to seduce those that have an opposing or non-committal perspective. In this case, it meant that Lucifer was offering his fellow angels something of value in return for their allegiance. Trafficking is also indicative of a sales and marketing campaign that may include free promotional items (government so-called "safety-net" entitlements to collect votes and promote dependency come to mind). It is in this setting that the heavenly conspiracy begins to take root.

For this account of conspiracy to make sense, several items need to be explained. In the beginning, God created innumerable angels to worship and serve Him in varying capacities; often serving as messengers and instruments of His divine purposes. Some angels were even elected to conduct certain specific tasks (Gabriel, Michael, Abaddon and of course Lucifer/Satan are prime examples given in the Bible). All angels were created under the “*it was good*” label while still having the God instilled ability to choose good or evil. Not acknowledging this divine aspect of God’s creative design impugns His eternal omnipotence.

Angels are also known as “Sons of God” given that they are a direct creation from God and have no direct father or mother except the Creator. It was with this Sons of God group which Lucifer instigated his merchandising operation. It will be covered in the next chapter how the fallen Sons of God split again thereby wreaking further havoc on God’s earth.

As such, angels are different from demons in a variety ways. Foundationally, Scripture always uses different Hebrew and Greek words when angels or demons are discussed. Angels or Sons of God are mentioned from the outset of creation (Genesis 1-6) and even shouted for joy as they witnessed aspects of creation (Job 38:7). On the other hand, demons (*Satyrs* in Hebrew) are never called Sons of God and

are not mentioned until well after the universal flood in Leviticus 17.

Angels are also called “stars” or “morning stars” throughout the Bible. [(Definitely - Job 38:7; Rev. 1:16; 1:20; 2:1; 3:1; 6:13; 9:1; 12:4; Jude 1:13) (Likely - Dan 12:3; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:25)] In light of this, some excellent commentators also posit that the fourth day creation stars may have also referred to angels along with the physical bodies of light stars (Genesis 1:6-8). Some teachers also allude that the “Star out of Jacob” (Numbers 24:17) that was used to lead the Magi to the child Jesus may have been a Star/Angel guiding in order to fulfill the prophecy. It is also interesting to note that God numbers the stars and has a name for each one (Psalm 147:4) and that those very stars of light are expected to praise the Creator! (Psalm 148:3)

Angels also differ from demons in that they can materialize and take on flesh and body. The principal example of this is found in Genesis 19. Here angels are described as not mere spirit beings as the wicked male populace of Sodom sexually lusted after their bodies. The ability for angelic embodiment is also clearly illustrated in Genesis 6:1-4. In this passage, the “Sons of God” (in all of its Old Testament occurrences, the phrase indisputably describes Angels who were a direct creation from God) realized that the “daughters of men” (female offspring from

humans) were fair (beautiful, attractive, alluring etc.) and selected from any they desired to “come in unto them” (had intercourse). This resulted in “hybrid” offspring that were referred to as the giants or Nephilim. Hence, this embodied subgroup of fallen angels took a second step of disobedience into perversion and left their “first estate”. (Jude 1; 2 Peter 2)

In Genesis 19, we also read how the angels partook of a meal with Lot indicating a fleshly body. Along these lines, Psalm 78:25 calls manna “angel food”. While this can certainly be a metaphor, it presents another fascinating build to the overall theological topic of “angelology”. Because of the ability to embody, let us not forget that an angel can easily be confused for a human: *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.* (Heb. 13:2)

Oppositely, demons or foul spirits are never mentioned as having the capacity to embody. By extension, there is no record of them eating or drinking. What we are told in several verses is that demons do have the ability to enter an individual’s soul. This indwelling or possession seems to be what they desire; especially by multitudes or legions. This ability to indwell is an aptitude also shared by fallen angels but seems to occur less frequently with them. *And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said*