

THE CONSPIRACY OF THE AGES

Conspire: "To combine privily for an evil or unlawful purpose; to agree together to do something criminal, illegal, or reprehensible."

(All English word definitions in this study taken from the Oxford English Dictionary)

- I. Theories about conspiracy relative to human government are many and varied.
 - A. Of particular interest to many theorists is the specter of a world government that renders national boundaries irrelevant.
 - B. This study assumes that a move towards world government is a fact because Scripture prophesies of such.
 - C. This study seeks not to affirm any particular theory of such a world economic/political conspiracy nor is it a denial of all aspects of such theories.
 - D. This study assumes that no particular human or group of humans is the ultimate power in manipulating events to bring on world government.
 - E. This study assumes that the real animating power of world government is spiritual: Satan, who is bent on unseating Jesus Christ from His heavenly reign over the creation.
 - F. This study is designed to look at the topic of conspiracy towards world government from a seldom-considered objective: the necessity of eliminating the written word of God or its effect in order to bring such a world government into power.
 - G. This study is a defense of the position that there is a preserved, inspired Scripture.
- II. Scripture teaches that conspiracy is a fact of human existence. **JER 11:9; PSA 64:5-6; MIC 7:3.**
 - A. Men may bind themselves under extreme oaths in their conspiracy. **ACT 23:12-13.**
 - B. Conspirators may collude with civil authority to cover their actions. **MAT 28:11-15.**
 - C. Dark designs are sometimes covered by benevolence: charities can make excellent smokescreens. **JOH 12:4-6.**
 - D. Religion may play an important part in conspiracy. **EZE 22:25; MIC 3:11.**
 - E. People can be unwitting participants in conspiracy. **2SA 15:11-12; ACT 19:28-32.**
 1. Ignorance of the word of God is a factor here. **ACT 2:36, 41 c/w ACT 3:17; 13:27.**
 2. Professing believers who are ignorant of Scripture could potentially be the most ardent conspirators against Jesus Christ and His truth. **ACT 26:9.**
 3. Can you think of anything that Satan would love more than to dupe Christians into advancing his efforts at world government?
 4. It should here be obvious how critical the truth of the word of God is to the frustrating of Satan's world program.
 - F. A word of warning is necessary here. The spiritual forces at work behind world conspiracy are like the ways of a strange woman: moveable (**PRO 5:6**). Therefore it is unwise to try to find the earthly head of this Hydra and cut it off.
- III. Another caution is in order.
 - A. The Bible teaches that oppressive civil governments are a tool in the hand of God to judge an ungodly people. **ISA 10:5-12; JER 25:8-9; HAB 1:12; MAT 22:7.**
 - B. Nothing escapes the government of God: all powers ultimately serve Him. **PRO 16:4; PSA 76:10; DAN 4:35.**

- IV. The nature of this struggle appears to be outwardly amongst men but the reality takes place in the unseen spiritual world. **2CO 10:3-5; EPH 6:12.**
- A. The battle is fundamentally joined in the arena of doctrine and ideas: whether men will be led by God's truth to the best possible existence or by Satan's lies to a deceptive alternative that is actually oppressive and destructive.
 - B. Spiritual forces are intricately involved in human politics and warfare. **DAN 10:12-13, 20; 2KI 6:15-17 c/w PSA 68:17; 2KI 19:35-37.**
 - C. The ultimate conspiracy is against God and His Christ. **PSA 2:1-5 c/w ACT 4:24-28.**
- V. Scripture teaches that Satan once was the highest of God's creation but rebelled against God and was subsequently cast out of heaven with his co-conspirators, other angels. **REV 12:3-4; EZE 28:12-19 c/w MAT 16:23; 2PE 2:4.**
- A. Christians ought to be aware of the devices of Satan but not consumed with them. **2CO 2:11; ROM 16:19.**
 - B. The devil's great ambition is to usurp the sovereignty of God, to be "like the most High" (**ISA 14:12-15**).
 1. The word Lucifer comes from root words: *lux* meaning "light"; and *fer* meaning "bearing" according to the O.E.D.
 2. Also, the Hebrew roots for this name are words meaning "to shine, to make a show or boast; the morning-star (Strongs #1966 & #1984)."
 3. Hence, Lucifer, the morning-star, or first light; the *Ein Soph* of Kabbalism.
 4. Satan is transformed into an angel (messenger, bearer) of light. **2CO 11:14-15.**
 - C. Not all wisdom is of God. **JAM 3:14-15.**
 1. Earthly wisdom is one of the most deceptive and dangerous forces opposing the cause of God.
 2. Wisdom which contradicts, disregards or exalts itself over God's revealed wisdom is a certain path to idolatry, licentiousness, corruption, destruction and death. **GEN 3:5-6; ROM 1:21-32.**
 3. This will be an extremely important point further on in this study as the error of gnosticism is considered.
 - D. Scripture affirms that there are two other castings-out of Satan: one after the resurrection of Christ (**JOH 12:31 c/w REV 12:5-9**), the last at the final day of judgment. **REV 20:10.**
 - E. The summary of history between the second and last casting out of Satan is of him hasting to implement his grand program which is hindered by the testimony of Christ. **REV 12:12-17.**
- VI. **ISA 14:14** shows that Lucifer (Satan) desires to be "like the most High." A survey of some of the attributes of God sheds light on that to which Satan aspires.
- A. God owns and distributes all wealth at His pleasure. **1CH 29:11-12.**
 - B. God is the only Potentate (a person endowed with independent power) and Distributer of power. **1TI 6:14-15; 1CH 29:12.**
 - C. God's will is always done in heaven and earth. **DAN 4:35; 2CH 20:6.**
 - D. God requires unique and universal worship. **MAT 4:10; ISA 45:22-23 c/w 2TH 2:3-7.**
 - E. God has absolute power over life and death. **DEU 32:39.**
 - F. God is the Governor among the nations. **PSA 22:28.**
 - G. God is clearly the Absolute Master of all spirits, men, nations, wealth, commerce, events, etc. His government is total and unchallengeable.
 1. All such government is now in the hand of Jesus Christ. **EPH 1:20-23; 1PE 3:22.**

2. As a false christ and ape of God, Satan must convince men that he is the true Christ.
 3. Does Christ rule over the whole world? Then Satan will concoct a counterfeit world rule that will be totalitarian. **REV 13:11-18.**
 4. This is a world empire (supreme and extensive political dominion) by definition.
 5. The prerequisite to world government is worship of Satan (**LUK 4:5-7**) which is exactly what Satan is looking for: a reclaiming of dominion lost because of the resurrection of Christ so that he can be declared God Who alone is to be worshipped.
- VII. Scripture recognizes eight viable world empires / beast governments. **REV 17:7-11.**
- A. By the measure of **LUK 4:5-7** each of these empires would be sold out to Satan.
 - B. At the time of the writing of Revelation, the Roman Empire was in power. It would have been the sixth “king” of **REV 17:10**. Two others would follow.
 - C. Scripture identifies the first five as being Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece.
- VIII. The prototype of Satan's program was Old Babylon (**GEN 11**). An examination of Nimrod's kingdom reveals some interesting facts:
- A. **GEN 10:8-10**. The beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was Babel.
 - B. **GEN 11:1-9**. Nimrod's kingdom was founded on a premise which directly violated the desire of God. **v.4 c/w GEN 9:1**.
 1. As a protective measure for their own good to restrain them from the full capacity of their evil hearts (**GEN 8:21**), God confounded their language. **vs.6-9**.
 2. Mark that God's measure against a world empire is diversification of language. Any movement, therefore, which would promote the opposite is obviously not of God and is not in the best interests of humanity.
 - C. God obviously intends that there should be boundaries to separate mankind (**DEU 32:8; ACT 17:26**). These boundaries are not necessarily racial but they are national.
 - D. A trait of empires is to break down these barriers by mixing and mingling peoples. **2KI 17:6, 24 c/w ISA 10:13**.
- IX. Up to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ the government of mankind was commonly in the hands of one world empire after another, culminating in the iron-clad empire which was Rome.
- A. Subsequent to the coming of Christ, that pattern changed.
 - B. The *Pax Romana* endured for a while but the Roman Empire eventually declined and fell and another empire did not step into its shoes. The machinery of Satan's world empire system had a monkey-wrench thrown into it. All the kings' horses and all the kings' men could not put Humpty Dumpty back together again.
 - C. Post-Rome history has been one wherein Satan has worked to restore his system of human government and install the seventh and eighth world empires of **REV 17:10-11**.
- X. This brings us to a portion of Scripture which is oft-quoted in our day. **REV 20:1-3; 7-9**.
- A. In dealing with the book of Revelation, it must be remembered that this book is primarily written in signification. **REV 1:1**.
 1. Signify: “To be a sign or symbol of; to represent, betoken, mean.”
 2. Signification of necessity is a symbolic representation of its subject. **JOH 12:32-33; HEB 9:8**.
 3. Caution is therefore especially needed in Revelation since its language is obviously

- meant to often speak of something other than its symbol.
- B. Prophecy or symbolic language must be reconciled to the plainer passages of Scripture by comparative study. **1CO 2:13; ROM 12:6.**
1. The O.T. revelation was much characterized by dark utterances such as parables, proverbs and figurative prophetic language. **PSA 78:2; PRO 1:6; EZE 17:2; HOS 12:10.**
 - a. Similitude: “A person or thing resembling, or having the likeness of, some other person or thing; a counterpart or equal; †a similarity.”
 - b. Prophetic figures are just that: figures, symbols or tokens of something else.
 2. The N.T. is a clearer, brighter light, a “more sure word of prophecy” which came from the same Spirit that spoke to the O.T. prophets, and is in complete harmony with what had been revealed of old. **2PE 1:19-21; 1JO 4:6.**
 - a. It is by comparison, “great plainness of speech” (**2CO 3:12-13**).
 - b. Plainness facilitates certainty. **JOH 16:16-30.**
 3. Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture by this method of comparative study wherein the plain (light) gives the proper understanding of the parabolic (dark) portions.
 - a. Interpretations of dark utterances (such as are common to prophecy) without or contrary to Scripture's own plain statements are mere speculations.
 - b. Such interpretations essentially fall under the censure of such texts as **DEU 13:1-3; ISA 8:20; JER 23:31.**
- C. **REV 20** is describing a time when the devil would be *bound* for a period referred to as a “thousand years.”
1. This binding would put a stop to his on-going deceptive tactics with *the nations* for the duration of the *thousand years*.
 2. After the *thousand years* expires, the devil would be loosed to revive his game plan, deceiving *the nations* once more to ultimately destroy all opposition to his government.
 3. NOTE: If the devil were able to eradicate the churches of God (of which the members are called saints) he would have then overthrown God, Whose will was to preserve the church. **MAT 16:18; EPH 3:21.**
- D. By the comparative study method mentioned above, let Scripture define the word “nations” as here used in **REV 20:3, 8.**
1. “Nations” = “Gentiles” (as opposed to Jews). **ROM 15:10 c/w DEU 32:43; ROM 15:11 c/w PSA 117:1.**
 2. These verses in **REV 20** are therefore describing a time when the Gentiles would be released from the deception of the devil, then later be brought back again under the yoke of his conspiratorial scheme.
- E. Compare this with what we have already seen about the desire and program of Satan to establish world government.
1. That program went ALMOST unchallenged until the first advent of Christ, then collapsed, but is now gaining great momentum again.
 2. There was one nation in O.T. times that generally stood apart from the system: Israel.
 3. Israel was singled out by God for particular blessings and distinctions. **ROM 9:3-4.**
 4. The Gentile nations were left in idolatrous darkness, ignorantly conforming to the devil's program. **EPH 4:17-19 c/w 1CO 10:20; ACT 14:13-18 c/w ACT 17:29-30.**
 5. The CHIEF advantage that Israel had was the word of God.

ROM 3:1-2 c/w DEU 4:5-6; PSA 147:19-20.

- a. With the truth of God in hand Israel knew that there was one true Creator God Who was in heaven and that service to Him was to be in a specific fashion, separate from the manners of all other religions.
 - b. By His word, Israel knew that God reviled the spirit of ecumenism which is such an obvious player in Satan's scheme.
DEU 12:30-32; ZEP 1:5; ACT 4:11-12; 2CO 6:14-18.
6. Israel also knew by the Scripture that God in heaven had the keys of the after-life, not Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Caesar or any other man.
- a. When walking according to God's word, Israel was free from the spiritual bondage of the Gentiles who saw the emperor as divine.
 - b. Men will capitulate to gross excesses of political authority if they believe that authority is divine.
7. The word of God is thus the primary hindrance to Satan's grand goal of true world government which admits to no rival authority, particularly a kingdom of God.
8. With the coming of Christ, the kingdom of God was taken from Israel and given to the church which became emphatically comprised of Gentiles.
ROM 10:19 c/w MAT 21:43; 1PE 2:9.
9. The word of God (Scripture) once exclusive to Israel now went into all the earth.
MAR 16:15, 20; ACT 1:8; COL 1:5-6, 23.
10. God called a special apostle for the task of carrying the light of God's word to the darkened Gentile world. **ACT 9:15; 13:46-47; 26:16-18.**
11. When received by the Gentiles as the word of God, it effected great reform in their lives. **1TH 2:13; 1:9-10.**
12. Realizing that no man had the keys of hell and death except the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ (**REV 1:18**), believers everywhere were freed from their spiritual bondage of fear. **HEB 2:14-15.**
13. As a result of the dissemination of God's word, especially the "more sure word of prophecy" of the apostles, Satan was effectively BOUND from achieving his goals.
- F. In **REV 20:1-3**, an angel binds Satan. There is only one angel Who has the power to bind Satan. That is Jesus Christ, the *angel* or *messenger of the covenant*.
MAL 3:1; GEN 48:16.
- G. Scripture teaches that Jesus Christ bound Satan at His first advent.
1. Satan is the *prince* of this world. **JOH 12:31; EPH 2:2.**
 2. His kingdom is composed of *principalities*. **EPH 6:12.**
 3. Christ *spoiled* principalities and powers by His death and resurrection.
COL 2:14-15.
 4. Jesus taught that *binding* PRECEDES *spoiling*. **MAT 12:29.**
 5. Binding does not necessarily mean total restriction. **ACT 24:23, 27.**
 6. Only with eyes of spiritual understanding can this victory be seen.
HEB 2:8 c/w 1CO 15:25-27; 2CO 4:18; 5:7.
- H. The binding would last for the *thousand years*.
1. *Thousand* is a term God uses to symbolically describe a complete number or period of time known only to Him. **PSA 50:10 c/w PSA 105:8.**
 2. Given the symbolic nature of the prophecies in Revelation, the *thousand years* of *binding* here spoken of should not be taken to mean a natural period of time consisting of 365,000 twenty-four hour days.
 3. It rather refers to a complete period of time known to God during which Satan