

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #25

“Conspiracy Theories: The Christian Response”

I. Introduction

Theme

American Christianity is being assaulted with a steady stream of misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories that threaten to overwhelm us with a spirit of fear.

The question is: “How will we respond?”

We need to go to the Book of Isaiah, which tells of another time when many of God’s people had fallen into fear because they believed a lie; a conspiracy theory that the surrounding nations were going to destroy them.

Then God sent His prophet with a word to His people:

Isaiah 8:12 ESV

For the Lord spoke this to me with a strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.”

While much of America has fallen under the spell of a spirit of fear because of ‘fake news’ and conspiracy theories, God is warning His people, “don’t fall for it!”

Tonight I want to do 3 things:

3 Goals

- 1. Define the difference between true conspiracies and conspiracy theories**
- 2. Show you the true conspiracy facing us today**
- 3. Finally, teach the biblical response to the problem**

Let me begin with some background.

A. It Doesn’t Take a Prophet

1. It doesn’t take a prophet to know that we are living in the perilous days of the last times the Apostle Paul warned us about in **2 Timothy 3:1, 7**

In the last days perilous times will come...always learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

a. Another translation says in the last days many would be ‘forever following new teachings but never able to understand the truth.”

2. Even the ‘secular prophets’ see the same thing:

Anna Merlan

“Republic of Lies: American Conspiracy Theorists and Their Surprising Rise to Power”

“The greatest threat to society today is disinformation, misinformation, and the monetization of lies.”

a. She speaks of the ‘monetization of lies’; these ‘tell-all’ books written by so called ‘insiders’ just to make money.

b. She notes that the problem is not information, it is *disinformation* and *misinformation*, and there is a difference!

Anna Merlan

“Misinformation refers to inaccuracies that stem from error; disinformation is deliberate falsehood promulgated by design. When known misinformation is purposefully and intentionally disseminated it becomes disinformation.”

3. We now know that most of the mainstream media feeds us 'Fake News' 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We simply cannot trust the news shows!

Mark Levin

“These are not news shows. They are propaganda shows.”

a. What is ‘propaganda’?

Propaganda

Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.

b. Never underestimate the propaganda power of the mass media.

Malcolm X

“The media is the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent. And that’s power because they control the minds of the masses.”

4. The mass media uses misinformation and disinformation to control the minds of the masses; many of us now know the danger of fake news but are not aware of the danger of conspiracy theories.

II. Conspiracy Theories and the Christian

A. We Need Some Definitions

1. What is a ‘conspiracy’?

Conspiracy

A plan or agreement formulated, especially in secret, by two or more persons to commit an unlawful, harmful, or treacherous act.

2. What is a ‘theory’?

Theory

An idea or set of ideas that is intended to explain facts or events.

a. Notice: Theories are not facts! They are ideas set forth to *explain* the facts.

3. So what is a ‘conspiracy theory’?

Conspiracy Theory

A belief that some covert but influential organization is responsible for a circumstance or event.

4. A conspiracy theory may be true; there are true conspiracies! But maybe not.

Anna Merlan, “Republic of Lies”

“An actual conspiracy is when a small group of people are working in secret against the common good, and anyone who tells you we can always easily distinguish fictitious plots from real ones probably hasn’t read much history.”

5. There are true conspiracies; in a few minutes I will show you one; but we need to know the difference between a true conspiracy and a conspiracy *theory*.

B. Conspiracy Theories Are Not a New Thing

1. Some conspiracy theories are bizarre! Examples:

Some people believe aliens have already invaded the earth and are conspiring to take it over.

a. These are the people in the ‘tin hats’; convinced the aliens have arrived.

Some people believe aliens are already running the Government.

b. Some people see aliens on our currency.

Someone on the internet magnified the contrast on a dollar bill and found the figure of an alien

c. Then there are those who just ‘see things’.

Is Macron the Antichrist?

The appearance of ‘horns’ on the head of French President Emmanuel Macron on this Time magazine cover had some thinking he might be the Antichrist.

2. Some of this makes us laugh; but some conspiracy theories are more serious:

a. Some people still believe the Holocaust, Nazi German’s extermination of 6 million Jews, is a hoax:

The Holocaust

Some people believe the Holocaust never happened; that the Holocaust is a hoax—or an exaggeration—arising from a *deliberate Jewish conspiracy* designed to advance the interest of Jews at the expense of other people. Some still believe the CIA killed President Kennedy.

- b. Some people don't believe we ever landed on the moon; that it was all staged by the Government.
- c. And I still get emails from Christians warning me about the...

Illuminati

An organization often alleged to conspire to control world affairs, by masterminding events and planting agents in governments and corporations in order to gain political power and influence and to establish a New World Order.

- d. It may shock some of you to know that I studied the Illuminati back in the 1960's before I became a Christian. Now, 50 years later, all I can say is that if they are that powerful they surely would have taken over by now. I'm not saying it's not real; I am saying it is not something to fear.
- e. Conspiracy theories generate fear; but they have other uses...

3. Some people consistently conjure up conspiracy theories to explain their personal shortcomings.

Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton blamed her husband's troubles in the 90's on a "vast right-wing conspiracy" She blamed losing the 2016 Presidential election on a conspiracy between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Trump campaign.

- a. The truth is she was just a bad candidate; but that didn't stop her Socialist political party from launching the now infamous...

Mueller Investigation

The Mueller Investigation, which was based on the conspiracy theory of Trump campaign collusion with the Russians took 2 ½ years to complete, cost American taxpayers \$32 million, and found absolutely nothing!

- b. Think of it. The Socialist Party tied up the country for several years on a conspiracy theory when they themselves were participating in a true conspiracy to impeach the President and overthrow the Government.

4. Let's look a little deeper.

B. Some Basics on Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories

1. The Bible tells us that there are real conspiracies:

Conspiracies in the Bible

- **Satan conspired with 1/3 of the angels to dethrone God (Is 14; Ezek 28)**
 - **Satan conspired with Eve to rebel against God's word (Gen 3)**
 - **Joseph's brothers conspired together to get rid of him (Gen 37)**
 - **Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem conspired to stop Nehemiah from rebuilding the wall (Nehemiah 6)**
- **The Pharisees conspired to have Jesus arrested and tried (Luke 20)**

2. Remember: There are true conspiracies and then there are conspiracy theories; sometimes it's hard to know the difference.

Anna Merlan, "Republic of Lies"

"An actual conspiracy is when a small group of people are working in secret against the common good, and anyone who tells you we can always easily distinguish fictitious plots from real ones probably hasn't read much history."

3. I'm concerned so many Christians spend so much of their time on conspiracy theories that they can't see true conspiracy right under their noses.

4. Let me give you an example of...

II. A True Conspiracy

A. The Yuri Bezmenov Story

1. 50 years ago, in 1976, a Soviet journalist and KGB informant defected from Russia to Canada and spent the rest of his life warning the free world about the Communist's secret strategy for the "ideological subversion of America".

2. In 1984, he gave an interview describing the methods used by the KGB for the gradual subversion of the political system of the United States and the brainwashing of Americans

3. As you watch this 7 minute clip from the 1 hour interview remember: This is not a 'conspiracy theory'; this is what a true conspiracy looks like...

VIDEO CLIP GOES HERE: 7:30

B. Recapping the Interview

Here is the key statement: a perfect prophetic picture from 1984 of what 2020 would look like:

Yuri Bezmenov

“The Communist’s goal is to change the perception of reality of every American to such an extent that despite of the abundance of information, no one is able to come to sensible conclusions in the interest of defending themselves, their families, their community, and their country.

(Have you asked yourself how Americans think so crazy these days?)

It’s a great brainwashing process which goes very slow, and it is divided in four basic stages.”

The 4 Stages of Ideological Subversion

- 1. Demoralization**
- 2. Destabilization**
- 3. Crisis**
- 4. Normalization**

Let’s look at these 4 stages:

1. Demoralization

Yuri Bezmenov

This stage takes 15-20 years to demoralize a nation. Why so long? Because this is the minimum number of years required to educate one generation of students in the country of your enemy.

Yuri Bezmenov

“Whenever those in power want to brainwash an entire generation of people into thinking and behaving the way they want them to, they do so by heavily demoralizing them. They also miseducate them with the ideology of their enemies.”

a. The brain washing begins in the schools and colleges; the socialist leaders in Congress today are the result of the demoralization that began 40 years ago. Here’s another nugget...

Yuri Bezmenov

This stage is also characterized by a rejection of truth, as anyone who has tried using facts and figures in a debate recently understands firsthand: Exposure to true information does not matter anymore. A person who is demoralized is unable to assess true information, the facts tell nothing to him. Even if I shower him with information, with authentic proof, with documents, with pictures.

c. Ever argue with a socialist? Good luck.

2. Destabilization

Annie Holmquist

The second stage, destabilization, follows demoralization, and lasts from two to five years. Bezmenov explains that such destabilization occurs in the “economy, foreign relations, [and] defense systems” of a country. One wonders if America has been in this stage for the past few years.

Yuri Bezmenov

Create the impression that violence and insurrection are legitimate aspects of the American tradition; that students and special-interest groups should rise up and use ‘united force’ to solve economic, political or social problems.

3. Crisis

a. The third state of socialist subversion is Crisis; the one that happens quickly.

Yuri Bezmenov

“Demoralization may take 15-20 years; Destabilization may take 2-5 years; but it may take only up to six weeks to bring a country to the verge of Crisis.”

c. The Communist Party of China gave us the Corona virus and brought America to its knees in just 6 weeks; but many don’t know that socialist strategy always has to create a crisis-it’s how they operate.

4. Normalization

a. The socialist’s subversion strategies Demoralizes, Destabilizes, Creates Crisis, all with an end goal of ‘Normalizing’ a nation; which to them means, political takeover.

- b. Their goal is a new 'normal'; a socialized society
- c. This is what the 2020 election is all about.

III. Close: The Christian Response

A. Back To Isaiah

1. The context of Isaiah 8 is a country in crisis; Israel's enemies were conspiring an invasion and takeover; but this is what God says to the conspirators:

Isaiah 8:9-10 NKJV

9 "Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. 10 Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us."

2. Then this is what God said to His people through the Prophet:

Isaiah 8:11-12 NKJV

For the Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying: "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.

a. When the world falls into fear our response is different:

Isaiah 8:13 NKJV

The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread. He will be as a sanctuary to you...

Isaiah 8:13-14 NASB

13 "It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. Then He shall become a sanctuary...

3. We are in a war; there is a true conspiracy; But God promises refuge and rescue to those who hold Him as holy; He will save those who fear Him and not man.

CLOSING PRAYER/TITLE SLIDE