

# **“Everyone is Out to Get Me!”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

### A. Isaiah 8:11-15

1. When Bill Clinton was losing popularity over his misguided policy, Hillary claimed that the problem was due to “a vast right-wing conspiracy.”
2. You can’t go anywhere without encountering people who fear that secret societies or groups are colluding to manipulate what is happening around us.

### B. There is nothing new about conspiracy theories.

1. When the northern kingdom of Israel was falling, people tried to blame it on a hidden conspiracy - Isa. 8:11-12
2. Note that the falsehood of a conspiracy was more appealing to the people than the reality that God was bringing about their downfall as punishment - Isa. 8:13-15

## **I. WHAT IS A CONSPIRACY THEORY?**

### A. “A conspiracy theory is a falsified version of history or current events that redirects an audience’s anger toward another group. The theory seeks to lay blame for a legitimate issue on a perceived common enemy.”

1. There is no intention or plan to resolve the issue; it is merely an ersatz effort to blame someone else for the problem. Examples:
2. “Hence, white supremacists hate all non-white groups as part of Satan’s global plot to destroy the white race, black hate groups hate all others as part of the plot, Arab terrorists hate Jews as part of the global plot...”
3. “The Jews who control international banking have centralized financial institutions into a monolithic conspiracy which is able to direct the affairs of governments by currency manipulations and expanding the national debt. The Internal Revenue Service, Federal Reserve, World Bank and a few other institutions now seek to control every individual by issuing tax-payer identification numbers, credit cards and, in the most recent twist, implanted “microchips” transponders. All of this is related to the scriptural prophesy in Revelation 13:15-18 about the “mark of the beast” [666]. As “money” becomes separated from the real value of gold and silver by the use of paper currency, checks, electronic funds transfers and other forms, the resulting monetary system has become a fraud. This fraud works through all aspects of the system of taxation, licensing, banking and lending with the goal of enslaving the world population to the “international bankers.”
4. There are conspiracy theories advocating that vaccinations are plot by the Vatican, that a small group of Illuminati or the Masons are behind the power of our government, that there is a move to establish a single world government, etc. One of the current popular books, “The Da Vinci Code” is about a conspiracy to hide the fact that Jesus had children with Mary Magdalene.

### B. Secular responses to conspiracy theories:

1. "Whenever you're faced with an explanation of what's going on in Washington, the choice between incompetence and conspiracy, always choose incompetence." (Charles Krauthammer)
2. "And this, of course, is the central problem with conspiracy theorists—once you inflexibly accept that something is a conspiracy, any contrary evidence has the paradoxical effect of making your case stronger. Every contradiction deepens the conspiracy." (Chuck Klosterman, *I Wear the Black Hat: Grappling With Villains*)
3. "Facts count. Conspiracy theories, usually the refuge of the bitter or disempowered, range from factually challenged to wildly hallucinogenic. Conspiracy theories are not harmless entertainment, or a laudable facet of the freedom of speech. Conspiracy theories do both overt and tacit harm. Dangerous when they deal with public health issues, at a minimum, almost all are insults to the integrity of thousands of hard-working and honest people. In the extreme, conspiracy theories slander entire races, nations, or cultures." (K. Lee Lerner, *Social Issues Primary Sources Collection*)

## II. WHAT IS WRONG WITH CONSPIRACY THEORIES?

- A. They play on folk's mistrust in the authority over them; "My parents hate me!"
  1. It is easy to imagine the boss doesn't have my best interests in mind.
    - a. 1Tim. 6:1-6 - One of the results of thinking the boss is out to get me is that I cannot be content.
  2. Who thinks civil leaders have our best interests in mind? God said they are for our good - Rom. 13:3-4; 1Peter 2:13-15; 1Tim. 2:1-3
- B. They cause folks to think evil of others - Titus 3:1-3
- C. They cause strife - 1Peter 2:1-2, 9, 12; Prov. 6:16-19
- D. They propagate fear - Isa. 8:12; Luke 12:4; 2Kings 6:16; Isa. 41:10
- E. They are not based on truth; at best they are the speculations of uninformed people, and they are designed to play on people's ignorance
  1. The Oliver Stone/Michael Moore crowd
  2. They are lies - Psalm 50:19-20; 2Peter 2:10-12
  3. They place focus on myths and speculations - 1Tim. 1:3-4, 4:6-7
- F. They distract from real problems & deny that God is in control - Isa. 51:12-13
  1. They artificially fix blame, but offer no solution

## III. MOTIVES BEHIND CONSPIRACY THEORIES

- A. Hatred - Col. 3:8-9; 1Thes. 5:15
- B. Ignorance - 2Peter 2:12
- C. Feeling threatened - Prov. 29:9; 1Peter 4:4

## IV. THE ANSWER TO CONSPIRACY THEORIES

- A. James 4:11 - Don't speak evil of each other
- B. Eph. 4:31-32 - Put away evil speaking and be kind to each other
- C. Phil. 2:14 - Do all things without grumbling or complaining
- D. Trust that God is in control - Prov. 19:21; Joshua 1:9; Matt. 6:34
- E. Grow out of them before we face the Lord in Judgment; meanwhile, don't waste others' time telling them about our conspiracy theories.