

# Dealing with Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy theories come in all types of shades and colors, here are a few that you will find on the vast list on Wikipedia: Black helicopters, Chem-trails, John F. Kennedy assassination, 5G towers, New World Order, September 11 attacks, COVID-19, George Soros, Flat Earth, Anti-Catholicism, Racism, Clintons, Fema, Deep State, QAnon, Vaccinations, UFOs, Climate change, etc, etc. This is just a small list highlighting some conspiracies.

We should notice that some of the above conspiracies are very real and present dangers, others may be true but are wastes of time and effort. Some are just plain false. Here is one that surprised me in the list. The incorrect theology of the Catholic church and their desire to institute forced universal worship is known as “Anti-Catholicism Conspiracy Theory”. What an odd name for the second and third angel’s message and most importantly the fourth angel’s message. We know this is truth.

COVID-19 on the other hand has hurt and traumatized millions. Secret agendas ruled our lives. There is a great temptation to do much research into what or who is behind all of this and what is their plan (we dare not assume for the 9th commandments sake).

It is good to know what is going on and how to safeguard ourselves, but sometimes we easily slide into a rut that sucks our important time away. I am sorry to admit that I have had a personal experience in this rut and praise God for helping me to focus on what is more important. Jonathan will now share other important thoughts regarding these issues.—Seth

It greatly pains me when in the congregation of those who have gathered to worship God few words of praise or thanksgiving are heard. One brother or sister speaks of this conspiracy and another of that conspiracy. Should not Christians have something to say of their best friend? Something God has told them in His words of life? Something edifying?

Our words indicate what is in our hearts, if Jesus is not on our lips He is not in our hearts.

In the body of Christ, conspiracy theories are often found. We will be testing conspiracy by the Bible, to see if Christians are in the right when they study and propagate them. We will be using the pillars of biblical wisdom. This is a touchy topic because there are all forms of conspiracy abounding in our age. The purpose of this newsletter is to point to safe paths and help return the focus to Jesus, the victim of a conspiracy started by Lucifer. In the future, the biblical understanding of prophecy will be labeled conspiracy; let us make every effort keep our reputation spotless (Ecclesiastes 10:1). Of the 38 references to conspiracy in the writings of our prophet, not one is positive (more on this later). I urge my brothers and sisters, in their love of Christ, to consider the following points:

**Is it loving?** “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity,

but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”—1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Conspiracy often fails this test. It is not done in love; it thinks evil and does not believe all things. At best, it destroys a reputation by repeating the evil deeds of others, something love would never do.

“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.”—Proverbs 17:9.

At worst, it is a violation of the ninth commandment:

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”—Exodus 20:16.

Believing all things can be loosely defined and easily argued against as intentionally deceiving oneself. A Christian should test everything by the Word of God. There is no reason to believe God would give us advice that causes us to be in danger of being deceived. We are to believe all good things of others, and even of the government:

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”—Romans 13:1-2. (Paul said this at a time when Rome was persecuting Christians)

It is always a dangerous thing to be found speaking evil against the leadership God has placed in power or propagating conspiracy about the governments that God has set up. There are many biblical accounts of punishments for such actions, ranging from leprosy to the earth swallowing the offenders.

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”—1 Peter 2:17.

In loving others and believing all things, there is still room to render to God the things that are God’s and to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s. A prime example of this can be found in the laws regarding our bodies:

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”—1 Corinthians 6:19.

If someone feels that they cannot obey a law which pertains to their body for conscience sake, they are within their rights as a Christian. However, we must resist all temptations to justify self by condemning another; for this is not love.

**Is it done in faith?** “For the Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy [a conspiracy], to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. And He shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin [a stumbling block] and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”—Isaiah 8:11-14.

Here God plainly tells the prophet Isaiah not to repeat

2 the conspiracies of those around him. He gives Isaiah an alternative: Sanctify the Lord Himself. God should be our singular focus; our time should be spent with Him. If we are to fear anything, it should be Him; nothing else is worthy of our fear.

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”—Matthew 10:28

This is not an enduring terror, but rather a respect of God’s character and a fear of His justice. This fear, when learned, correctly leads man to hate sin. A hatred of sin is a love of righteousness, and God protects the righteous from the second death and from many other evils. We should keep the good news of the gospel the focus of our study and conversation; in doing this, we are acting in the wisdom of faith. It will open our eyes to the power of God to save, and prepare us to pass through the evil ahead without fear.

**Is it merciful to share conspiracy?** I have not heard of a conspiracy that encourages faith and trust. The fruit of conspiracy is often distrust, fear, hatred, and hopelessness. The Bible tells us:

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”—Philippians 4:8.

“And again: “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”—Ephesians 4:29.

Clearly, God expects us to think of things of good report, things of virtue, and things worthy of praise. We are also expected to not speak corrupt communication. Corrupt communication is defined as something that is not edifying. Our speech is supposed to be filled with an **undeserved** favor: grace.

What does grace look like? “But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.”—Luke 6:27-28.

The conclusion: Spreading conspiracy is often is an unmerciful act, doubly so since we as Christians have a message overflowing with mercy and hope to share instead. I am acquainted with a story that demonstrates this point most thoroughly. A close friend of mine visited his elderly mother after a lengthy absence. She was on antidepressants and feeling very hopeless. A tornado had struck the town where she lived, and my friend had thought it an excellent opportunity to take his mother out for some fresh air. My friend had recently done extensive research on the 9/11 terrorist attacks and had failed, as of yet, to find sufficient satisfaction in sharing it. He was delighted to plant the seeds of his newfound forbidden knowledge with his now captive audience. As they toured the carnage of the tornado, he scattered his seeds of conspiracy, describing how he had discovered the attack on the Twin Towers may not have been caused by terrorists. He systematically strengthened his insinuation, drawing his listener to the idea that it was the government that killed so many of its own citizens. He watered the seed of conspiracy with exquisite details on how United Airlines Flight 93 had crashed into the dirt

and seemed to disappear without a body being found. He concluded with the statement: “The government took all those people and just murdered them.” He relaxed in his seat with a feeling of content, having shared the gruesome details with great glee. The weight of the horrifying details lifted somewhat from him. He looked at his mother and saw that the depression in her eyes had deepened, and she was far more hopeless. She looked much worse for having heard. He described to me that he then thought to himself, “What have I done? Now she’s even more hopeless.” Tragic things took place during the time of Christ, too—like the Galileans whom Herod killed while they were sacrificing in the temple! There is always corruption in governments; this is a cold, hard fact of life. But if we dwell on the corruption, we will only become more depressed, discouraged, and corrupt. Our souls will be full of darkness, and we will have no light to share with the hopeless.” He told me, “Jesus has called us to be the light of the world, to point people to the hopes and joys of heaven that are soon to be upon every true Christian.”

**Is it truth?** This is a difficult area of wisdom to debate. The seduction of conspiracy is the possibility that it is true. Conspiracy claims to be the truth; it leverages one’s lack of knowledge in order to create curiosity. Observe the father of conspiracy, Satan, who sold Eve the conspiracy that “God was doing mankind great harm by keeping them from the tree” or the conspiracy in heaven, that “the angels were not free and God was really keeping them as slaves through His law.” Note what our prophet says:

“The aim of the great rebel has ever been to **justify himself** and to **prove the divine government responsible for the rebellion**. To this end he has bent all the power of his giant intellect. He has worked deliberately and systematically, and with marvelous success, leading vast multitudes to accept his version of the great controversy, which has been so long in progress. For thousands of years this chief of conspiracy has palmed off falsehood for truth.”—Great Controversy, 670.

Just because it is possible does not make it true. It is a dangerous thing to accept conspiracy, especially about a government, lest we cultivate a character of distrusting authority and unfit ourselves for heaven. Notice the title given to Satan by our prophet, “Chief of Conspiracy.” Surely this alone is enough warning to never dabble in conspiracy again! Satan used his conspiracy to justify his course of rebellion. Many today walk this path, using conspiracy to justify disobedience, in direct defiance of the laws of the land and of God Himself. We know the trial before us, a spotless reputation will play a role in the salvation of others, we dare not take this lightly. Real truth seekers will look for Jesus, not the rotten remains of the sins of yesterday. **But is it truth?** Certainly not present truth! And Satan is an expert at “palming off falsehood for Truth.” Such a question may only be answered by the question of Pilate: “What is Truth?” to which Jesus replies, “I am the Truth” (John 14:6). Look unto Him instead, and you will not be deceived into breaking the law in His heart.

**Is it self-sacrificing to share conspiracy?** It is more self-sacrificing to deny unsanctified curiosity and obey the great commission.

**Is it shared because of a hatred of evil?** If evil was truly hated, it would not be spoken about; for like begets like. I do not believe many conspiracies exist to promote a hatred of evil; they generally promote a hatred and distrust of people.

**Is it humble to share conspiracy?** “Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.”—1 Corinthians 8:1.

The simple answer is very rarely; knowledge only serves to make people proud, unless the motivation behind the knowledge is love. As noted previously, conspiracy almost never promotes love. There is a level of pride in sharing things others do not know, if it is not a knowledge of Jesus or of the class of things we are admonished to think on in *Philippians 4:8*, The Holy Spirit cannot temper our speech with love. Thus we fall into the trap of the devil; pride, one of the most powerful traps he uses. —Jon

### **The COVID-19 Man. A Story from Jen.**

COVID-19 was obviously not what we were told it was. There was a great deal of deception, and doubly so when the topic became political. The purpose of this story is to point to a specific error that is very easy to fall into in the age of information.

This story took place sometime in the fall of 2021. A man called Harvestime and asked if he could speak with Vance Ferrell. I informed him that Vance was not in the office yet, but would arrive within a few minutes. The gentleman opted not to hang up; instead he struck up a conversation with me about COVID-19. He had a wealth of knowledge about the virus, the different vaccines on the market, including mortality rates and severe side effects of the different vaccines. He explained to me the agenda behind the vaccines and all the reasonings for it. He educated me with all the facts regarding the virus and vaccines for nearly 45 minutes.

I was very impressed by his vast amount of knowledge on the subject of the COVID-19 virus. He told me that he spent many hours, days, weeks, and months carefully studying and researching the truth about the virus so he could educate others. At that moment, I noticed Vance had arrived at the office. So, I told him that Vance just came; and, in accordance with our protocol, I asked him his reason for calling and the subject he wanted to discuss with Vance. He then told me that one of his co-workers challenged him to defend and prove from the Bible that Ellen White is a true prophet, as a Seventh-day Adventist claims her to be. He said, “I know Vance is very knowledgeable about the Spirit of Prophecy and Ellen G. White, so I need to ask him if he could give me some pointers and verses from the Scripture as to how I could defend her as a true prophet.”

My heart was greatly saddened by what he said! This man knew so much about COVID and spent months researching and studying it. It hurt me to see that someone so intelligent and diligent in study did not use his God given abilities and time to study what is important and beneficial for his spiritual growth and the growth of others. He had instead spent so much time on something that was of little profit.

I replied to him in a very disappointed tone, “Sir, you make me very sad. Unfortunately, many of our church members educate themselves with things that will not benefit them heavenward. You know so much about COVID-19

and can explain it in a very simple and informative way, but you cannot prove, from the Bible, that Ellen White is a prophet of God. You do not know where, in the Scriptures, one can find the test of a true prophet? I believe the Lord is saddened and pained when His children spend their gift of time on things that are not profitable.” After hearing my thoughts, he decided not to talk to Vance; instead, he said he would study it for himself.

“Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”—Isaiah 55:2.

Here, God is telling us not to waste our time or effort on things that cannot satisfy the soul. He tells us to pay attention. In paying attention to the Word of God, we eat that which is good. Then we will have an experience like Jeremiah: “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts” (Jeremiah 15:16). We will find the bread of life: “If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever” (John 6:51).

“The student should be as thoroughly in earnest to become intelligent in the knowledge of the Scriptures as to excel in the study of the sciences. If either is neglected, it should not be the Word of God. The injunction of our Saviour, ‘Search the Scriptures,’ should be religiously regarded by every one who professes His name.”—Signs, January 4, 1905.

In the age of information, there is a very common stumbling block: misunderstanding the difference between knowledge and speculation—truly a very fine line; for instance, the topic of COVID causing people to connect to 5g (Cellphone towers). It gave evidence that people still speculate about things they don’t understand. There should be no over indulgence on information about any given topic. The priorities of our lives should be living to honor God and our responsibility for the souls whom Christ died to save. It was very interesting to hear all about COVID, but I did not need all that information in order to recognize that taking vaccines is not a good idea. I was very bothered that such an intelligent person had fallen into this trap of Satan. We each need to honestly judge our own use of the talent of time in order to ensure two things: first, that we will honour our Redeemer by knowing, sharing, and being able to defend the testing truths for our time. Second, when our use of time is called into account by God we will not be ashamed. He will not ask us about COVID-19. —Jen

### **Appeal for primitive Godliness**

The world needs a revival of primitive Godliness. WE need a revival of primitive Godliness. We cannot hope to be victorious in the struggle ahead if we have not made thorough work of reformation. We need to have a sure-footed stance on the Truth. In the trouble before us not one Christian will suffer because of their lack of knowledge on popular conspiracies or other wastes of time. The cry will be “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”—Jeremiah 8:20. It is our duty, our privilege, our goal, our purpose to be prepared; we were born for such a time as this. Let us be faithful to God as He has been faithful to us. —Jon

## Thoughts on Conspiracy from Seth

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“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). In this verse Paul basically says, I’ve determined to not let useless information take up my life; I will spend time on what is really important. Trust me, our lives can easily disappear into the news, Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest, gaming, sports, conspiracy stuff, etc. Wouldn’t it be a tremendous loss to miss out on eternity just because we got distracted? What is the profit if I gain the whole world of knowledge but lose my own soul?

One theory that really bothers me is the flat earth theory. Let me explain. Years ago, two close friends of mine—one an Adventist pastor and the other a Bible worker—eagerly told me how the earth is definitely flat. We talked about it some, and I told them that EGW said that the earth is a sphere—like a ball.

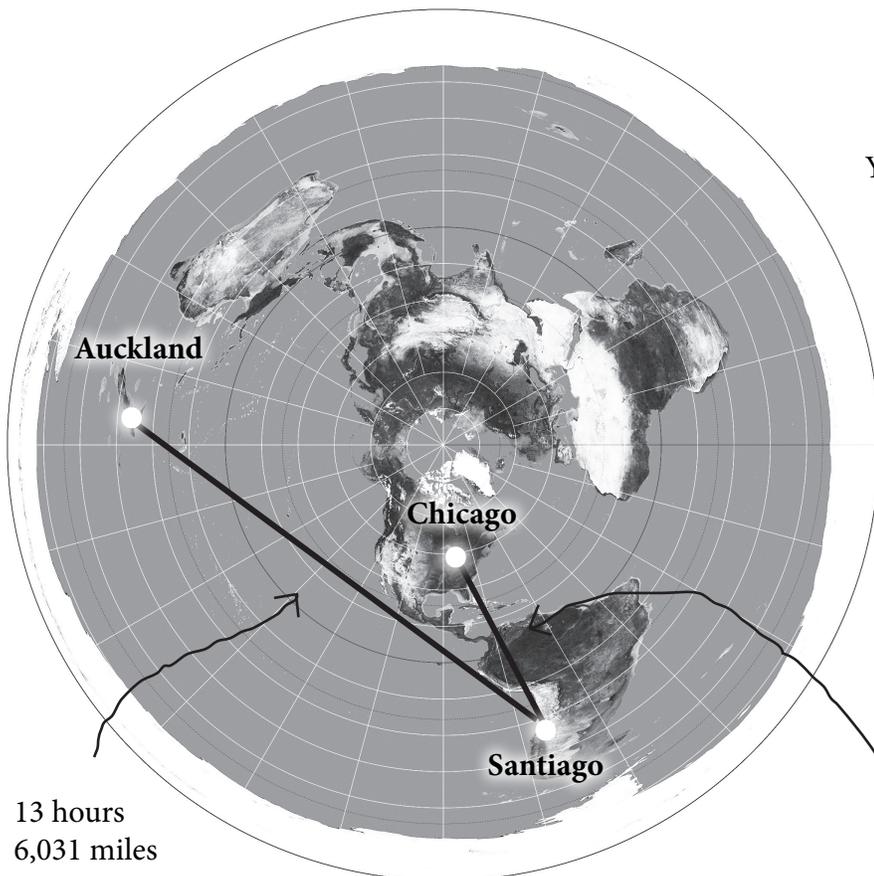
I sent them some quotes from EGW, and that settled it for me; I would believe her over any other person. They responded that she didn’t know what she was talking about on that subject and that they had watched so many videos and knew, without a doubt, that the world is flat. The pastor sent me two videos that were both two hours long. I was shocked that he thought I had that much time to waste. After this point, I noticed that these men didn’t follow EGW’s teachings; since they had an excuse now to live a different life. This bothered me so much.

I wanted to prove to them that the world is a sphere; so that they, hopefully, would recognize that God did send us a last-day prophet. The Lord blessed me with the thought that the southern hemisphere distances would reveal whether the earth is flat or a globe. Please see the diagram below, which explains this issue. Some people take vast amounts of time to research the flat earth and then say NASA and the government are lying.

What did EGW think of the flat earth theory? “Let those who are presenting theories as to whether the earth is round or flat, leave this question, for God has not given it to them to solve, and earnestly inquire, ‘What shall I do that I may have everlasting life?’ Let them heed the answer, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.’ ”—*21 Manuscript Releases, 419-420.*

Brothers and sisters, I encourage and challenge you to spend time learning the truth. In order to be saved, we need to not only know but also love the truth: “They received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”—*2 Thessalonians 2:10-11.*

Let’s not take pleasure in the forbidden knowledge of conspiracy, but in the Truth, that we might be saved. —Seth



You can buy a nonstop plane ticket from Chicago to Santiago, Chile; it takes 12 hours, and the distance is 5,312 miles. You can also take a nonstop flight from Auckland, New Zealand, to Santiago, Chile, and it takes about 13 hours and 6,031 miles. If you track these two flights on a flat earth map, you will notice that the distance from Auckland to Santiago is over two and a half times longer than the distance from Chicago to Santiago. But on a globe, you will notice that they are about the same distance.

Interesting!

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