

Conspiracy Theories

By Elder David Pyles

We hear much discussion these days about conspiracy theories, and some of the arguments offered for them are uncomfortably convincing. The likely reason is that some of these theories are very close to being true. Notwithstanding, the predictions of conspiracy theorists are notoriously inaccurate, and if their followers would be completely honest, they would admit to having lost much opportunity on account of them.

There are two reasons why the predictions of conspiracy theorists so commonly fail. The first is that they overestimate the intelligence of the conspirators. Paul said, “*But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived,*” (2Tim 3:13). Hence, the conspirators may be clever deceivers, but they are themselves the dupes of deception. If nothing else, they are deceived by the devil. As Paul said elsewhere, “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,*” (Eph 6:12). Even if we are skeptical about all other conspiracies, we can be sure of the conspiracy of the devil, who is no true friend to any human, including wicked, deceiving men. The second reason that conspiracy theorists are poor predictors is that they commonly fail to account for the fact that there is an Almighty God in Heaven who has repeatedly said in His word that He will overrule and foil the designs of wicked men. The following verses are but a sample:

He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong. – Job 5:12-13

The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. – Ps 9:16

He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. – Ps 72:4

Now one might reply that even the Bible predicts that the world will end in the iron grip of cruel, oppressive and deceiving government, but this fact does nothing to contradict what is said above, because the Bible also says this government will reign for only 3.5 years (Dn 7:23-27, Rev 13:1-5), at which point God will destroy it. Christ Himself said that for the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Mk 13:20).

It is of course wise to be keen to would-be conspirators. As Christ said, "*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves,*" (Mt 10:16), but we must also trust in God and the promises of His word. Indeed, in all things we are exhorted to do so, but in the matter of wicked men and conspirators, the Bible leaves us with no other option. "*To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste,*" Dt 32:35