

Conspiracies: Theories Vs. Speculations



Message Outline

- Nehemiah threatened with conspiracy (6:1–4)
- Nehemiah threatened with lawfare and propaganda (6:5–9)
- Nehemiah threatened with False Prophecy (6:10–13)
- Conspiracy vs Conspiracy Theories



Nehemiah Threatened With Conspiracy and Conspiracy Theories

Nehemiah 6:1–4 NKJV Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), (2) that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm...



Nehemiah Threatened With Conspiracy and Conspiracy Theories

Nehemiah 6:1–4 NKJV...(3) So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?" (4) But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.



Nehemiah Threatened With Lawfare and Propaganda

Nehemiah 6:5–9 NKJV Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. (6) In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king...



Nehemiah Threatened With Lawfare and Propaganda

Nehemiah 6:5–9 NKJV ... (7) And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together. (8) Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart..."



Nehemiah Threatened With Lawfare and Propaganda

Nehemiah 6:5–9 NKJV...(9) For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.



Nehemiah Threatened With False Prophecy

Nehemiah 6:10–13 NKJV Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you..."



Nehemiah threatened With False Prophecy

Nehemiah 6:10-13 NKJV ...(11) And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!" (12) Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him...



Nehemiah Threatened With False Prophecy

Nehemiah 6:10–13 NKJV...(13) For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.



Conspiracies: Theories vs Speculation

	Plausibility	Rational Basis	Explanatory Power
Theories	Always Yes	Evidence/logic	Strong
Speculation	Often not	Imagination looking for data	Weak



Potential Moral Implications of Speculations

- Gossip
- Bearing False Witness



Don't Get Caught Up in Consfearacy Theories

Isaiah 8:11–17 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: (12) "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled...



Rootedness in God's Word

Isaiah 8:11–17 NKJV...(15) And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken." (16) Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples. (17) And I will wait on the LORD, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; And I will hope in Him.



Avoiding Fables and Bad Faith Questions

1 Timothy 1:3–6 KJV As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, (4) Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do...



Avoiding Fables and Bad Faith Questions

- Fables – mythos (conspiracy narrative)
- Endless genealogies – questions designed to never be answerable, or untestable claims are presented
- Minister questions – sow doubt and fear
- Doubt and fear lead to the dark side (Gnosticism)
- Do godly edification instead



The Danger of ONLY Asking Questions

1 Tim 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

2 Tim 2:23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.



The Danger of ONLY Asking Questions

- Fear, animus, and doubt lead to Gnosticism
- Gnostic worldview posits total depravity – the evil conspiracy controls everything and everything is covered up
- Gnostic worldview posits a enlightened elite that can see through the conspiracy
- Gnosticism obscures the truth



The Danger of ONLY Asking Questions

Don't ONLY Ask Questions
Ask Questions to Get the
Answers that Prove the Truth



Rootedness in God's Word

1 Timothy 1:3–6 KJV ...(5) Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: (6) From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;



Sorting Conspiracy Claims

- Is the claim testable by public knowledge, or does it require secret knowledge
- Does the claim have public evidence backing it, or does it depend on secret knowledge
- Are the questions designed to enlighten or obscure knowledge?
- Does the explanation have strong explanatory power, or weak covering only a few data points



Sorting Conspiracy Claims

- Does the explanation promote humility and godly edification, or does it promote fear and pride?
- Does the explanation fit well with Biblical eschatology, or;
- Does the explanation presuppose a Gnostic world where the conspiracy (demiurge) controls everything , except for the enlightened elite



Sorting Conspiracy Claims

- Is the explanation's mapping of heroes and villains in its meta-narrative consistent with the Biblical meta-narrative, or;
- Is the explanation's mapping of heroes and villains in its meta-narrative antiparallel with the Biblical meta-narrative?



Antiparallel Metanarratives

- Heroes and Villains are swapped.
- We will compare Christian metanarratives with Secular Humanism, Ancient Mythologies, Gnostic, Woke, Islamic, and Antisemitic narratives



Antiparallel Metanarratives

Metanarrative	Hero	Villain	Flip
Secular Humanism	Enlightened Man	Religion	Godless man against God
Ancient Mythologies	descendant gods	Original gods	Mimics Satan
Gnostic	Enlightened elite	Demiurge OT God	Mimics Lucifer/Satan



Antiparallel Metanarratives

Metanarrative	Hero	Villain	Flip
Critical Race Theory	woke minorities	whitey	inherited from Gnosticism
Islamic	Mahdi joined by "Jesus"	Al Daijja Jewish Messiah	Jesus opposed by Antichrist and False Prophet
Antisemitic	antisemites	Israel/Jews	Opposers of Israel God's enemies



Warding Off Antiparallel Metanarratives

- Know your Bible
- Use sound hermeneutics and systematic Theology to discern the Biblical Meta-narrative.
- Olive Tree Theology – Church grafted into Israel, then Israel back into the Church



Book on Olive Tree Theology

THE OLIVE TREE - A MESSIANIC CHRISTIAN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

DALLAS CARTER

The Olive Tree – Towards a
Messianic Christian Systematic
Theology

<https://dallascarter.net/books/the-olive-tree-towards-a-messianic-christian-systematic-theology/>



A Note on Antisemitism

- Israel regathered....
-To their indigenous land....
-And when all of the nations once against seek to dispossess them, God wars against them.



Israel Regathered

Ezekiel 37:21–25 KJV And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:...



Regathered to Their Indigenous Land

Ezekiel 37:21–25 KJV ...(22) And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:...



Israel Experiences the Final Great Awakening

Ezekiel 37:21–25 KJV ...(23) Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God...



Israel Experiences Messianic Rule

Ezekiel 37:21–25 KJV ...(24) And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. (25) And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.



In the Endtimes, God Opposes the Opposers of Israel

Joel 3:1–2 KJV For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, (2) I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.



Scripture References

Nehemiah 6:1–13, Isaiah 8:11–17,
1 Timothy 1:3–6, 1 Tim 6:4, 2 Tim 2:23,
Titus 3:9, Ezekiel 37:21–25, Joel 3:1–2,



Conspiracies: Theories Vs. Speculations

