

S E C O N D E D I T I O N



HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

UNMASKING THE SECRET COMBINATIONS
OF THE LAST DAYS



K E N B O W E R S

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OF THE LAST DAYS

KEN BOWERS

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Introduction

Don't you wish that all mankind dwelt in peace? Wouldn't it be great to be able to trust all people, confident that everyone esteems his neighbor as himself? How wonderful it would be to see a world built on love and kindness, forbearance and charity. Or if all locksmiths, police departments, criminal courts, armies, and soup kitchens could be put out of business. But that day will come. Through the scriptures, we know that Christ will come again to establish His kingdom of universal peace, and we long for it. The righteous of all ages have prayed for it, and some have been blessed to see it.

However, between now and that time will come a period of chaos and destruction called the tribulations of the last days. These tribulations have been foretold by countless prophets, both ancient and modern, who were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. This period of time, some of which we have already passed through, will be a severe trial. The trials are going on right now and will accelerate in the future. Satan himself said, "This is the great day of my power." We should, therefore, prepare ourselves for future trials. The first step in self-preparation is to be forewarned and informed. That is the reason for this book.

Please consider the following quotation:

Satan is making war against all the wisdom that has come to men through their ages of experience. He is seeking to overturn and destroy the very foundations upon which society, government, and religion rest. He aims to have men adopt theories and practices which induced their forefathers, over the ages, to adopt and try, only to be discarded by them when found unsound, impractical, and ruinous. **He plans to destroy freedom—economic, political, and**

religious, and to set up in place thereof the greatest, most widespread, and most complete tyranny that has ever oppressed men. He is working under such perfect disguise that many do not recognize either him or his methods. There is no crime he would not commit, no debauchery he would not set up, no plague he would not send, no heart he would not break, no life he would not take, no soul he would not destroy. **He comes as a thief in the night; he is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Without their knowing it, the people are being urged down paths that lead only to destruction.** Satan never before had so firm a grip on this generation as he has now.

—First Presidency Heber J. Grant,
J. Reuben Clark Jr., and David O. McKay
“The Message of the First Presidency to the Church,”
in Conference Report, October 1942, 14

According to the above quotation, Satan will “come as a thief in the night; he is a wolf in sheep's clothing.” That statement is, unfortunately, horrifyingly true. In fact, there is no distortion in saying that he has deceived everyone on this planet in one way or another about a great secret combination that is among us now. Satan's ability to deceive anyone is the reason the Lord told Joseph Smith not to reveal his intentions about the re-translation of the Book of Mormon, which came after Martin Harris lost the first 116 pages. Joseph was told what to do but was then commanded to tell no one about his re-translation efforts until the book was finished. The Lord said:

Behold, I do not say that you shall not show it unto the righteous;

But as you cannot always judge the righteous, **or as you cannot always tell the wicked from the righteous**, therefore I say unto you, hold your peace until I shall see fit to make all things known unto the world concerning this matter.

—D&C 10:36–37

If the Prophet Joseph Smith could be deceived from time to time, it is then possible for anyone to be deceived by Satan's agents. Because of the huge success Satan enjoys in his efforts at deception, he has been able to slowly create, over centuries, a huge combination composed of many organizations. Most of the people in these organizations are not even aware of the part they play in promoting Satan and his works.

President Grant also said that Satan will try to destroy economic, political, and religious freedom, our three greatest freedoms. In our day, he has established three types of combinations to accomplish that task: economic combinations, political combinations, and religious combinations that all work together in a loose confederation. This book is written in the attempt to explain them and their purposes.

Make no mistake about it, though. We are in a war. We are warriors even if we don't want to be. We are warriors even if we don't know it. Our enemy is Satan and his mortal hosts. They are devious and cunning beyond belief. We will learn how cunning in this book.

But it is indispensable to know that we will be judged on how we fight this battle during our lives. We will have to explain our actions to God in the Day of Judgment. Here is what Ezra Taft Benson said about it:

This is still God's world. The forces of evil, working through some mortals, have made a mess of a good part of it. But it is still God's world. In due time, when each of us has had a chance to prove ourselves—including whether or not we are going to stand up for freedom—God will interject himself, and the final and eternal victory shall be for free agency. **And then shall those complacent people on the sidelines, and those who took the wrong but temporarily popular course, lament their decisions.** To the patriots I say this: Take that long eternal look. **Stand up for freedom, no matter what the cost. Stand up and be counted. It can help to save your soul—and maybe your country.**

—Ezra Taft Benson
Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, 592

According to President Benson, the conflict of freedom versus slavery is so momentous that our very souls depend upon what stand we take for

freedom. That is a very sobering thought. If it is false, then no action is necessary on our part. But if what he says is true, we cannot afford to take the wrong course of action. The consequences are of eternal import.

We should learn the lessons of history so as not to repeat it. Unfortunately, in this book you will learn that history is often slanted to one side so what we learn in school is not necessarily accurate. That is because the very nature of evil demands that it try to cover itself with respectability and at the same time belittle and denigrate the truth. Thus, human history has often been subjected to “revision.” We shall see examples of that again and again.

Therefore, much of what you read here may put history and current events in a different light. As a matter of fact, the contents of this book may be starkly different from what you have heard. Please do not let that discourage you. The pursuit of truth is worth it. Truth has an intrinsic value. It has merit for its own sake.

As you read, let the Holy Ghost be your guide. Pray about it and He will reveal the truth of all things.

PUNCH AND JUDY

Do you remember the Punch and Judy shows? They are too old for today’s kids to recall, but they were very popular with today’s grandparents, especially in Europe. Actually, they have been around for centuries as entertainment to delight children of all ages. The proprietors set up a small stage on a sidewalk or in a park and put on a puppet show featuring, of course, the Punch and Judy hand puppets. No matter what the script, the puppets sooner or later wound up hitting or battling each other, which gives the kids a scare and stimulates their imaginations. They related to children of all ages and were very popular.

Unbeknownst to the kids, the puppets were an innocent deception. Each of the two hand puppets was controlled by an invisible person under the stage, with one puppet on each hand. To the kids, however, the puppets, the stage, and the story seemed real. But no matter what it seemed to be, it was all fiction. The puppets weren’t real; neither was the script, and the outcome was carefully orchestrated.

Suppose now that the basic idea behind that puppet show could be found in real life—that people, organizations, and even governments were really controlled this way. To illustrate the point, let's pretend that Punch and Judy had different names. For instance, let's call Punch communism and Judy the free world. Incredible! Or how about this—Punch is Israel and Judy is the Arab world. Or, Punch is the Democratic Party and Judy the Republican Party. And to a certain extent, all these labels apply! I realize how hard it is to hear something so far removed from normal, everyday thinking. Most people merely say that it can't be true, turn their mind off to the idea, and go about their business.

Something so extraordinary as the above is hard to accept. As a matter of fact, the idea of a worldwide conspiracy is still hard for me to believe after studying it for over forty years. That's why J. Edgar Hoover said, "The individual is handicapped by coming face to face with a conspiracy so monstrous he cannot believe it exists." So, without any proof or semblance of logic, many good people will reject something they don't want to face. The truth, to those who reject secret combinations, is too ugly to contemplate, so they phase it out. They practice the ostrich syndrome of burying their heads in the sand. But let us examine the evidence slowly and deliberately. As it comes together piece by piece, you will find that there is more to the conspiracy scenario than meets the eye.

Let's return to the Punch and Judy idea. This is indeed a radical concept — that someone controls many world events, history, and even governments from the shadows. He creates revolutions and hatred on a global scale. This person is Satan, who works through a combination of secret and not-so-secret organizations here on earth to bring into fruition his goal, which is a one-world government.

An important point must be made at this time. There is, indeed, a conspiracy that controls world governments from behind the scenes. But it is effective control, not total control. Remember that concept, for it is very important. The majority of the world doesn't believe in a worldwide conspiracy. Many scoff at the idea that we are being controlled when it appears that we dominate our own destiny to a large extent.

If there were a great conspiracy that ruled the world, some say, the world would look more like Stalinist Russia or the book *1984* by George Orwell. Since most people vote, live their lives as they wish, freely worship

as they please, travel where they want, and engage in whatever business or profession that suits them, this conspiracy—if it exists—is not very powerful. Don't we freely debate the issues, presenting both sides evenly through our free press? Aren't people able to express whatever opinion they want? Most important, the very fact that this book is being published and sold proves there is no conspiracy, for if there were, this book would be banned and the author would be shot. The world just wouldn't look like it should if there were such a conspiracy.

But the above is an example of total control. Effective control is more subtle. It is defined this way: **The conspiracy controls the overall direction in which humanity is moving, not our everyday activities.** In other words, they try to gradually manipulate humanity in the direction of a one-world government. To show an example of how we're moving in a gradual direction that is already laid out for us, let's examine the gun control issue. Fifty years ago, gun control in America was non-existent. Anybody could own almost any kind of gun they wanted, as many as they wanted, and nobody thought anything about it. Today it's a question of how many and what kind of guns will the population be allowed to own and under what circumstances. A few years down the road, if things go the conspirators' way, the issue will be if anyone at all will own any guns under any conditions.

That kind of manipulation is called gradual habituation, and the conspirators do it all the time. Gradual habituation is so piecemeal that many think it is merely the natural evolution of public opinion. But the evidence demonstrates that they first create a perspective favorable to the conspiracy. Then slowly and inexorably it is placed before us again and again until we are conditioned to gradually habituate our thought processes to accept the end result they want all along. In this case, it is a gun-free society. They want that because a populace with no means of self-defense is easily conquered. Gradual habituation is perhaps what President Grant was talking about when he said:

Without their knowing it, the people are being urged down paths that lead only to destruction. (See the quotation at the beginning of the introduction.)

Hitler used gradual habituation in Germany to get the people to gradually accept his national socialism proposals that the German people would never accede to without subtle brainwashing. Here is the testimony of a German gentleman:

What happened was the gradual habituation of the people, little by little, to be governed by surprise, **to receiving decisions deliberated in secret**; to believe that the situation was so complicated that the government had to act on information which the people could not understand, or so dangerous that, even if people could understand it, it could not be released because of national security. The crises and reforms ... so occupied the people that they did not see the slow motion underneath, of the whole process of government growing remoter and remoter.

To live in the process is absolutely not to notice it—please try to believe me—unless one has a much greater degree of political awareness, acuity, than most of us ever had occasion to develop. Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion, “regretted.” Believe me, this is true. Each act, each occasion is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next. **You wait for one shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join you in resisting somehow.**

Suddenly it all comes down, all at once. You see what you are, what you have done, or, more accurately, what you haven’t done (for that was all that was required of most of us: that we did nothing)... **You remember everything now, and your heart breaks. Too late. You are compromised beyond repair.**

—A German professor describing the coming of fascism
From *They Thought They Were Free* by Milton Mayer

Another example of effective control is the publication of this book! For the time being, the conspirators couldn’t care less that this book is exposing their scheme to the world. That’s because they already control, to a large degree, the very public opinion this book tries to reach. The conspirators diffuse anti-conspiracy efforts by their domination of the media and the

public opinion the media influences. Years ago rich businessmen purchased the major (but not all) news media. After acquiring the major media, they slowly cultivated the public into the belief that a global conspiracy was “fringe element” thinking.

Manipulation of public opinion on this issue is so profound and complete that when anyone tries to bring the truth about the conspiracy to light, negative labels carefully cultivated over the years such as “kook,” “right wing extremist” and “nut” automatically spring into action. This name-calling turns the public off to positive evidence of their machinations. Many books, tapes, videos, and other presentation media provide clear substantiation of a conspiracy, **but few people bother with them because most have been conditioned to reject anything that smells of a global conspiracy.** Therefore, any effort to bring the truth to light swims against the current of a strong media pressure that is subtle, effective, and very powerful. That means it is hard but not impossible to reach the public with the truth.

Gradual habituation and manipulation of public opinion are but two examples of effective control. Effective control does not guarantee that the conspiracy will win every battle, but they accept occasional defeats so long as the overall direction stays the same, which is the road toward one-world government.

Although it’s hard to conceive of a conspiracy that would have to be vast and pervasive in order to be so all powerful as I’m suggesting, it is nevertheless true, as President Benson stated in General Conference in October 1988:

Secret combinations lusting for power, gain, and glory are flourishing. A secret combination that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries is increasing its evil influence and **control over America and the entire world.**

—*Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 86

President Benson states here that a secret combination has a great amount of control over America and the entire world, and that this control

is increasing. He is not the only prophet to warn us about the combination. Listen to the words of Bruce R. McConkie:

Gadianton robbers fill the judgment seats in many nations. **An evil power seeks to overthrow the freedom of all nations and countries.** Satan reigns in the hearts of men; it is the great day of his power.

—Bruce R. McConkie
“The Coming Tests and Trials and Glory”
Ensign, May 1980, 73

The evidence suggests that many people in powerful positions throughout the world, be it in finance, politics, religion, media, foundations, labor, capital, entertainment, and so on are in secret agreement to bring about a one-world government even though in public each seems to be totally independent of all others in thought and purpose. It is true that all leaders have some differences, even though these differences are minor. Nevertheless, they all agree upon one central idea. Here is an illustration of different leaders agreeing on one idea. One is the leader of the free world, the other a former leader of the communist world. This will be your introduction to a Punch and Judy show right before your very eyes.

What is at stake is more than one small country, it is a big idea—a **new world order** ... to achieve to universal aspirations of mankind ... based upon shared principles and the rule of law.... The illumination of a thousand points of light.... The winds of change are with us now.

—President George Bush
In his State of the Union Address during the Gulf War

We are beginning to see practical support. And this is a very significant sign of the movement toward a new era, a New Age.... We see both in our country and elsewhere ... ghosts of the old thinking.... When we rid ourselves of their presence, we will be better able to move toward a **new world order** ... relying on the relevant mechanisms of the United Nations.

—Former Soviet President Gorbachev

At the Middle East Peace Talks in Madrid, 1991

These men are supposed to be opponents politically (democracy vs. communism), economically (capitalism vs. socialism), and religiously (Judeo-Christian vs. atheism). It is almost impossible for two cultures and political systems to be more different, and yet these leaders are both promoting a new world order. Whatever the new world order is, why are they both promoting it? Think about that. Can it be that they are really in secret agreement with each other, in spite of their protestations to the contrary?

Perhaps the whole capitalism vs. socialism, democracy vs. communism argument is just a smokescreen. Perhaps it is a Punch and Judy show. On the surface, it seems that the free world and communism have been in opposition to each other for years, but when one digs a little deeper, there emerges a connection between apparent opponents. You will see this scenario happen again and again. This “show” of conflict for public consumption is reminiscent of the scene in the *Wizard of Oz* when the terrifying image of the wizard tells Dorothy not to pay any attention to the man behind the curtain. We are supposed to think that the image of conflict is more important than the reality of secret agreement.

We need to become aware of this conspiracy and warn others. Some brave people throughout history have taken great pains to bring the truth to light. They displayed great courage swimming against the current of popular opinion. Some have even been killed.

May God bless this our native land, a promised land, a choice land, whose Constitution now hangs by a thread as prophesied by Brother Joseph.

Chapter 1

THERE IS NO CONSPIRACY, SO THERE!



And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.

—2 Nephi 28:22

THE BOOK OF MORMON TEACHES us many things. It not only teaches about things that have been, but also about things that will come to pass. The foreknowledge of what will come to pass is represented in two ways: (1) Through prophecy. It has been said that direct prophecy makes up almost one-third of the Book of Mormon. Dr. W. Cleon Skousen said that prophecy is history in reverse. It is the recording of what will be, instead of what has already transpired. (2) Through historical simile. That is, the Lord included certain historical events of the Nephites and Lamanites in the Book of Mormon because He knew that similar events would happen to the Latter-day Saints in our day. In other words, historical simile. These particular events were included as a guide for us to follow, so by following in a similar manner what the righteous did in those days to solve their problems, we will be able to extricate ourselves from comparable problems in our day. It is true that history repeats itself.

Perhaps the desire to help us with our problems today is what prompted Moroni to pen these poignant words:

Condemn me not because of mine imperfection, neither my father, because of his imperfection, neither them who have written before him; but rather give thanks unto God that he hath made manifest unto you our imperfections, that ye may learn to be more wise than we have been.

—Mormon 9:31

Learning how to deal with problems today through the historical experience of others is a sign of intelligence. It is better to learn from others' follies than to experience our own. I hope that we who inherited the Book of Mormon will learn to be wiser than they.

We know that on many occasions they tried to warn us about conditions in the latter days. Here are a few examples: Moroni warned us about the false doctrine of infant baptism in Moroni 8. Nephi warned about false sectarian doctrines of churches in our day in 2 Nephi 28. In the same chapter, verse 21, he warned about the complacency and apathy of members of the Church in our day: "And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell." These and other warnings come to us today because these prophets and others throughout the Book of Mormon saw our day. They cared about what we have gone through and will go through.

In Ether 8:23–26, Moroni gives us a specific warning about secret combinations in our day. The warning is quite specific and about as plain as words can be. Let's go over those words and digest them bit-by-bit.

"Wherefore, O ye **Gentiles...**"

That means us. In other places in the Book of Mormon, we gentiles are referred to as the agents through whom the Book of Mormon will come to the Lamanites, their descendants. For instance, read 3 Nephi 21:2–7. The

use of the word *gentile* in Ether 8:23 is indeed referring to the people of our day, both members and non-members.

“It is wisdom in God that **these things** should be shown unto you...”

What things? The things that Ether 8 is talking about. And what is Ether 8 talking about? Secret combinations in the days of the Jaredites. The whole chapter deals with, and only with, secret combinations. That is borne out by the next sentence:

“That thereby ye may repent of your **sins**, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you ...”

In the Lord’s eyes, **it is a sin for good people to allow secret combinations to flourish**. And it is wisdom in God that He show us gentiles of the last days about evil secret combinations. That this combination will manifest itself to us is borne out in verse 24:

“Wherefore, the Lord **commandeth** you ...”

We are commanded of God to take notice of this great combination!

“ ... When ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this **secret combination which shall be among you ...**”

So there we have it. It is a commandment for us to awake to a sense of our awful situation because of this great combination that shall be among us. Moroni truly saw our day. He says so in Mormon 8:35: “Behold, I speak unto you as if ye were present, and yet ye are not. But behold, **Jesus Christ hath shown you unto me, and I know your doing.**”

How remarkable it is that a prophet of the Lord, 1,600 years ago, saw what was going on in our day better than many of us, and yet we’re the ones who are actually living through these days. There is a fog of deception, or, as the Book of Mormon describes it, a mist of darkness that covers most

people's minds in our day. Moroni saw through that fog with the clear spirit of prophecy. This fog or mist will be discussed in a later chapter.

“For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and bringeth to pass the destruction of all people.” (v. 25)

This great combination will be so vast that it will threaten the destruction of the entire world.

Last, in verse 26, Moroni says that he was “ **commanded to write these things** that evil may be done away.”

Let's now encapsulate what we have been told.

1. God commanded Moroni to warn us about a great secret combination.
2. This combination would be among us in the last days.
3. Through God's love and wise providence we are told in advance about the rise of this combination so that we can combat it.
4. It is a sin for good people to allow the triumph of evil.
5. We are commanded to awake to a sense of our awful situation and fight this combination.
6. The combination shall be so large and powerful that it will try to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries and be the cause of destruction of all peoples.

Why would God want to show us ugly stuff like that? Shouldn't we concentrate only on the good—or, as Elder Benson said, “sweetness and light, especially sweetness”? The answer is that while we should concentrate on the good things of the gospel, we should also know about evil. Why? The answer is contained in the following imaginary conversation:

A war correspondent approached a U.S. general just before a great battle. He said, “Well, general, I see you're ready to go fight today. Who will you face in the battle?”

The general responded, “I'm not sure. There are two enemy generals in this area, and it'll be one of them.”

“You mean you don't know who you will face?”

“That’s right. But I’m not afraid. I know we’ll beat them today.”

“How do you know that if you don’t know who you’re facing? Let me ask this: What is the disposition of the enemies’ forces? How many armored divisions does he have? Where are they located? What about artillery or infantry? Are they attacking you, or are they waiting to receive you? Do you even know if they have air support?”

The general chuckled. “I’m not worried. We’re the American army, and we have the motivation to win. I just read *The Five Thousand Year Leap* that tells us about the principles of freedom. That’s a great motivational book that will give us the necessary push to secure the victory. We’ll give them a good thrashing today.”

Do you think that general will be victorious in the fight? It doesn’t look like it. George S. Patton was the most successful general of World War II. It is true that he was a military genius, but a lot of that was because Patton *knew* his enemy, often as well as the enemy knew himself. Patton would read everything he could about his enemy and then use his enemy’s own tactics against him.

The great American J. Edgar Hoover once said:

In any struggle, it is essential to know both what you are fighting *for* and what you are fighting *against*. If knowledge of the former is lacking, the will to win will be absent. If knowledge of the latter is absent, confusion and uncertainty will result.

It is possible for us to attack what we think is an enemy, only to discover that he is a true friend of liberty. That course of action only helps Satan succeed. Conversely, we may support someone or some cause we think is good for freedom, only to see that they or it is really a carefully concealed deception that will strip us of our liberty. Both actions only help the enemies of freedom. If we are deceived, that means we do not know our enemy. Hence, it is important not only to know the solution (principles of freedom), but also to understand the problem (nature and disposition of the forces of the enemy).

Here is the declaration of a latter-day prophet about the necessity of learning about the nature of our opponents and the disposition of their forces in the last days:

We therefore commend and encourage every person and every group who is sincerely seeking to study Constitutional principles and awaken a sleeping and apathetic people to the alarming conditions that are rapidly advancing about us. We wish all our citizens throughout the land were participating in some type of organized self-education in order that they could better appreciate what is happening and know what they can do about it.

Supporting the FBI, the police, the congressional committees investigating Communism, **and various organizations that are attempting to awaken the people through educational means** is a policy we warmly endorse for all our people.

—David O. McKay

“Communism: The Position of the Church”
In Conference Report, April 9, 1966, 109–10

H. Verlan Anderson said this about God’s desire that those who possess the land of promise should know about secret combinations and works of darkness:

And then, through this great prophet, Alma, the Lord made this promise to all who should thereafter come upon this land:

“I will bring forth out of darkness unto light all their secret works and their abominations; and except they repent I will destroy them from off the face of the earth; and **I will bring to light all their secrets and abominations, unto every nation that shall hereafter possess the land.**” (Alma 37:25)

This promise recalls to mind a modern day scriptural injunction that reads as follows:

“Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven—These should then be attended to with great earnestness.

“Let no man count them as small things.” (D&C 123:13–15)

—H. Verlan Andersen

The Great and Abominable Church of the Devil
SunRise Publishing, 1994, 23

It is the mind and will of the Lord that we, the possessors of the land of promise and of the record of the stick of Joseph, should know about the wiles and deceptions of the devil in these last days. It is “wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you” (Ether 8:23) so as to avoid entanglements by the devil.

Despite the repeated warnings of modern-day prophets to learn about and expose the enemies of Christ, most people, including (unfortunately) many members of the Church, do not believe in them. One good brother said to me, “There is no conspiracy because this nation was founded by God, and He would never let some evil conspiracy take us over.” That statement is a perfect example of a mist of darkness covering the mind of man.

As we examine his statement, we notice that what he said is both true and false. It is true that the Constitution was ordained of God. The Doctrine and Covenants bears ample witness to that (D&C 98:5, 6; 101:77, 80). But it is not true that God will always defend this nation. He will *not* uphold any nation in sin, and the Book of Mormon states unequivocally that if the United States of America, in these last days, ripens in iniquity, we will be destroyed (Ether 2:9–12).

The truth is that there have been secret combinations since the beginning of time. There were secret combinations in the days of Adam and Eve (Moses 5:51). There were secret combinations among the Jaredites (Ether 8). After that, secret combinations destroyed the nation of the Nephites (Helaman 2:13, 14; 7:4, 5). Throughout history, Satan has *always* set up secret combinations in all ages to counteract God’s kingdom or influence on the earth. *That is the way Satan operates.* You can take that statement to the bank. And yet, denial of the truth keeps cropping up time and time again. “There is nothing wrong with our government. They really look out for us. And there certainly is NO conspiracy, so *there!*” Notwithstanding the many people who believe that idea, and despite the fact that the news media helps to suppress the truth, the scriptural evidence is overwhelming, as are the many declarations of our latter-day prophets.

Faced with this evidence, one would think that at least the Latter-day Saints would understand and believe the truth, but the sad fact is that most don’t. Many who believe in a latter-day secret combination have been ridiculed and scoffed at by people in and out of the Church. Unfortunately,

the people in the Church who deny the reality of Satan's organizations today are, unwittingly, helping the great enemy of Christ these days. They will not be guiltless before the judgment seat of Christ since they had the scriptures, the prophets, and the Holy Ghost to testify to them of the reality of the evils of today.

So why is it that throughout the history of the world, secret combinations have *always* been around (as proven in the scriptures) but most people think that they *cannot* and *absolutely do not* exist today? Why are people so unwilling to accept both the scriptural and modern-day evidence of a conspiracy? There are many reasons for this, and some of the more important ones are listed below.

Here are some ideas as to why there cannot be a conspiracy today.

1. The conspiracy premise is too simplistic.

That statement says that whatever happens in today's complex world can't be simply attributed to an all-powerful conspiracy. Most people say that the belief in a worldwide secret combination is escapist—that is, rather than deal with life's complexity, those who believe in a conspiracy simply try to blame all the world's problems on a nebulous conspiracy concept they can't control, and due to its secretiveness is hard to prove.

The statement that the conspiracy idea is simplistic dodges the real issue. The real issue is not simplicity nor complexity but truth and accuracy. Deferring the issue of accuracy for later, let's now confront the question of simplicity. The answer is found in the magazine *The New American*, "Conspiracy" issue, 1997 edition:

Occam's razor is a well-established test for reaching a conclusion based on limited information. It is named for the prominent 14th century philosopher William of Occam. Formally termed the "principle of parsimony," it suggests that the least complicated explanation for a phenomenon that fits the known facts is most likely to be the correct one. Responsible advocates of the conspiracy scenario contend that the least complicated explanation for many of the destructive trends in politics, economics, morality, and other key areas over the past two centuries is that a secretive,

amoral, well-organized movement has been striving relentlessly to make it happen.

Occam's razor, or the principle of parsimony, is used by law enforcement personnel, lawyers, scientists, judges, and others who try to discover the truth from information that is deliberately withheld, covered up, or by its nature, hard to expose. They use it all the time. They use it successfully, and it has proven to be a valuable tool in researching the truth. But in the realm of the idea of a worldwide conspiracy, debunkers conveniently overlook Occam's razor and accuse those who believe in conspiracy as being too simplistic. So, it seems that this test can be used by anyone as the need arises, but can't be used to explain the trends we see in the world today as a conspiracy.

However, as stated before, the real issue is not simplicity but truth and accuracy. Those who disbelieve the conspiracy scenario try to convince the populace that a gigantic conspiracy is too simplistic an idea to be true; therefore, just forget about it. That, in itself, is a rhetorical device called a red herring. In debating circles and courts of law, a common practice is to throw the opponent off the correct scent or notion by giving them a false idea to pursue. The red herring or false scent is "a world-wide conspiracy is too simplistic," but the correct question to ask is, is the conspiracy idea true and accurate? If the statement that there is a worldwide conspiracy is true, then it doesn't matter if the conspiracy idea is simple or complex. The issue of simplicity actually becomes tangential. As I said, the real issue is truth and accuracy.

Unfortunately for the debunkers, the evidence is still there, no matter how they try to present a red herring. If they can't get people to pursue a false scent, then the conspirators will simply ignore the evidence and cast aspersions on the character of the person presenting the evidence. That is another rhetorical device called "poisoning the well." By destroying their opponent's character, they can perhaps turn the people against the truth. They did that very effectively with Joe McCarthy. That will be addressed further in the chapter on the news media.

Please investigate for yourself and find out what many others have already discovered, that there is indeed a very powerful, subtle, and

pervasive combination in our day that, in the words of President Benson, “is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world.”

2. If there were a giant, worldwide conspiracy, our press would alert us of it. After all, we do have a free press.

This statement is both true and false. It will be covered in greater detail in the chapter called “All the News That’s Fit to Print,” but while it’s true that our press is free from government control to a great extent, that does not mean that it is not controlled. To reiterate, the press was bought years ago by conspiring people who wanted to cover up their conspiracy. All mainstream media is owned by the conspirators and does their bidding. Therefore, you will never hear of the details of this conspiracy from the mainline media. Some of the people in the media are controlled by the decisions of editors and publishers while others are willing actors in this giant Punch and Judy show. However, the conspirators do not control all media. There are some outlets that tell the truth.

3. A gigantic, monolithic conspiracy such as you suggest cannot exist because there would be too many personality clashes, philosophical differences, ego conflicts, and infighting for it to be either secret or successful.

That statement, again, is both true and false. It is true that there are personality clashes, philosophical differences, ego conflicts, and infighting. As a matter of fact, the conspirators will occasionally assassinate one another, reminiscent of the mafia. But in such cases, these political murders are covered up by the controlled press so that we don’t hear about them.

The truth is that the conspiracy is both monolithic and fractionated. That is, the participants in this conspiracy are extremely united in one sense but very much divided in another. How so?

The conspirators are completely united as far as overall strategy and goals are concerned, but there is considerable difference of opinion as to tactics to achieve those goals. At times the differences over tactics were so great that they actually came to blows in their planning meetings. But make no mistake about it—they are out to control the world. In that respect, they act as one. So as far as you and I are concerned, what difference does it

make which tactics are used if the end result (one-world government) is the same?

To support the claim of unity amidst discordance, we can look to examples from history. The Greek city-states during the age of Athenian democracy show a history of petty infighting, bickering, and warfare amongst themselves until a common foe (like Persia) threatened. When that happened, the city-states became as one and helped each other defeat the foreign invader. Then afterward, the Greeks went right back to fighting each other again. The same can be said for the medieval Japanese shoguns. They would war with each other until China or someone else threatened them. At that time, the shoguns would unite, defeat the foe, and then return to their infighting.

Another example comes from the Pearl of Great Price. In Joseph Smith—History, Joseph Smith tells of the religious movement that started around Palmyra, New York, when he was growing up. There were many religious sects of the day, and they began a religious revival during Joseph’s fifteenth year. He writes in verse 6, “For notwithstanding the great love which the converts to these different faiths expressed at the time of their conversion, and the great zeal manifested by the respective clergy, yet when the converts began to file off, some to one party and some to another, it was seen that the seemingly good feelings of both the priests and the converts were more pretended than real; for a scene of great confusion and bad feeling ensued—priest contending against priest, and convert against convert.”

And yet, against the backdrop of intersectarian strife and bickering, Joseph made this profound observation after he told one of the aforementioned ministers about the vision he had in the sacred grove: “I soon found, however, that my telling the story had excited a great deal of prejudice against me among professors of religion, and was the cause of great persecution, which continued to increase ... and this was common among all the sects, **all united to persecute me**” (verse 22).

From the above examples we can make a major deduction. If the devil controls organizations or governments, they will be fractionated and fight against each other, for the devil is the author of contention. However, there is an exception to that rule. That is, they will unite to *fight against whatever God establishes on the earth*, whether that be His church, a government, or

a people established by Him. In the case of these latter-day secret combinations, they are extremely monolithic in their goal of one-world government. They are especially desirous of destroying the Constitution of the United States and Christianity in general. That is because both the Constitution and Christianity were originally established by God. But when it comes to implementing their goals (tactics), they often clash. The conspirators are both united and fractious.

4. There exist powerful organizations that operate from behind the scenes, but these are just “good-ole-boys clubs” that evolved through natural selection, not through some overall scheme or plan. They aren’t inherently evil, nor are they part of a powerful worldwide conspiracy. They just look out for themselves first.

That observation was made to me by a person involved in both local and national politics. He knows all of Utah’s congressional delegation personally. He has been involved in many local and national campaigns. He helped defeat the military’s plan to deploy nuclear missiles in the deserts of Nevada and Utah. He has also attended meetings of one of the semi-secret organizations I will talk about later. He came away from those meetings with the impression that the organization wasn’t part of a conspiracy, nor was it particularly secret, although he conceded it did wield considerable influence.

The organizations composing the overall conspiracy did not just “evolve,” nor are they just a “good ole boys club.” Each was deliberately created with the goal in mind of controlling governments from behind the scenes. These organizations will be discussed in turn.

5. We don’t have to worry about an evil conspiracy in the last days, because all we have to do is live the gospel, go to church, and listen to the prophet.

The rebuttal to that is found in a talk given by Elder Ezra Taft Benson to the BYU student body on October 25, 1966:

Satan’s Perverse Reasoning

Now Satan is anxious to neutralize the inspired counsel of the Prophet and hence keep the priesthood off-balance, ineffective, and inert in the fight for freedom. He does this through diverse means including the use of perverse reasoning.

For example, he will argue, “There is no need to get involved in the fight for freedom—all you need to do is live the gospel.” Of course, this is a contradiction, because **we cannot fully live the gospel and not be involved in the fight for freedom.**

We would not say to someone, “There is no need to be baptized — all you need to do is live the gospel.” That would be ridiculous because baptism is a part of the gospel.

How would you have reacted if during the War in Heaven someone had said to you, “Look, just do what’s right, there is no need to get involved in the fight for free agency.” Now it is obvious what the devil is trying to do, but it is sad to see many of us fall for his destructive line.

6. If there were such a conspiracy, wouldn’t some have defected and helped expose the alleged plot?

The answer to that comes from *The New American*, Special Report, “Conspiracy for Global Control,” 1997:

Many have done exactly that. Indeed, it is truly amazing that such a large number of defectors bringing such a vast quantity of high-quality evidence over such a long period of time have been so effectively censored from the history books. We see this with Weishaupt’s Illuminati, which many establishment historians still insist was apocryphal, or certainly of no significant influence. The facts show quite the opposite. In 1784–85 four professors of the Mariane Academy who had been inducted into the Illuminati—Gruengerger, Renner, Utzschneider and Cossandey— all came forward to give sworn testimony to the Bavarian Government concerning the criminal activities and plans of the Order....

Closer to our day, communists such as Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth Bentley were instrumental in exposing the existence of at

least three communist cells within the U.S. government. Included on this list was high-ranking State Department official Alger Hiss....

Both Chambers and Bentley were, in accord with the standard communist smear tactic, attacked unmercifully.

But there are more people than that. One of the most prominent examples is that of Carroll Quigley. He is an example not of a defector, but of one on the inside who voluntarily talked. And talk he did. He published a book called *Tragedy and Hope*, in which he bragged about the conspiracy. He spilled the beans, so to speak. And he remained a conspirator until his death in 1977. There will be more information on him and others in upcoming chapters.

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