



Lesson 63

The Threat

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In today's lesson we are going to look at two different streams of information or ideas. One is the stream of conservative Protestantism and the other is the stream of this Movement and liberals. These two groups have different methodologies. They each consider something different to be the threat to themselves and the United States as a whole. These two streams see Donald Trump very differently and we will look at that in this lesson. Finally, we will review how what stream we are in impacts our message and the Movement.

Two Methodologies

Conspiracy theories vs. parable teaching

There are two options for everything: good and bad. We understand there are two streams of information- one good and one bad. There are also two methodologies. One is good and one is bad. The good methodology is parables teaching. The bad methodology is conspiracy theories. We can see the two methodologies both internally and externally. Internally, this Movement uses parable teaching- so we are using the correct methodology. Externally, there are also two methodologies. One is the correct methodology- parable teaching. The other is the incorrect methodology- conspiracy theories. Those are the two methodologies both internally and externally.

How are conspiracy theories formed?

Conspiracy theories pretty much follow the same pattern. The word "conspiracy" means a secret evil scheme by a group of people to do something harmful or illegal. A "theory" is an idea to explain something. Hence a conspiracy theory is an idea that there are people in the background working evil- and this idea is made to explain something. Conspiracy theories all follow this basic pattern. A conspiracy theory can form after a major (or non-major) event. When people see a random event they can't explain; they're prone to ask themselves why it happened thinking that nothing happens by accident. Eventually, they'll make up an explanation which usually blames a group of people. Such as the Coronavirus, when no one knew where it came from, some conspiracy theories formed accusing China of creating it. A conspiracy theory can even form when there is legitimate evidence to explain something, but people just remain ignorant. Conspiracy theories also form from a misunderstanding of the Ramsey Theory. We naturally recognize patterns, but this can create conspiracy theories. The Ramsey Theory says that if you have enough elements in a set or structure, you're guaranteed to have a pattern. This means that you'll always find patterns. That's why we can see constellations, because you have so many stars a pattern has to be there. For example, if you have enough numbers in a set you are guaranteed for 666 to be there; but people don't know this, and that's why they create conspiracy theories when they see patterns. Those are two things that cause conspiracy theories: questioning unexplainable events and misunderstanding the Ramsey Theory.

Protestantism's Threat

Group threat to mobilization

Conservative evangelical Protestants believe in conspiracy theories: this is their methodology, as we have seen. But they have another problem: they think that they are being threatened. This is a part of a pattern that has happened more than once. First a dominant group who is, or used to be in the majority, thinks that a minority (or minorities) is threatening it. They think that group is threatening their majority or gaining power. This is called group threat. The majority then begins to mobilize to “fight” the supposed threat. This has happened and is happening to conservative Protestantism. They are afraid of other religions and other races, like immigrants. So they have mobilized and begun to fight back. This idea that they are being threatened is part of their stream.

The threat of globalism

Conservative evangelical Protestants believe they are being threatened. They are being threatened by three main things, all dealing with the government. They feel threatened by globalism. Of course, there is nothing wrong with globalism, in fact, it's a good thing, but they believe that globalism is a bad thing. They also feel threatened by the United Nations. The United Nations is the most prominent form of globalism today. They also feel threatened by a supposed “deep state”. They believe that Jews, liberals, and evil people are part of a deep state that controls the world. They believe that globalism, the United Nations, and the deep state are all threats to themselves and their beliefs.

The threat of secularism

Another threat to conservative Evangelicals is secularism. We have seen that conservative Protestantism thinks they and the United States is being threatened. We know that they believe they are being threatened by a “deep state”, but there are other things they think are threatening them. One of those is secularism. Conservative Evangelicals of today believe the United States is a Christian nation, and a threat to them is the decreasing population of Evangelicals. The United States is becoming more secular and less people are interested in keeping the nation's government and people Christian. Evangelicals blame the secularists for many things in the United States. When 9/11 happened they said that God allowed the United States to be attacked because of secular schools and courts and other people they disagreed with. These type of accusations are border line conspiracy theories, and still continue today because this is the methodology conservative Evangelicals use. So another threat to Evangelicals is secularism- they want the United States to be moral and say secularists are the threat.

How Protestants see Trump

Trump as a hero

The conservative evangelical Protestants, we know, love Donald Trump. Trump listens to them and does what they say. We looked at their worldview and some examples of what they think threatens them, like: the United Nations (globalism), and secularism. They also don't like immigrants, people from the LGBTQ community, or strong women. Donald Trump has that same worldview. He doesn't like many of those things either, so he used his power as president to hinder or talk bad about those things that conservative Protestantism is afraid of. He also did things that they liked, like appointing judges that favored churches in this pandemic. Because of this conservative Evangelicals think he is their hero, they also compare him to king Cyrus.

Threat: Globalism, the UN, and a
"deep state"

Threat: Secularism- separation of
church and state

Trump = Hero, king Cyrus

Methodology: Conspiracy
Theories

The Actual Threat

The threat of nationalism

Conservative Evangelicals believe that they are threatened by secularism, globalism, the United Nations, and a so-called deep state. However, that's not the real threat. Globalism, the United Nations, and secularism are all good things; the deep state doesn't even exist. The real threat is what they believe in. They are nationalistic. They believe that the United States is better than any other nation. They believe that the United States is superior to the United Nations. They believe that the United States is above the United Nations and that the United States shouldn't be a part of it. That is the real threat. Having the United States control the United Nations is nationalistic and the real threat to everyone.

The threat of Protestantism

The real threat is Protestantism. Earlier we saw that a threat to conservative Evangelicals is secularism. Conservative Evangelicals, however, are viewing things through conspiracy theories. The correct methodology to use is parables; and these are used by the world without them even knowing it. Parables tell us that the threat isn't secularism, it's conservative Protestantism themselves. Secularism supports the separation of church and state, and we know that is the right side to be on. On the other hand, conservative Protestants support church over state, which is the wrong side to be on. It would be safer for us to live with secularists who don't have a religion than conservative Protestants. They are the real threat; their conservative ideas are against parable teaching. So there are two streams, conspiracy theories and parables. On the conspiracy theory side you have conservative Protestants who want to make the United States moral, and on the parable side you have the secularists who support the separation of church and state; we are on the secularists' side.

How we see Trump

Trump as a dictator

There are two ways to see Donald Trump from two different streams. We looked at the first way earlier. That is the way conservative Evangelicals see Trump- to them he is Cyrus. But this Movement doesn't believe that, liberal Adventists, and liberal non-Adventists don't believe that either. We have a very different worldview than conservatives. We previously looked at where we know the threat comes from. The threat is nationalism and conservative Protestantism. Donald Trump advocates all of those things. He is not a hero- you can say that he is one of the bad guys. We know that Trump can be symbolized by dictators like Hitler: he is a dictator and he acts like one. Dictators today are not the same as dictators of the past; we can recognize that Trump is a dictator by how he treats the press and other officials. To conservatives he is a hero, but to us (and liberals) he is a dictator.

Real Threat: Nationalism and the
US over the UN

Real Threat: Conservative
Evangelicals- church over state

Trump = dictator

Methodology: Parables

Some Implications of the Correct Stream

Who passes the Sunday Law?

This Movement believed that the Sunday Law would come from the Executive branch of the United States government. That is why we blamed former President Barack Obama for the Sunday Law in 2014, despite the fact that he was a Democrat. Coming into 2020, it was clear that President Donald Trump would have to have at least two terms so he would be able to pass the Sunday Law, but then, Joe Biden was elected President. And that's fine; the Sunday Law can still be passed under a Democrat. The Sunday Law does not come from the Executive branch- it did not come from Obama and it will not come from Biden. They are Democrats and the Sunday Law is a Republican issue. The Sunday Law will come from the conservative Republicans. This doesn't mean that the Sunday Law will come in the term of Biden; it just means that we don't need a Republican president to have a Sunday Law passed.

The Levites will be liberal

So far we have been looking at the two streams. We've seen that there are two ways to view things, through conspiracy theories or parables. We looked at how the threats to the people in the conspiracy theory stream are not really threats, and that the real threat was in the conspiracy theory stream. But that was all externally. There are two streams internally and they are the same as externally; conspiracy theories vs. parables. Conservative SDAs are in the conspiracy theory stream, and liberal SDAs are in the parable stream. This year the harvest of the Levites will begin. Unlike the Priests, the Levites join the Movement only in their harvest. Also unlike the Priests, the Levites will be liberal. The Levites won't have the opportunity to join the Movement conservative, and slowly change to liberal, they'll have to join liberal. There are about 25 million Adventist and only 22% say they're politically liberal. That means there's around 5,500,000 Levites waiting to join the Movement. But there is still hope for the conservatives, all the Levites will be liberal, but that doesn't mean they'll have always been liberal. So, until their harvest begins, the conservative SDAs have a chance to change, but by the time it begins, the Levites will be liberal- they will be using parable methodology.

In Summary:

2 Streams

Threat: Globalism, the UN, and
a “deep state”

Threat: Secularism- separation
of church and state

Trump = Hero, king Cyrus

Methodology: Conspiracy
Theories

Real Threat: Nationalism and
the US over the UN

Real Threat: Conservative
Evangelicals- church over state

Trump = dictator

Methodology: Parables

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