

# STRAIGHTWAY

*"And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him" Mark 1:18.*

**CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP**

The Witness Outreach of  
Foundations Bible College  
P.O. Box 1166 · Dunn, North Carolina 28335

*30 years*  
1973-2003

VOLUME 31

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2003

NUMBER 9

## Conspiracy in History

Dr. H. T. Spence

One of history's great conspiracies is found in the story of the birth of Christ. In Matthew 2 when the Magi came to Jerusalem, they had an audience with Herod, the Roman-appointed King of the Jews. They inquired of where the Christ-child should be born. When the Sanhedrin gave the prophecy of Micah to him, Herod proceeded to speak kindly to the Magi saying, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also" (Matthew 2:8). Herod claimed a desire to worship the baby born king, convincing the Magi that his motive was sincere. Because of his guile, they knew not the conspiracy he cleverly had plotted against the Christ-child. They did not read his evil heart. Nevertheless, through a

dream God warned the Magi to go home another way.

*Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men (Matthew 2:16).*

Bethlehem's children became the first martyrs for the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Conspiracies in Recent History

A conspiracy is the secret planning to do something wrong against the government or a public person. It is an agreement by two or more persons to act unlawfully and then to conceal the matter.

"Rumors" of a number of conspiracies have filled the

conversations of the last century in our world. Perhaps more than people are aware, conspiracies have been a major part of human history in its promotion of evil. Even so, there must be faith in the Sovereignty of God, knowing that He is overruling the affairs of men amidst the conspiracies of men.

One popular conspiracy still very much alive involves the connections among Aristotle Onassis, Howard Hughes, Jackie Kennedy, and the assassination of J.F. Kennedy. The *Gemstone File*, a document circulated in the 1970s, claimed to reveal the identity of the JFK assassination conspirators, placing Onassis and Hughes fully in the mix. In 1994 the claims made in the *Gemstone File* were cross-referenced by Gerald Carroll in his book *Project Seek*. Howard Hughes' disappearance during the spring and summer of 1957 has led to great speculation among researchers. Photos of the moment of JFK's assassination have led some writers to speculate that

three shots came from three different geographies. Even today, mysteries surround his hospitalization in Dallas, the events on the plane returning to Washington, DC, and the man in the wheelchair, with a covered face, at the Kennedy-Onassis wedding. Perhaps only eternity will reveal the truth of these matters.

Another popular conspiracy concerns the shooting of John Lennon by Mark David Chapman. After shooting John Lennon with four devastating hollow-point bullets, Chapman did not make an easy nighttime escape. Instead he waited patiently for the New York City police to arrive, calmly reading *The Catcher in the Rye*. No commission ever investigated this murder; it was not filmed or photographed. And the alleged assassin avoided a trial by pleading guilty. Consequently there is little available evidence. But a London lawyer Fenton Bresler in his book *Who Killed John Lennon* seemed to give convincing evidence of a conspiracy.

The unique death of Mary Jo Kopechne, Bobby Kennedy's secretary, in the Chappaquiddick River continues to bring speculation in regard to the political attacks of the third Kennedy brother Ted. New England assassinologist R. B. Cutler places this incident as a CIA ambush rather than an accident. Although the evidence states that Miss Kopechne was beaten before being placed in the car and pushed into the river, there was no evidence that Ted Kennedy was in the car when it

## STRAIGHTWAY

**O. Talmadge Spence, Founder**

H. T. Spence, Editor  
President

**Foundations Bible College**

**P. O. Box 1166**

**Dunn, NC 28335-1166**

**800-849-8761**

[www.foundations.edu](http://www.foundations.edu)

---

**Provided free of charge but  
contributions are welcome to assist  
with postage and printing.**

went into the river. A number of hours passed before the matter was reported. There was no autopsy, the family was paid handsomely for not pursuing the matter in court, and there was no indictment of Ted Kennedy. Was there a conspiracy in this matter?

Other conspiracies that still are topics of discussion surround the deaths of Marilyn Monroe, Bobby Kennedy, and even the poisoning of Pope John Paul I. Each of these deaths was followed by a quick cover-up and no investigation.

### **Conspiracies in Scripture**

Numerous conspiracies presented in the Bible are perpetrated by the wicked against the godly. Their subtle tactics of plotting against those whom they hate are often carried out in the most exquisite fashion of innocence and sincerity.

Since the days of the fall of Adam, man has conspired to cover up evil. Adam and Eve conspired to cover up their wrong by shifting blame. This principle of conspiracy rose to another level when Cain conspired to kill his brother. But how would this act of violence be done? Getting Abel into the field in order to commit the crime would be no easy task. Does I John 3 give us an insight of how the conspiracy was accomplished? Did he use the guise of “brotherly love” to get Abel into the field (I John 3:11-12)? Once the task of getting him alone was fulfilled, he violently killed his brother and then endeavored to cover up the body by burying it in

the ground. Yet the blood of Abel cried unto the Lord, and the conspiracy became known. It is evident that even Cain’s parents learned Abel had been murdered through fratricide (Genesis 4:25).

Genesis 37 presents the conspiracy against young Joseph by his brothers. Genesis 37:18 states, “And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.” They then took him and placed him in a pit, and later sold him to Midianites, going down into Egypt. There is no evidence that they told Reuben what they had done with Joseph (37:30). But we read of their cover-up:

*And they took Joseph’s coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son’s coat or no. And he knew it, and said, It is my son’s coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days (37:31-34).*

They did not have to verbally lie to their father; they allowed the conspiracy to deceptively speak. Jacob naturally came to a conclusion that his son had been killed.

The Old Testament further gives a number of conspiracies such as the following: the conspiracy of Absalom against his father David (II Samuel 15:12, 31); the conspiracy of Joash’s servants to kill him (II Kings 12:20); the conspiracy to kill Amaziah (II Kings 14:19); the conspiracy

against Shallum (II Kings 15:13-15); the conspiracy against Amon by his servants (II Chronicles 33:24,25); a conspiracy against the Lord (Jeremiah 11:9); the list continues with at least 16 other conspiracies mentioned in the Old Testament.

We read in Ezekiel 22:25 of the priests, princes, and the false prophets:

*There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.*

Conspiracies take place within the very temple of God against God and against His people. Nehemiah 4:8-9 speaks of Tobiah and Sanballat:

*And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.*

Naboth's refusal to sell his birthright to Ahab marks one of the notorious conspiracies of the Old Testament (I Kings 21). The conspiracy began when Jezebel "wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth" (21:8). A fast was proclaimed, Naboth was set on high among the people, two sons of Belial bore false witness against him saying, "Thou didst blaspheme God and the king" (21:10). "Then they carried him [Naboth] forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died" (21:13), and his sons also. Thus, the vineyard was con-

fiscated by the State (Ahab). Although this conspiracy was completed, God brought the blood of Naboth back on Ahab, Jezebel, and their entire house.

The Old Testament also indicates a universal conspiracy against God and His people. Note David's words in Psalm 2:

*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*

But God knows of these conspiracies: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."

## **The Conspiracy of Christ's Death**

In the last of the four gospels, John gave us insight into the growing conspiracy against Christ by the Jewish leaders. Note the volume of words John the Beloved gives to this behind-the-scenes plotting, scheming, and manipulation of circumstances to put Christ to death: John 6:15; 7:11, 19, 25, 30, 44; 8:20, 37, 40, 59; 10:31, 32, 39; 11:8, 53, 56; 12:10; and 13:21.

Luke 22:1-6 presents the conspiracy that took place on Tuesday of Passion Week with Judas and the Sanhedrin Court. Later in that same chapter the conspiracy unfolds in the garden with Judas and the soldiers. Six court trials were orchestrated against Him:

*Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness*

against Jesus, to put him to death; But continue from the stoning of found none: yea, though many false Stephen to the incarceration of Paul. witnesses came, yet found they none. At The conspiracies in early church the last came two false witnesses history were perpetrated to destroy (Matthew 26:59-60). and discredit the Christians. During

Then came the crucifixion, and His death, after which Christ was laid in a tomb. But we once again read of a cover-up when Christ was resurrected from the dead: the ten Imperial persecutions, Satan conspired with the leaders of Rome to destroy the Christians, the early church, and the Scriptures. When Nero wanted to build a new Rome,

Now when they were going, behold, some he endeavored to burn the empire of the watch came into the city, and capital and blame it on the shewed unto the chief priests all the Christians, inciting riot against them. things that were done. And when they During the days of Bloody Mary in were assembled with the elders, and had England (1553-1558), John Fox taken counsel, they gave large money unto escaped with his life and was moved the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His of God to write what became disciples came by night, and stole him known as Foxe's Book of Martyrs. He away while we slept. And if this come to wanted to show the great inquisitions the governor's ears, we will persuade against God's people, preserving him, and secure you. So they took the their stories for posterity. Groups money, and did as they were taught: and like the Huguenots and the Lollards, this saying is commonly reported among men like Huss, Luther, Jerome of the Jews until this day. (Matthew Prague, and myriad others were 28:11-15). always found being plotted against in the conspiracies of the Roman Catholic Church and its influential powers over the State.

This great conspiracy was against the Christ from His infancy until His death; yet, God triumphed over the conspiracy of man:

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. (Acts 4:25-28).

### Conspiracies Against God's People

Throughout the book of Acts, conspiracies against God's saints

### The End-time Conspiracy

We are presently in the end time of the Laodicean institutional church age; we believe a rapture awaits the saints. Yet we are facing the final conspiracy of this world to destroy God's saints before their catching away. These are days when God's people cannot afford to be spiritually asleep or paralyzed by apathy. We must "be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

Revelation 12 shows the Dragon poised over the woman “which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born” (Revelation 12:4). There are those who dispensationally believe the woman is Israel and that the man-child is Christ. Although that may be an Old Testament perspective, the word *Israel* is not mentioned in the chapter. The woman in the New Testament is the Church, and the man-child could be the saints who will rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:27, though of Christ in 19:15). There is both a conspiracy in the Laodicean church, that is in pain to be delivered of this man-child, and a conspiracy in the world system through the Devil to destroy him. This conspiracy has the ingredients of Matthew 10:16-42.

The end time of the church age is also in the conspiracy of deception and the powers to thwart the righteous living of the saints (Luke 21:8-19). This continuing conspiracy, which has included the death of many saints (Hebrews 11:34-38), is coming to a great climax in the end time. The hatred contained in this conspiracy against the saints will turn to the sword for its fulfillment; it will even include family member against family member. The rise of the aggressive evil of the sodomites is part of this conspiracy to turn against and to destroy the elect of God. The evil that is being planned is so dark and devastating that if God would pull back the cloak of this conspiracy it may cause our heart to fail because of fear.

Yet, we must understand that

these will be days that God will give over to the final preparation of the foolish shepherd to rule the earth (Zechariah 11:15). The child of God will outwardly begin to lose more and more before the world. It will become more evident, “As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter” (Romans 8:36). But the words of Romans 8:31-39 will become more of an anchor to the soul in these days when God will become more silent in the earth:

*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? . . . . Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? . . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . . In all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life . . . nor principalities, nor powers . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We must ready our hearts for these days of a great conspiracy against God and His people. And we must be ever looking upward for His call home to glory. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

**Registration**  
**Second Semester**  
**The Foundations Schools**  
 January 7 – 8:00 AM

**Special Services**  
 January 7-9 – 7:00 PM

# *The Divine Interlude*

by O. Talmadge Spence

*The Divine Interlude* is the only novel written by Dr. O. Talmadge Spence. The story is a contemporary romance of a couple who are joined together in love and in the truth of God's Word. Every step in their journey of life is directed toward God. The time begins in 1947 and expands into the twenty-first century, 2007. Not only do you read about an ideal romance of a couple destined to live a determined separated life unto God, but you will gain an abundance of knowledge. Subjects such as historic Christianity, modern apostasy, doctrine, ecumenism, eternity, ethics, evangelism, fundamentalism, history, music, art aesthetic, science, and separation are addressed and discussed in depth. *The Divine Interlude* presents a couple, a family, as the ideal of Christianity in search of the very real. The story is credible. The facts are credible. It is a needed view of the changes of historic Christianity by modern man. (softback, 417 pages)

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1166

Dunn, NC 28335-1166

**\$15.95 / \$19.45 PPD**

The Foundations Ministries has recently printed a new book-store catalog featuring material from Scripture Commentary Society, Forwarding the Faith Publications, and Foundations Recordings. To receive a copy, please contact the college office at the above address, toll free 800-849-8761 or email: [fpress@foundations.edu](mailto:fpress@foundations.edu).

## **The Virgin Birth**

By Dr. O. Talmadge Spence

(Excerpt from Straightway, February 1-15, 1976)

*And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, OF WHOM was born Jesus,  
who is called Christ (Matthew 1:16).*

The Holy Spirit never had to wrestle with the Greek grammar to express any truth set forth in Holy Writ. And when He moved upon Matthew to write this account of the birth of Jesus, He used harmony of GENDER as well as GENEALOGY. In the above scripture there are eight proper names and pronouns: Jacob, Joseph, husband, Mary, of whom, Jesus, who, and Christ. ALL are written in the MASCULINE GENDER with the exception of one pair, "Mary" and "of whom." The Virgin Birth is proved by this grammatical agreement. The Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, without the conception by man, because "of whom" refers to MARY alone, of all the persons mentioned. "Mary" is feminine, singular. "Of whom" is also feminine, singular. Thus, a simple rule of agreement of gender and number denotes the VIRGIN BIRTH of Jesus "made flesh" conceived of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin ALONE!

## **We Stand Where They Stood Yesterday**

We stand where they stood yesterday,  
at the coming of the Lord.  
A Herod-antichrist did come,  
and one shall come again.  
And Rachel weeping for her sons;  
the world shall weep again.  
We bow where shepherds bowed before,  
at the coming of the Lord.  
We kneel where wise men knelt before,  
at the coming of the Lord.  
The voice that called to Egypt's land  
will come and call again.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion again.  
We stand where they stood yesterday,  
at the coming of the Lord.

*From the Oratorio*





## SCENES FROM CHRISTMAS

I Remember Christmas Past,  
When Our Family Was A Few:  
Father, Mother, Little Children, Too.  
Happy Home, Loving Hearts,  
Peace That Only God Imparts.  
I Remember, Yes, I Remember The Past.

Christmas Present Now Is Near;  
Children Grown, Their Families Here;  
Father, Mother Now Are Parents Grand.  
But The Times On Earth Have Changed;  
Christmas Present Seems So Strange:  
Broken Homes And Sadness Now Fill Our Land.

Christmas Future Will Be Known  
When The Little Ones Have Grown.  
Years Will Tell The Story Oh So Clear,  
Whether Grace And Truth Were Known,  
Or Through Sin Was Life O'er Thrown.  
Christmas Future, Will It Bring Comfort Or Fear?

Christmas Past Now Is Gone,  
And We Meditate Upon  
The Christ-Child Who Was Born  
To Die To Save From Sin.  
Now The Present Christmas Day  
Calls Our Hearts In Hope To Pray  
For The Christmas Message To Be Known Again.

—H. T. Spence

## **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER “TAPES OF THE MONTH”**

SERMONS FROM THE FOUNDATIONS PULPIT  
FOUNDATIONS BIBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH  
DR. O. TALMADGE SPENCE, FOUNDER

(1987 & 1988)

1. *The Person of the Holy Spirit*
2. *The Spirit's Full Work*
3. *The Holy Spirit Restraining*
4. *The Holy Spirit Awakening*

---

This set comes in a handsomely bound case.

Price: \$19.50 postpaid

Foundations Ministries • P.O. Box 1166 • Dunn, NC 28335  
frecordings@foundations.edu • 800-849-8761 • [www.foundations.edu](http://www.foundations.edu)

New Release from Forwarding the Faith Publications

## **FOUNDATIONS SACRED OFFERTORY SERIES**

### **PIANO VOLUME ONE: *INTERMEDIATE***

*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
*Amazing Grace*  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

### **PIANO VOLUME TWO: *INTERMEDIATE***

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
*Be Thou My Vision*  
*Just As I Am*

**Price: \$5.00 each**

S&H: 1 COPY, \$2.00; 2-4 COPIES, \$3.50; 5-11, \$5.50; 12-20, 10%; 20+, 8%

Foundations Ministries • P.O. Box 1166 • Dunn, NC 28335  
bookstore@foundations.edu • 800-849-8761 • [www.foundations.edu](http://www.foundations.edu)

Introducing  
FOUNDATIONS CONCERT SERIES  
VOLUME ONE

*Horn,  
Violoncello,  
& Piano*

Dante Hernández, *Horn* · Sara Hernández, *Cello* · Robert Wilson, *Piano*  
Classical works by Mozart, Bach, Handel, Beethoven, and others  
Recorded live on January 10, 2003 · Total playing time: 75:17

**Price: \$16.50 ppd**

Foundations Ministries · P.O. Box 1166 · Dunn, NC 28335  
fre recordings@foundations.edu · 800-849-8761 · [www.foundations.edu](http://www.foundations.edu)



*A Choral  
Christmas*

WHITEFIELD SANCTUARY



FOUNDATIONS  
BIBLE  
COLLEGIATE  
CHOIR

*Directed by  
The Fine Arts Department of  
Foundations Bible College  
Dr. Robert Wilson, Host*



Available from  
Foundations Recordings

\$13.00/16.50 ppd  
CD

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem,  
Christmas Medley, Infant  
Holy, A Child Is Born in  
Bethlehem, O Little Town  
of Bethlehem, Angels We  
Have Heard on High, The  
First Noel Medley, The  
Promised One Is Come, God  
Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,  
and others.

Presented Live in Whitefield Sanctuary  
December 2002