

# **A Theory of the Georgia Guidestones**

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The Georgia Guidestones were a 19-foot-tall granite monument in Elbert County, Georgia, near the city of Elberton. They listed 10 precepts for how to run human society and featured text in 12 different languages. The alignment of the monument and a series of holes and slots cut in it allowed for astronomical readings of Polaris as well as the Sun during solstices, equinoxes, and solar noon. The site also included a separate tablet that provided information about the monument itself and an informational plaque added to the site years later. The Guidestones were completed in 1980 by the Elberton Granite Finishing Company, having been commissioned by a man who went under the pseudonym Robert C. Christian. He ultimately deeded the land on which the monument was situated to the county. The ambiguous origins, large scale, unusual features, and strange message of the Guidestones led to the monument becoming a tourist attraction as well as to speculation that it had a sinister intent behind it, such as a connection to the supposed Illuminati and New World Order conspiracy or to Satanism. This led to frequent vandalism, and the Guidestones were partially destroyed in a bombing on July 6, 2022, then demolished completely by the county hours later. I believe the true explanation for the Georgia Guidestones is actually pretty mundane, and this video will lay out my views concerning the reasons they were built and what they meant. I will also argue that the bigger mystery is probably in the bombing.

## **The Thinking of R.C. Christian**

I suspect R.C. Christian was an older rich man who wanted to leave a legacy, coming up with the idea for the Guidestones through considering the state of the world and his own mortality. In the late 1970s, the Cold War was not only continuing but moving into a more dangerous period as the policy of detente came to an end. By the end of 1979, the Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan, leading to a substantial deterioration of U.S.-Soviet relations. In light of the trends he saw, Christian probably assumed a nuclear war was imminent. He decided to try to immortalize himself by leaving something for the survivors. He undertook to inscribe his ideas for society in stone, figuring the resulting monument would outlast him, survive the war, and carry his thoughts far into the future. The monument included astronomical features because they provided another way it could be useful to the survivors by helping them measure time, while those features also gave the Guidestones some of the significance that ancient monuments with astronomical alignments carry. Christian picked Elbert County as the location out of practicality because of the large granite industry there, though the informational plaque also claimed the choice of location was to honor his great grandmother, who was born in Georgia. Christian probably also felt the rural setting made it more likely for the monument to survive undisturbed. It was situated on the highest spot in the county because of the astronomical features; if he put it in a valley, it may not have been able to line up with the sun correctly at the horizon, and this location may also have been chosen to give the Guidestones more of an air of importance.

Christian wanted his ideas translated into different languages to increase the odds of their being readable by someone far in the future. He may have also been thinking of the Rosetta Stone and trying to form a historical link to it. Somewhat strangely, the explanatory tablet included with the Guidestones is only in English. This may have been a practical decision, such as a question of space constraints, and most of what is on the tablet could be inferred from the Guidestones themselves anyway. Likewise, if

the idea was to assure the messages were understood in the far future, it seems odd that the phrase on the capstone, “Let these be Guidestones to an age of reason,” was inscribed in four languages that were already dead. That phrase does appear in English on the explanatory tablet, and it’s not really relevant to conveying the main message anyway, so I think this was done, again, out of a sense of connection with a broader history and to make a statement about the difficulty of communicating across the ages. Those languages were already dead, and maybe the languages of the main message would also die. Moreover, the overall design of the Guidestones, megaliths with a capstone, hearkens back to Stonehenge, a monument that also has astronomical significance.

A question that remains is why Christian chose to remain anonymous if a primary concern was his legacy. I think he was possibly more interested in his ideas living on than his name. Maybe he didn’t want to make trouble for himself because he knew his precepts would be controversial. Maybe he calculated that his anonymity would add to the mystique of the Guidestones and thus imbue them with a kind of authority. Otherwise, they might just have been disregarded as the vanity project of some nut. Another apparent contradiction is that Christian claimed to represent a larger organization. I suspect it didn’t exist. This may have been an attempt to give the Guidestones more authority or to make them look less like self-aggrandizement. It may have, again, just been showmanship too, adding still further to the mystique. Christian may have had some loose association of confidants who agreed with him or helped him plan the monument, but I doubt there was some kind of formal, secret society behind it.

### **Analysis of the Precepts**

If viewed through the lens of the supposition that there is an ongoing plot to dominate the world, such as the New World Order theory, a number of the messages on the Guidestones sound really sinister. If taken at face value, however, they seem to be about the overarching themes of protecting nature, living a balanced life, and employing reason as measures to reduce harm and suffering. What follows is an analysis of each of the ten main precepts:

**MAINTAIN HUMANITY UNDER 500,000,000  
IN PERPETUAL BALANCE WITH NATURE**

This is often interpreted as a call for the elimination of most of the population. In reality, it’s not calling for anyone to be killed. It was just written assuming the population would be decimated after the nuclear exchange and that it shouldn’t rise back above the number stated due to the strain a large population causes on the environment. The figure does seem arbitrary, however, and it would be interesting to know how Christian arrived at it.

**GUIDE REPRODUCTION WISELY –  
IMPROVING FITNESS AND DIVERSITY**

This precept is also controversial for its eugenic overtone. However, it not only says to improve fitness but also diversity through reproduction, suggesting Christian wasn’t talking about some concept of building supermen or a master race but rather furthering the production of healthy, prosperous offspring. It would be as reasonable to interpret this as a call not to reproduce to excess, especially in light of the first precept, or to have good prenatal care and childcare, as much or more than any sinister idea of eugenics.

UNITE HUMANITY WITH A LIVING  
NEW LANGUAGE

This precept would be disturbing to anyone inclined to believe in an underlying conspiracy and might be understood by such a person as a call for a world government that would force everyone to use the same language. It seems to me, however, that Christian just saw the importance of communication in bringing people together in peace. It's really interesting how he used the phrase "living new language," which probably refers to how attempts to create a universal language, such as Esperanto, failed to gain widespread acceptance in the past, probably in part because such projects felt contrived and artificial to many people.

RULE PASSION – FAITH – TRADITION –  
AND ALL THINGS  
WITH TEMPERED REASON

This is sometimes taken as anti-religious but really is about mediating one's behavior, about doing things not just on an impulse (passion), because one simply feels something is true (faith), or just to follow the way things have been done before (tradition). Instead, one should stop and evaluate whether an action makes sense, and there should be a balance among the different avenues of human thought. This is good advice considering how much stupidity is carried out and how much pain has been inflicted by people just going along with their cultural values instead of thinking about what they're doing. The fact that there are ten precepts itself seems to have a religious connection to The Ten Commandments, which suggests at least a vague affinity toward religion rather than hostility. According to the informational plaque, Christian also claimed to be a Christian himself and stated this is why he picked that pseudonym.

PROTECT PEOPLE AND NATIONS  
WITH FAIR LAWS AND JUST COURTS

Christian probably looked at all the pain and destruction in the world, in part caused by stupid, frivolous laws and the courts that administer them, and thought it would be better if the laws and courts were made to truly serve people, a measure that seems to be an obviously good idea.

LET ALL NATIONS RULE INTERNALLY  
RESOLVING EXTERNAL DISPUTES  
IN A WORLD COURT

This disturbs some people in a similar way as the language precept. However, it doesn't reference a world government but rather a world court. It calls to maintain national autonomy before even mentioning any global organization. Thus it seems to be advocating the settlement of conflict between nations through a legal process rather than violence, not the subordination of any nation. This precept is an anti-war statement more than anything else.

AVOID PETTY LAWS AND USELESS  
OFFICIALS

Almost a restatement of the precept concerning “fair laws and just courts,” this one again seems obvious, and it’s too bad the advice is not being implemented.

BALANCE PERSONAL RIGHTS WITH  
SOCIAL DUTIES

Despite being seen by some as a call to oppress the individual, this precept really doesn’t say anything. Anyone who exists in a society already follows it to some extent, whether realizing it or not. It is not saying either the individual or society should be subordinated, just that they should exist in harmony.

PRIZE TRUTH – BEAUTY – LOVE –  
SEEKING HARMONY WITH THE  
INFINITE

This precept doesn’t say very much either. Everyone except perhaps a Puritan or a Jihadist would agree at least with prizing truth, beauty, and love, and it would be a dramatically better world if these things were held in more regard. To seek “harmony with the infinite” again shows the theme of balance by calling for integration with the larger design. It sounds nice but is also so vague. Aside perhaps from the Cold War fear reflected in the first precept, this one most strongly reveals the Guidestones as a product of their time as it sounds like something the hippies of the 60s or the New Age followers of the 70s might say.

BE NOT A CANCER ON THE EARTH –  
LEAVE ROOM FOR NATURE –  
LEAVE ROOM FOR NATURE

This can be seen as reflecting the more sinister interpretation of the first precept by comparing humans to a cancer that should be eliminated. In reality, it is not saying people are inherently like cancer but rather that they behave like it when destroying nature, as an actual cancer consumes its host body, and ultimately destroys itself. The precepts of the Guidestones start and end with nature and repeat this message twice to conclude, really placing emphasis on that point.

The messages of the Guidestones are thoughtful, stoical, and pragmatic. There is no mention, let alone advocacy, of force, violence, or coercion. They don’t say to overrule any desire with any ideology but rather urge people to achieve harmony. They even seem kind of Eastern in their call for a balancing of different forces, like is conceptualized in, for instance, the yin and yang. The Guidestones say to balance the integrity of the natural world against the development of human society, the worldly against the spiritual, human drives against human reason, the national identity against a common humanity, and the individual against society as all these are really part of the same thing. The true position the Guidestones take is moderation.

The thing that’s really wrong with the precepts is not that they’re inherently evil but that they’re so vague. Imagine if Christian’s vision really came to pass, and the survivors of a devastated humanity took them to heart. The precepts could be used to justify either a humane society or a terrible tyranny.

## **The Possibility of a Conspiracy**

As far as the conspiracy theories around the Guidestones, it makes no sense that individuals plotting to take over the world would advertise their intentions on a big, conspicuous monument, that a secret society would go out of its way to call attention to itself in the first place. There is also nothing explicitly Satanic on the monument. That idea is just inferred from things like the astronomical alignments. If we are going to go down the path of conspiracy, why not just say the Illuminati destroyed the Guidestones itself because people were getting too wise to it? If they really did reveal a plot for world domination, wouldn't there have been some value in the Guidestones remaining standing as a warning? Destroying the monument doesn't destroy the plot. In any event, the world is already controlled by a clique of elites, that's what makes them the elites, so why do they need to conspire to dominate what they already possess?

The most plausible conspiracy theory around the Guidestones that I have heard is that they were a publicity stunt by the company that built them. Even this seems unlikely as in that case the truth probably would have come out by now, especially considering that the company is defunct. On the other hand, trademarks left at the base of the Guidestones were not from the Elberton Granite Finishing Company but the Elberton Granite Association, a trade organization for the local granite industry. So maybe that group orchestrated the Guidestones to promote the granite industry in Elberton as a whole. Still, I am skeptical whether such a relatively frivolous secret would have been kept as well as it was for so long, especially since the association carrying out the stunt rather than a single company would probably involve more people. In addition, it is important for the industry to maintain a level of dignity, since it produces sensitive items like tombstones and war memorials, as well as pieces for upscale construction projects. To pull a stunt like this would have been incredibly risky due to the reputational damage that would result if exposed.

One item that does raise legitimate suspicion is the way the authorities have handled the bombing of the Guidestones. To begin, only about a quarter of the monument was destroyed in the explosion, but officials had the rest of it demolished within hours. It seems strange that they would in effect rush to demolish a crime scene and perhaps surviving evidence. It was like someone was using the bombing as an excuse, seizing the opportunity to get rid of the Guidestones. If officials were worried about the stones collapsing on investigators as they claim, and had any interest in salvaging the monument, they could have braced or carefully dismantled it instead of knocking it all down and breaking it up. Moreover, the authorities stated that they have already tried to find the time capsule supposed to be buried on the site, despite it having no apparent relevance to the bombing investigation, but claim to have found nothing. It does make sense that there may have never been a time capsule as the explanatory tablet, which referenced its supposed location below, left off the dates of placement and recovery. Christian or whoever was responsible for the tablet may have intended to leave a time capsule but never did for some reason, or maybe they never intended to but rather the reference was just another measure to build up the story. It's also possible the authorities don't want the public to know what was in the capsule, especially in the context of their strange handling of the scene. Much of the area around where the Guidestones stood apparently has been dug up as though to make sure nothing was left on the site and showing a diligence that seemed to be lacking when the Guidestones were demolished, the tablet itself said to be recovered intact for the Elberton Granite Museum. According to the deed, the land again became the property of its original owner upon removal of the monument, so do the authorities want to make sure all traces have been removed before returning the site to private hands? It seems it would at least be possible to make arrangements with the owner for the land to be

retained and the monument rebuilt, considering he was willing to do it the first time, but the removal of the tablet suggests there is no intention to reconstruct anything.

I would be more inclined to dismiss the above as plain disregard except that the strange behavior continues. Another thing worth discussing is that the videos the authorities released are a joke, the footage oddly chopped up and produced by pointing a camera at the surveillance system monitor. Even if there's some possibility of identifying the suspect from the original footage, there's effectively zero chance of doing so from what was released to the public. How is the Georgia Bureau of Investigation not able to download the raw video files, unless they just don't want anyone to see higher quality or more complete footage? Moreover, in the clip showing the apparent bomber, he moves impossibly fast while the timestamp is letterboxed out of the image, as though to obscure that the video has been sped up. If it's just a matter of being careless, why did the authorities bother releasing any footage or editing it the way they have? What would be the secret considering the area filmed was open to the public anyway? Finally, what kind of bomb can be carried by a single person running yet be powerful enough to shatter a slab of granite over a foot thick? It doesn't seem like something that could be produced in the basement or garage. I would not go so far as to say the bombing was some kind of false flag as county, state, and federal officials are all involved in the investigation, and it seems unlikely that various agencies at different levels of government would collaborate on the criminal destruction of a monument. So what is going on here?

In hindsight, it was probably a mistake to turn the Guidestones site over to the county, which gave it the authority to tear the monument down. Instead, maybe Christian should have set up some kind of foundation to hold ownership. Still, the county might have been the best possible option he had. He probably figured if the monument remained in private hands, it was more likely to be sold off and then demolished, modified, or exploited for purposes other than intended.

### **The Motive and Significance of the Bombing**

The Guidestones were destroyed by the savagery they were trying to overcome. As of the production of this video, the identity and motives of the party responsible for their destruction are not publicly known, but it seems likely the attack had something to do with the negative ways the monument was perceived, especially considering all the previous acts of vandalism. This also aligns with the timing. For one thing, the highly polarized political situation in the United States might encourage some people to make a dramatic statement. The timing around the Fourth of July perhaps was intended as a statement of independence in the context of the New World Order conspiracy. Moreover, a candidate in the 2022 Republican primaries for the governor of Georgia had made the demolition of the Guidestones part of her campaign, as if that represents voters' most pressing concerns, which perhaps partially explains why her crackpot platform attracted less than 4% of the vote. She later attributed the destruction of the monument to an act of God, a candidate for governor condoning a bombing as divine intervention. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic may also have had something to do with the attack as some of the conspiracy allegations around the vaccines mesh with those around the Guidestones, specifically concerning the first precept.

The attack on the monument was a truly offensive act. Whoever did it is probably of about the same caliber as the hoards that burned the Library of Alexandria or the barbarians that sacked Rome. It is un-American to just go and destroy something that conveys a message one doesn't like. Freedom of speech is in a lot of trouble when people are literally out to eliminate the statements they oppose, and

this speaks to the deteriorating situation in the United States at large. The conspiracy theorists should have gotten together and contributed the money to build their own monument to express their views instead of preventing everyone from seeing this one, if the bombing is in fact related to the conspiracy theories. Ironically, however, the attack has led to many more people hearing about the Guidestones and thus Christian's ideas than otherwise would have, at least in the short term, due to the ensuing media coverage. Nevertheless, it's tragic that this unique aspect of the American landscape, a beautiful, fascinating, and impressive work of art, has been lost.

I'm doubtful that whoever was responsible for the bombing will ever be caught, since the authorities don't seem serious about the investigation. I further suspect that the monument will never be rebuilt for several reasons besides the site having been cleared. The Guidestones originally cost \$100,000, and I imagine they would cost many times that today, so where would that money come from? Looking at it politically, why would anyone in the county government back the reconstruction of something so controversial? The actions we have seen so far in fact suggest they wanted it gone. And they're also not going to want to rebuild something that is apparently such a big target, which may also relate to why everything was so quickly demolished. Even if they actually do build some kind of replacement monument, perhaps to try to salvage the tourist income, they are unlikely to ever put the same precepts on it, and I doubt many people would be interested in seeing such a reconstruction anyway. Maybe some private group or individual will build something similar somewhere else eventually, so perhaps the best we can do is wait for the next R.C. Christian to come along.