

WHAT IS A CULT?

A personal letter to your Editor from the late Prof. Roger Rusk. Prof. Emeritus, Physics; University of Tennessee. The Professor was the older brother of Dean Rusk; Secretary of State for The United States under the Kennedy Administration....

Prof. Rusk was a leading lecturer for many years on the KINGDOM MESSAGE. Clear, concise, spiritual in his presentations on this great Bible subject. Here for you is....."MEAT IN DUE SEASON."

I had asked him to explain in a few words why our interpretational position on Bible Prophecy and Christianity was not 'cultic.' Here is his reply....

Subject: The Nature of Cults

Reference: Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

In a general sense, a cult is any system of beliefs. Political parties, philosophical systems and religious beliefs, including humanism and atheism, are cults. In the Latin, one word is the same from which our words cult and culture are derived.

In a derogatory sense, a cult is a small group of persons united by devotion or allegiance to an intellectual movement or figure, not acceptable to the majority.

In this sense, the Romans considered all Christianity as a cult because Christians would not worship Caesar but rather worshipped some mythical Christ. When the majority of Europeans became Christians, this disparagement ceased for a time.

However, as Protestant Christianity developed in each of the European countries, Christian believers came together in common consent as followers of some outstanding scholar or theologian. Thus the Lutherans followed Martin Luther, the Presbyterians followed John Calvin, the Methodists followed John Wesley, etc., and in this development each separate group became a cult, or a denomination.

The proposition that the Northern European community of people can be recognized as the biological descendants of the ancient people of Israel who were never called Jews in the Holy Bible is a proposition worthy of examination. It does not depend upon the theological system of any one denomination, nor does it follow the teachings of any one scholar or spiritual leader. Therefore, it transcends all cults and denominations.

The evidences which support such a proposition can be found in both secular and sacred history. It is rational, evidentiary, and demonstrable. It is based upon the one theological tenet that the Almighty God, the Creator, the God worshipped by the Patriarch Abraham and his people, is in complete charge of human history.