

DOWNLOAD PDF 9. TENSIONS IN PERSPECTIVE: IMPERIAL CULTS, PERSECUTION, AND THE APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

Chapter 1 : Cult - Wikipedia

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A political cult is a cult with a primary interest in political action and ideology. In their book *On the Edge: The* word cult is not a term of abuse, as this paper tries to explain. It is nothing more than a shorthand expression for a particular set of practices that have been observed in a variety of dysfunctional organisations. Lalich, a sociologist and former DWP member. Rothbard during her lifetime, and later by Michael Shermer. Although the Collective advocated an individualist philosophy, Rothbard claimed they were organized in the manner of a "Leninist" organization. We can overcome cult behavior, he says, by recognizing that we have dependency needs that are inappropriate for mature people, by increasing anti-authoritarian education, and by encouraging personal autonomy and the free exchange of ideas. It has been estimated that there are around 50, members of polygamist cults in North America. Anti-Mormon sentiment waned, as did opposition to statehood for Utah. The Smoot Hearings in , which documented that the LDS Church was still practicing polygamy spurred the church to issue a Second Manifesto again claiming that it had ceased performing new plural marriages. By the LDS Church excommunicated those who entered into or performed new plural marriages. It has been labeled a polygamous cult by the news media and has been the subject of criminal investigation by local authorities. Sociologist and historian Orlando Patterson has described the Ku Klux Klan , which arose in the American South after the Civil War , as a heretical Christian cult, and he has described its persecution of African Americans and others as a form of human sacrifice. He analyses in detail the racist foundation of this movement. Psychological Undercurrents of History, psychiatrist Peter A. Olsson compares Osama bin Laden to certain cult leaders including Jim Jones , David Koresh , Shoko Asahara , Marshall Applewhite , Luc Jouret and Joseph Di Mambro , and he says that each of these individuals fit at least eight of the nine criteria for people with narcissistic personality disorders. We need to understand the psychological aspects of how people are recruited and indoctrinated so we can slow down recruitment. We need to help counsel former cult members and possibly use some of them in the war against terrorism. It indoctrinates its members; it forms a closed, totalitarian society; it has a self-appointed, messianic and charismatic leader; and it believes that the ends justify the means. Masoud Banisadr stated in a May speech in Spain: My answer is no, as there are many peaceful cults at present around the world and in the history of mankind. But if you ask me are all terrorist organisations some sort of cult, my answer is yes. Even if they start as [an] ordinary modern political party or organisation, to prepare and force their members to act without asking any moral questions and act selflessly for the cause of the group and ignore all the ethical, cultural, moral or religious codes of the society and humanity, those organisations have to change into a cult. Therefore to understand an extremist or a terrorist organisation one has to learn about a cult. Fourteen different groups in China have been listed by the ministry of public security as xiejiao. According to Amnesty International , the persecution of Falun Gong includes a multifaceted propaganda campaign , [] a program of enforced ideological conversion and re-education, as well as a variety of extralegal coercive measures, such as arbitrary arrests , forced labour , and physical torture , sometimes resulting in death. Next listed were "Pagan cults". Large sects listed included: However, no religious or cult members are granted any special immunity from criminal charges.

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Chapter 2 : Imperial Cults and the Apocalypse of John: Reading Revelation in the Ruins by Steven J. Fries

9- *Tensions in Perspective - Imperial Cults, Persecution, and the Apocalypse of John Conclusion Appendix - Some Dionysiac Associations*

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Revelation 6. And I saw, and behold a white horse: Beatus Escorial , circa Apocalypse 12, the Woman and the Dragon. From this church, those "who overcome are granted to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. Admonished to "do the first works" and to repent for having left their "first love. From this church, those who are faithful until death, will be given "the crown of life. Admonished not to fear the "synagogue of Satan ", nor fear a ten-day tribulation of being thrown into prison. From this church, those who overcome will be given the hidden manna to eat and a white stone with a secret name on it. From this church, those who overcome until the end, will be given power over the nations in order to dash them to pieces with the rule of a rod of iron; they will also be given the "morning star. Admonished to repent for allowing a "prophetess" to promote sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. From this church, those who overcome will be clothed in white garments, and their names will not be blotted out from the Book of Life ; their names will also be confessed before the Father and His angels. From this church, those who overcome will be granted the opportunity to sit with the Son of God on His throne. Before the Throne of God The Throne of God appears, surrounded by twenty four thrones with Twenty-four elders seated in them. A white horse appears, whose crowned rider has a bow with which to conquer. A red horse appears, whose rider is granted a "great sword" to take peace from the earth. A black horse appears, whose rider has "a pair of balances in his hand", where a voice then says, "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and [see] thou hurt not the oil and the wine. A pale horse appears, whose rider is Death , and Hades follows him. Death is granted a fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and with the beasts of the earth. They are given white robes and told to rest until the martyrdom of their brothers is completed. The stars of heaven fall to the earth and the sky recedes like a scroll being rolled up 6: Every mountain and island is moved out of place 6: The people of earth retreat to caves in the mountains 6: The survivors call upon the mountains and the rocks to fall on them, so as to hide them from the "wrath of the Lamb" 6: The , Hebrews are sealed. Introduces the seven trumpets 8: Seven angels are each given trumpets 8: An eighth angel takes a "golden censer ", filled with fire from the heavenly altar, and throws it to the earth 8: What follows are "peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake" 8: After the eighth angel has devastated the earth, the seven angels introduced in verse 2 prepare to sound their trumpets 8: Seven trumpets are sounded Seen in Chapters 8, 9, and Hail and fire, mingled with blood, are thrown to the earth burning up a third of the trees and green grass. Something that resembles a great mountain, burning with fire, falls from the sky and lands in the ocean. It kills a third of the sea creatures and destroys a third of the ships at sea. A great star, named Wormwood , falls from heaven and poisons a third of the rivers and springs of water. A third of the sun, the moon, and the stars are darkened creating complete darkness for a third of the day and the night. The First Woe 9: This "star" is given "the key to the bottomless pit" 9: The "star" then opens the bottomless pit. When this happens, "smoke [rises] from [the Abyss] like smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky [are] darkened by the smoke from the Abyss" 9: From out of the smoke, locusts who are "given power like that of scorpions of the earth" 9: The Second Woe 9: These armies kill a third of mankind by plagues of fire, smoke, and brimstone. Upon the cry of the angel, seven thunders utter mysteries and secrets that are not to be written down by John. John is instructed to eat the little scroll that happens to be sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach, and to prophesy. John is given a measuring rod to measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. Two witnesses prophesy for 1, days, clothed in sackcloth. The Third Woe that leads into the seven bowls There are lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail. The Seven Spiritual Figures. Events leading into the Third Woe A Woman "clothed with a white robe, with the sun at her back, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of

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twelve stars" is in pregnancy with a male child. The Dragon waits for the birth of the child so he can devour it. War breaks out in heaven between Michael and the Dragon, identified as that old Serpent, the Devil, or Satan. The Dragon engages to persecute the Woman, but she is given aid to evade him. Her evasiveness enrages the Dragon, prompting him to wage war against the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. The people of the world wonder and follow the Beast. The Dragon grants him power and authority for forty-two months. He directs people to make an image of the Beast of the Sea who was wounded yet lives, breathing life into it, and forcing all people to bear "the mark of the Beast", "" . Events leading into the Third Woe: The Lamb stands on Mount Zion with the , "first fruits" who are redeemed from Earth and victorious over the Beast and his mark and image. Seven angels are given a golden bowl, from the Four Living Creatures, that contains the seven last plagues bearing the wrath of God. A "foul and malignant sore" afflicts the followers of the Beast. The Sea turns to blood and everything within it dies. All fresh water turns to blood. The Sun scorches the Earth with intense heat and even burns some people with fire. The Great River Euphrates is dried up and preparations are made for the kings of the East and the final battle at Armageddon between the forces of good and evil. A great earthquake and heavy hailstorm: Vision of John given by "an angel who had the seven bowls" The great Harlot who sits on a scarlet Beast with seven heads and ten horns and names of blasphemy all over its body and by many waters: The angel showing John the vision of the Harlot and the scarlet Beast reveals their identities and fates. The Dragon makes war against the people of God, but is defeated. There is no more suffering or death. The curse of sin is ended.

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Chapter 3 : The Apocalypse | Reading Acts

The question of the relationship of the Roman Imperial Cult and Revelation has occupied the attention of scholars throughout the past one hundred years. During this time, major shifts have taken place both in the assessment of the Roman Imperial Cult in the context of the Roman Empire and in the.

Emperor Worship , Imperial Cult , Revelation , The Apocalypse 24 comments Many scholars see worship of the emperor as the background for the worship of the Beast in Revelation If this is true, then we need to know when emperor worship became an empire-wide phenomenon. The standard view of Emperor worship found in many popular commentaries comes from William Ramsay, writing at the turn of the 20th century: Julius Caesar allowed himself to be worshiped as a god, but his successor Augustus only allowed emperor worship outside of the city of Rome. Oaths were taken on the divine spirit of the emperor. His image was publicly adored. Worship of the image was a regular military duty. Caligula was the first emperor to demand to be worshiped, he demanded that citizens everywhere bow to his statue. Nero also claimed to be divine, although in neither case was there a requirement to worship the emperor. As Augustus had been Zeus incarnate, so Nero was Apollo incarnate. Even Seneca called him as the long-awaited savior of the world. While this is clearly legendary, it does reflect a contemporary writer implying divine honors for Domitian. Dio Cassius Roman History How prevalent was the imperial cult in Asia Minor? Of the seven cities mentioned in Revelation , five have imperial priests and altars all but Philadelphia and Laodica and six have imperial temples all but Thyatira. At Pergamum an imperial temple was established as early as 28 B. It was during the reign of Domitian when the imperial cult became a factor in unifying the empire in Asia Minor. The provincial cult allowed the Roman network of social obligations to be extended to virtually the whole population. If you lived within the empire, then you were a social client of the Emperor and owed him supreme allegiance. It is not hard to see, therefore, the struggle which Christians in the late first century would have showing allegiance to Rome – if that allegiance required worship of the Emperor, then the Christian must refuse or compromise their faith.

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Positive Interaction: Jews, Christians, and Imperial Honors in the Greek City p. Tensions in Perspective: Imperial Cults, Persecution, and the Apocalypse of John.

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Chapter 5 : Book of Revelation - Wikipedia

is one in which tensions with opponents could have escalated to the point where Key Words: persecution, jurisprudence, imperial cult, John's Apocalypse, seven.

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