

## ~APOSTASY (978)

[Greek - *a-po-sta-si'a*, stand away from, desertion, abandonment]

• Apostasy In Israel

• What Characteristics Identify Apostates

• This term in Greek *a-po-sta-si'a* comes from the verb *a-phi'ste-mi*, literally meaning stand away from. The noun has the sense of desertion, abandonment or rebellion.

• But they have heard it rumored about you that you have been teaching all the Jews among the nations an **apostasy** from Moses, telling them neither to circumcise their children nor to walk in the solemn customs. (**Acts of Apostles 21:21**) Footnote

In classical Greek the noun was used to refer to **political defection**, and the verb is evidently employed in this sense at,

• After him Judas the Galilean rose in the days of the registration, and he **drew off people** after him. And yet that man perished, and all those who were obeying him were scattered abroad. (**Acts of Apostles 5:37**)

• Concerning Judas the Galilean who drew off *a-pe'ste-se*, form of *a-phi'ste-mi* followers. The **Greek Septuagint** uses the term at;

• Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they **rebelled**. (**Genesis 14:4**)

• With reference to such a **rebellion**. However, in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** it is used primarily with regard to **religious defection**, a **withdrawal or abandonment** of the **true cause, worship, and service of God**, and hence an abandonment of what one has previously professed and a total desertion of principles or faith. The **religious leaders of Jerusalem charged Paul** with such an **apostasy** against the Mosaic Law.

• It may properly be said that **God's Adversary** was the first **apostate**, as is indicated by the name **Satan**. He caused the first human pair to **apostatize**.

• Now the serpent proved to be the most cautious of all the wild beasts of the field that Yehowah God had made. So it began to say to the woman; **Is it really so that God said you must not eat**

**from every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1)**

- **At this the woman said to the serpent; Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. (Genesis 3:2)**
- **But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said; You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die. (Genesis 3:3)**
- **At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. (Genesis 3:4)**
- **For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad. (Genesis 3:5)**
- **Consequently the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something to be longed for to the eyes, yes, the tree was desirable to look upon. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward she gave some also to her husband when with her and he began eating it. (Genesis 3:6)**
- **Then the eyes of both of them became opened and they began to realize that they were naked. Hence they sewed fig leaves together and made loin coverings for themselves. (Genesis 3:7)**
- **Later they heard the voice of Yehowah God walking in the garden about the breezy part of the day, and the man and his wife went into hiding from the face of Yehowah God in between the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8)**
- **And Yehowah God kept calling to the man and saying to him: Where are you? (Genesis 3:9)**
- **Finally he said; Your voice I heard in the garden, but I was afraid because I was naked and so I hid myself. (Genesis 3:10)**
- **At that he said; Who told you that you were naked? From the tree from which I commanded you not to eat have you eaten? (Genesis 3:11)**
- **And the man went on to say; The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree and so I ate. (Genesis 3:12)**

- **With that Yehowah God said to the woman; What is this you have done? To this the woman replied, The serpent, it deceived me and so I ate. (Genesis 3:13)**
- **And Yehowah God proceeded to say to the serpent; Because you have done this thing, you are the cursed one out of all the domestic animals and out of all the wild beasts of the field. Upon your belly you will go and dust is what you will eat all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:14)**
- **And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (Genesis 3:15)**
- **You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. (John 8:44)**
- **Following the Flood, there was a rebellion against the words of the God of Noah.**
- **Now all the earth continued to be of one language and of one set of words. (Genesis 11:1)**
- **And it came about that in their journeying eastward they eventually discovered a valley plain in the land of Shinar, and they took up dwelling there. (Genesis 11:2)**
- **And they began to say each one to the other; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process. So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them. (Genesis 11:3)**
- **They now said; Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the surface of the earth. (Genesis 11:4)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to go down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men had built. (Genesis 11:5)**

- After that Yehowah said; Look! They are one people and there is one language for them all, and this is what they start to do. Why, now there is nothing that they may have in mind to do that will be unattainable for them. (**Genesis 11:6**)
- Come now! Let us go down and there confuse their language that they may not listen to one another's language. (**Genesis 11:7**)
- Accordingly Yehowah scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth, and they gradually left off building the city. (**Genesis 11:8**)
- That is why its name was called Babel, because there Yehowah had confused the language of all the earth, and Yehowah had scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth. (**Genesis 11:9**)
- Job later found it necessary to defend himself against the charge of **apostasy** on the part of his three supposed comforters.
- Thus are the pathways of all those forgetting God, and the very hope of an **apostate** will perish. (**Job 8:13**)
- For the assembly of **apostates** is sterile, and fire itself must eat up the tents of bribery. (**Job 15:34**)
- That the joyful cry of wicked people is short and the rejoicing of an **apostate** is for a moment? (**Job 20:5**)
- In his defense Job showed that God grants no audience to the **apostate**
- He would also be my salvation, for before him no **apostate** will come in. (**Job 13:16**)
- And he also showed the hopeless state of one cut off in **apostasy**.
- For what is the hope of an **apostate** in case he cuts him off, in case God carries off his soul from him? (**Job 27:8**)
- Also consider Elihu's statement at,

- So that an apostate man may not reign, nor there be snares of the people. (**Job 34:30**)
- Also Elihu's statement at,
- And those **apostate** in heart will themselves lay up anger. They should not cry for help because he has bound them. (**Job 36:13**)
- In these cases the **Hebrew** noun *cha-neph'* is used, meaning **one alienated from God**, that is, an **apostate**. The related verb *cha-neph'* means be inclined away from the right relation to God, or pollute, lead to **apostasy**. [Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros, by L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, Leiden, 1958, p. 317]

## •• Apostasy In Israel

- The first two commandments of the Law condemned all **apostasy**.
- You must not have any other gods against my face. (**Exodus 20:3**)
- You must **not make for yourself a carved image or a form** like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. (**Exodus 20:4**)
- You must **not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them**, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Exodus 20:5**)
- But exercising loving-kindness toward the thousandth generation in the case of those who love me and keep my commandments. (**Exodus 20:6**)
- And before Israel's entry into the Promised Land, they were warned against the grave danger of **apostasy resulting from marriages with the people of the land**.
- And you must **form no marriage alliance with them**. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (**Deuteronomy 7:3**)

- For he will turn your son from following me, **and they will certainly serve other gods**, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. **(Deuteronomy 7:4)**
- Even though a person who was inciting others to **apostasy** was a close relative or a marriage mate, **he was to be put to death for having spoken of revolt against Yehowah your God.**
- In case a prophet or a dreamer of a dream arises in your midst and does give you a sign or a portent. **(Deuteronomy 13:1)**
- And the sign or the portent does come true of which he spoke to you, saying; **Let us walk after other gods, whom you have not known, and let us serve them.** **(Deuteronomy 13:2)**
- You must not listen to the words of that prophet or to the dreamer of that dream, because Yehowah your God is testing you to know whether you are loving Yehowah your God with all your heart and all your soul. **(Deuteronomy 13:3)**
- After Yehowah your God you should walk, and him you should fear, and his commandments you should keep, and to his voice you should listen, and him you should serve, and to him you should cling. **(Deuteronomy 13:4)**
- And that prophet or that dreamer of the dream should be put to death, because **he has spoken of revolt against Yehowah your God**, who has brought you out of the land of Egypt and has redeemed you from the house of slaves, to turn you from the way in which Yehowah your God has commanded you to walk, and you must clear out what is evil from your midst. **(Deuteronomy 13:5)**
- In case your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or your cherished wife or your companion who is like your own soul, should try to allure you in secrecy, saying; **Let us go and serve other gods**, whom you have not known, neither you nor your forefathers. **(Deuteronomy 13:6)**
- Some of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, the one's near you or those far away from you, from one end of the land to the other end of the land. **(Deuteronomy 13:7)**

- You **must not accede to his wish or listen to him**, nor should your eye feel sorry for him, nor must you feel compassion, nor cover him protectively. (**Deuteronomy 13:8**)
- But you should kill him without fail. Your **hand first of all should come upon him to put him to death**, and the hand of all the people afterward. (**Deuteronomy 13:9**)
- And you **must stone him with stones, and he must die**, because he has sought to turn you away from Yehowah your God, who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves. (**Deuteronomy 13:10**)
- Then all Israel will hear and become afraid, and they will not do anything like this bad thing again in your midst. (**Deuteronomy 13:11**)
- In case you hear it said in one of your cities, which Yehowah your God is giving you to dwell there. (**Deuteronomy 13:12**)
- Good-for-nothing men have gone out from your midst that they may try to turn away the inhabitants of their city, saying; **Let us go and serve other gods**, whom you have not known. (**Deuteronomy 13:13**)
- You must also search and investigate and inquire thoroughly, and if the thing is established as the truth, this detestable thing has been done in your midst. (**Deuteronomy 13:14**)
- You should **without fail strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword**. Devote it and everything that is in it, and its domestic animals, to destruction at the edge of the sword. (**Deuteronomy 13:15**)
- The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh **were quick to exonerate themselves of a charge of apostasy** that arose because of their construction of an altar.
- At this the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh answered and spoke with the heads of the thousands of Israel. (**Joshua 22:21**)
- Divine One, God, Yehowah, Divine One, God, Yehowah, he is

knowing, and Israel, he too will know. **If it is in rebellion and if it is in unfaithfulness against Yehowah, do not save us this day.** (Joshua 22:22)

- If it was to build for ourselves an altar so as to turn back from following Yehowah, and if it was to offer up burnt offerings and grain offerings on it, and if it was to render up communion sacrifices on it, Yehowah himself will search out. (Joshua 22:23)
- Or if it was not rather out of anxious care for something else that we did this, saying; In a future day your sons will say to our sons; What do you have to do with Yehowah the God of Israel? (Joshua 22:24)
- And there is a boundary that Yehowah has put between us and you, the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad, namely, the Jordan. You have no share in Yehowah. And your sons will certainly make our sons desist from fearing Yehowah. (Joshua 22:25)
- Hence we said; Let us take action in our behalf, please, by building the altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice. (Joshua 22:26)
- But that it may be a witness between us and you and our generations after us that we shall render the service of Yehowah before him with our burnt offerings and our sacrifices and our communion sacrifices, that your sons may not say in a future day to our sons; You have no share in Yehowah. (Joshua 22:27)
- So we said; And it must occur that in case they should say that to us and to our generations in a future day, we must also say; See the representation of Yehowah's altar that our fathers made, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, but it is a witness between us and you. (Joshua 22:28)
- **It is unthinkable, on our part, to rebel** of our own accord against Yehowah and to turn back today from following Yehowah by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering and sacrifice besides the altar of Yehowah our God that is before his tabernacle! (Joshua 22:29)
- Many of the kings of Israel and of Judah followed an **apostate** course for example, Saul,



- I do regret that I have caused Saul to reign as king, because **he has turned back from following me, and my words he has not carried out.** And it was distressing to Samuel, and he kept crying out to Yehowah all night long. **(1 Samuel 15:11)**
- Although Saul would inquire of Yehowah, **Yehowah never answered him,** either by dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets. **(1 Samuel 28:6)**
- Finally Saul said to his servants; **Seek for me a woman who is a mistress of spirit mediumship,** and I will go to her and consult her. Then his servants said to him; Look! There is a woman who is a mistress of spirit mediumship in En-dor. **(1 Samuel 28:7)**
- **Jeroboam;**
- Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; **It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel,** that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. **(1 Kings 12:28)**
- Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. **(1 Kings 12:29)**
- And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. **(1 Kings 12:30)**
- And he began to make a house of high places and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. **(1 Kings 12:31)**
- And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in Judah, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and he put in attendance at Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. **(1 Kings 12:32)**
- **Ahab,**
- And Ahab the son of Omri proceeded to do worse in the eyes of Yehowah than all those who were prior to him. **(1 Kings 16:30)**
- And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him

- to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took **as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians** and began to **go and serve Baal and to bow down to him**. (**1 Kings 16:31**)
- Further, he **set up an altar to Baal at the house of Baal** that he built in Samaria. (**1 Kings 16:32**)
  - And Ahab went on to make the sacred pole, and Ahab came to do more to offend Yehowah the God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that happened to be prior to him. (**1 Kings 16:33**)
  - **Ahaziah;**
  - As for Ahaziah the son of Ahab, he became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, and he continued to reign over Israel for two years. (**1 Kings 22:51**)
  - And he kept doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes and went walking in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin. (**1 Kings 22:52**)
  - And he continued serving Baal and bowing down to him and kept offending Yehowah the God of Israel according to all that his father had done. (**1 Kings 22:53**)
  - **Jehoram,**
  - And he went on walking in the way of the kings of Israel, just as those of the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's own daughter had become his wife, and he **continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes**. (**2 Chronicles 21:6**)
  - And Yehowah did not want to bring the house of David to ruin, for the sake of the covenant that he had concluded with David, and just as he had said he would give him and his sons a lamp always. (**2 Chronicles 21:7**)
  - In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah and then made a king to reign over them. (**2 Chronicles 21:8**)
  - So Jehoram together with his chiefs passed over and also all the

- chariots with him. And it came about that he rose up by night and went striking down the Edomites that were surrounding him and also the chiefs of the chariots. ([2 Chronicles 21:9](#))
- But Edom kept up its revolt from under the hand of Judah down to this day. It was then that Libnah began to revolt at the same time from under his hand, because he had left Yehowah the God of his forefathers. ([2 Chronicles 21:10](#))
  - He himself also had made high places on the mountains of Judah, that he might cause the inhabitants of Jerusalem to have immoral intercourse, and that he might drive Judah away. ([2 Chronicles 21:11](#))
  - Eventually there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, This is what Yehowah the God of David your forefather has said; Due to the fact that you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father or in the ways of Asa the king of Judah. ([2 Chronicles 21:12](#))
  - But you walk in the way of the kings of Israel and cause Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to have immoral intercourse the same way that the house of Ahab caused the having of immoral intercourse, and even your own brothers, the household of your father, who were better than you, you have killed. ([2 Chronicles 21:13](#))
  - Look! Yehowah is dealing a great blow to your people and to your sons and to your wives and to all your goods. ([2 Chronicles 21:14](#))
  - And you will be with many sicknesses, with a malady of your intestines, until your intestines have come out because of the sickness day by day. ([2 Chronicles 21:15](#))
  - **Ahaz,**
  - Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem, and **he did not do what was right in Yehowah's eyes** like David his forefather. ([2 Chronicles 28:1](#))
  - But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even molten statues he made of the Baals. ([2 Chronicles 28:2](#))

- And he himself **made sacrificial smoke in the valley of the son of Hinnom** and proceeded to **burn up his sons in the fire**, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 28:3**)
- And he regularly sacrificed and made sacrificial smoke on the high places and upon the hills and under every sort of luxuriant tree. (**2 Chronicles 28:4**)
- **And Amon,**
- And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, just as Manasseh his father had done, and to all the graven images that Manasseh his father had made Amon sacrificed, and he continued serving them. (**2 Chronicles 33:22**)
- And he did not humble himself because of Yehowah the same as Manasseh his father humbled himself, **for Amon was one that made guiltiness increase**. (**2 Chronicles 33:23**)
- **In due time a nation of apostates developed because the people listened to apostate priests and prophets.**
- For both the **prophet and the priest themselves have become polluted**. Also **in my own house I have found their badness**, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 23:11**)
- Therefore this is what Yehowah of armies has said against the prophets; **Here I am making them eat wormwood, and I will give them poisoned water to drink**. For from the prophets of Jerusalem **apostasy** has gone forth to all the land. (**Jeremiah 23:15**)
- **And other unprincipled men who, by smooth words and false sayings, led them into loose conduct, immorality, and desertion of Yehowah, the source of living water.**
- Against an **apostate** nation I shall send him, and against the people of my fury I shall issue a command to him, to take much spoil and to take much plunder and to make it a trampling place like the clay of the streets. (**Isaiah 10:6**)
- **Because the senseless one himself will speak mere**

senselessness, and his very heart will work at what is hurtful, to work at **apostasy** and to speak against Yehowah what is **wayward**, to cause the soul of the hungry one to go empty, and he causes even the thirsty one to go without drink itself. (**Isaiah 32:6**)

- As for the unprincipled man, his instruments are bad, he **himself has given counsel for acts of loose conduct, to wreck the afflicted one's with false sayings**, even when someone poor speaks what is right. (**Isaiah 32:7**)
- There is a saying; If a man should send away his wife and she should actually go away from him and become another man's, should he return to her anymore? **Has that land not positively been polluted? And you yourself have committed prostitution with many companions, and should there be a returning to me?** is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 3:1**)
- O Yehowah, the hope of Israel, all those who are leaving you will be put to shame. Those **apostatizing** from me will be written down even in the earth, because they have left the source of living water, Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 17:13**)
- And the very land has been polluted under its inhabitants, for they have bypassed the Laws, changed the regulation, broken the indefinitely lasting covenant. (**Isaiah 24:5**)
- The very land became polluted **Hebrew *cha-nephah'*** under its inhabitants, for they have **bypassed the laws, changed the regulation, broken the indefinitely lasting covenant**. No mercy was to be granted them in the predicted destruction.
- That is why Yehowah will not rejoice even over their young men, and upon their fatherless boys and upon their widows he will have no mercy, **because all of them are apostates and evildoers and every mouth is speaking senselessness**. In view of all this his anger has not turned back, but his hand is stretched out still. (**Isaiah 9:17**)
- You people conceive dried grass. You will give birth to stubble. Your own spirit, as a fire, will eat you up. (**Isaiah 33:11**)
- And peoples must become as the burnings of lime. As thorns cut away, they will be set ablaze even with fire. (**Isaiah 33:12**)

- Hear, you men who are far away, what I must do! And know, you who are nearby, my mightiness. (**Isaiah 33:13**)
- In Zion the sinners have come to be in dread, shivering has grabbed hold of the **apostates**. Who of us can reside for any time with a devouring fire? Who of us can reside for any time with long-lasting conflagrations? (**Isaiah 33:14**)
- And I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and I will cut off from this place the remaining one's of the Baal, the name of the foreign-god priests along with the priests. (**Zephaniah 1:4**)
- And those who are bowing down upon the roofs to the army of the heavens, and those who are bowing down, making sworn oaths to Yehowah and making sworn oaths by Malcam. (**Zephaniah 1:5**)
- And those who are **drawing back from following Yehowah** and who have not sought Yehowah and have not inquired of him. (**Zephaniah 1:6**)

### •• What Characteristics Identify Apostates

- An **apostasy among professed anointed Christians** was foretold by the apostle Paul at,
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the **apostasy** comes first and **the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction**. (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**)
- He specifically mentioned certain **apostates**, such as **Hymenaeus, Alexander, and Philetus**.
- Holding faith and a good conscience, which some have **thrust aside** and have experienced **shipwreck concerning their faith**. (**1 Timothy 1:19**)
- **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander** belong to these, and I have handed them over to Satan that they may be taught by discipline **not to blaspheme**. (**1 Timothy 1:20**)
- But shun empty speeches that violate what is holy, for they will

- advance to more and more ungodliness. (2 Timothy 2:16)
- And **their word will spread like gangrene**. **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus** are of that number. (2 Timothy 2:17)
  - These **very men** have **deviated from the truth**, saying that the **resurrection has already occurred**, and they are subverting the faith of some. (2 Timothy 2:18)
  - For all that, the solid foundation of God stays standing, having this seal. Yehowah knows those who belong to him, and; Let everyone naming the name of Yehowah renounce unrighteousness. (2 Timothy 2:19)
  - Among the **varied causes** of **apostasy** set forth in apostolic warnings were, **lack of faith**.
  - Beware, brothers, for fear there should ever develop in any one of you **a wicked heart lacking faith by drawing away from the living God**. (Hebrews 3:12)
  - **Lack of endurance** in the face of persecution,
  - However, keep on remembering the former days in which, after you were enlightened, you **endured a great contest under sufferings**. (Hebrews 10:32)
  - Sometimes while you were being exposed as in a theater **both to reproaches and tribulations**, and sometimes while you became **sharers with those who were having such an experience**. (Hebrews 10:33)
  - For you both **expressed sympathy for those in prison** and **joyfully took the plundering of your belongings**, knowing you yourselves have a better and an abiding possession. (Hebrews 10:34)
  - Do not, therefore, throw away your freeness of speech, which has a great reward to be paid it. (Hebrews 10:35)
  - For you have **need of endurance**, in order, that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the fulfillment of the promise. (Hebrews 10:36)
  - For yet a very little while, and he who is coming will arrive and

- will not delay. (**Hebrews 10:37**)
- But **my righteous one will live by reason of faith**, and, if he **shrinks back**, my soul has no pleasure in him. (**Hebrews 10:38**)
  - Now we are not the sort that **shrink back to destruction**, but the **sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul**. (**Hebrews 10:39**)
  - **Abandonment of right moral standards,**
  - **Abandoning the straight path**, they have been misled. They have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the reward of wrongdoing. (**2 Peter 2:15**)
  - But got a reproof for his own violation of what was right. A voiceless beast of burden, making utterance with the voice of a man, **hindered the prophets mad course**. (**2 Peter 2:16**)
  - These are fountains without water, and **mists driven by a violent storm**, and for them the blackness of darkness has been reserved. (**2 Peter 2:17**)
  - For they utter swelling expressions of no profit, and by the desires of the flesh and by loose habits they entice those who are just escaping from people who conduct themselves in error. (**2 Peter 2:18**)
  - While they are promising them freedom, they themselves are existing as slaves of corruption. For whoever is overcome by another is enslaved by this one. (**2 Peter 2:19**)
  - Certainly if, after having escaped from the defilements of the world by an accurate knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they get involved again with these very things and are overcome, the final conditions have become worse for them than the first. (**2 Peter 2:20**)
  - For it would have been better for them not to have accurately known the path of righteousness than after knowing it accurately to **turn away from the holy commandment** delivered to them. (**2 Peter 2:21**)
  - The saying of the true proverb has happened to them: The **dog**



has returned to its own vomit, and the sow that was bathed to rolling in the mire. (2 Peter 2:22)

- The heeding of the counterfeit words of false teachers and misleading inspired utterances,
- However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very one's will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)
- Furthermore, many will follow their acts of loose conduct, and on account of these the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. (2 Peter 2:2)
- Also, with covetousness they will exploit you with counterfeit words. But as for them, the judgment from of old is not moving slowly, and the destruction of them is not slumbering. (2 Peter 2:3)
- However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)
- By the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron. (1 Timothy 4:2)
- Forbidding to marry, commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who have faith and accurately know the truth. (1 Timothy 4:3)
- But shun empty speeches that violate what is holy, for they will advance to more and more ungodliness. (2 Timothy 2:16)
- And their word will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of that number. (2 Timothy 2:17)
- These very men have deviated from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are subverting the faith of some. (2 Timothy 2:18)
- For all that, the solid foundation of God stays standing, having

- this seal. Yehowah knows those who belong to him, and; Let everyone naming the name of Yehowah renounce unrighteousness. (**2 Timothy 2:19**)
- **By his mouth** the one who is an **apostate** brings his fellowman to ruin, but by knowledge are the righteous rescued. (**Proverbs 11:9**)
  - **And trying to be declared righteous by means of Law,**
  - **See! I, Paul, am telling you that if you become circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. (Galatians 5:2)**
  - **Moreover, I bear witness again to every man getting circumcised that he is under obligation to perform the whole Law. (Galatians 5:3)**
  - **You are parted from Christ,** whoever you are that try to be **declared righteous by means of Law.** You have fallen away from his undeserved kindness. (**Galatians 5:4**)
  - **While still making profession of faith in God's Word, apostates may forsake his service by treating lightly the preaching and teaching work that he assigned to followers of Jesus Christ.**
  - **Why, then, do you call me Lord! Lord! But do not do the things I say? (Luke 6:46)**
  - **And this Good News of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)**
  - **Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)**
  - **Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (Matthew 28:20)**
  - **They may also claim to serve God but reject his representatives, his visible organization, and then turn to beating their former associates to hinder their work.**

- Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 28:20**)
- Too bad for them, because they have gone in the path of Cain, and have rushed into the erroneous course of Balaam for reward, and have perished in the rebellious talk of Korah! (**Jude 1:11**)
- When Korah got all the assembly together against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting, then Yehowah's glory appeared to all the assembly. (**Numbers 16:19**)
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying; (**Numbers 16:20**)
- Separate yourselves from the midst of this assembly, that I may exterminate them in an instant. (**Numbers 16:21**)
- Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? (**Matthew 24:45**)
- Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. (**Matthew 24:46**)
- Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings. (**Matthew 24:47**)
- But if ever that evil slave should say in his heart; My master is delaying. (**Matthew 24:48**)
- And should start to beat his fellow slaves and should eat and drink with the confirmed drunkards. (**Matthew 24:49**)
- The master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and in an hour that he does not know. (**Matthew 24:50**)
- And will punish him with the greatest severity and will assign him his part with the hypocrites. There is where his weeping and the gnashing of his teeth will be. (**Matthew 24:51**)
- **Apostates** often seek to **make others their followers**.
- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted

- things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (Acts of Apostles 20:30)
- However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very one's will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)
  - Also, with covetousness they will exploit you with counterfeit words. But as for them, the judgment from of old is not moving slowly, and the destruction of them is not slumbering. (2 Peter 2:3)
  - Such one's willfully abandoning the Christian congregation thereby become part of the antichrist.
  - Young children, it is the last hour, and, just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now there have come to be many antichrists, from which fact we gain the knowledge that it is the last hour. (1 John 2:18)
  - They went out from us, but they were not of our sort, for if they had been of our sort, they would have remained with us. But they went out that it might be shown up that not all are of our sort. (1 John 2:19)
  - As with the apostate Israelites, destruction is likewise foretold for apostates from the Christian congregation.
  - However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very one's will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)
  - For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 6:4)
  - And who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the coming system of things. (Hebrews 6:5)
  - But who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance,

because they **impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame. (Hebrews 6:6)**

- For example, the ground that drinks in the rain which often comes upon it, and that then brings forth vegetation suitable to those for whom it is also cultivated, receives in return a blessing from God. **(Hebrews 6:7)**
- But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected and is **near to being cursed, and it ends up with being burned. (Hebrews 6:8)**

### **See Also ASSOCIATION**

- During the period of persecution that the early Christian congregation experienced at the hands of the Roman Empire, professed Christians were at times induced to deny their Christian discipleship, and those who did so were required to signify their **apostasy** by **making an incense offering before some pagan god** or by **openly blaspheming the name of Christ.**
- It is evident that there is a distinction between a **falling** due to weakness and the **falling away** that constitutes **apostasy**. The latter implies a **definite and willful withdrawal from the path of righteousness.**
- Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, and **so sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)**
- You know too that that one was **made manifest to take away our sins**, and there is no sin in him. **(1 John 3:5)**
- Everyone remaining in union with him **does not practice sin**, no one that practices sin has either seen him or come to know him. **(1 John 3:6)**
- Little children, let no one mislead you, **he who carries on righteousness is righteous**, just as that one is righteous. **(1 John 3:7)**
- **He who carries on sin originates with the Devil**, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, namely, to break up the works of the Devil. **(1 John 3:8)**

- If anyone catches sight of his brother sinning a sin that does not incur death, he will ask, and he will give life to him, yes, to those not sinning so as to incur death. **There is a sin that does incur death.** It is **concerning that sin that I do not tell him to make request.** (1 John 5:16)
- All unrighteousness is sin, and yet **there is a sin that does not incur death.** (1 John 5:17)
- Whatever its apparent basis, whether intellectual, moral, or spiritual, it constitutes **a rebellion against God and a rejection of his Word of truth.**
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the **apostasy** comes first and **the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction.** (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- **He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone** who is called god or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, **publicly showing himself to be a god.** (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

**See Also MAN OF LAWLESSNESS**