

# The Great Apostasy

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB 2020)** No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

**Apostasy: g0646. ἀποστασία apostasia; defection from truth (properly, the state) (“apostasy”): — falling away, forsake.**

## I. There will be a falling away (Apostasy).

**1 Timothy 4:1 (NASB 2020)** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.

**2 Timothy 4:3 (NASB 2020)** For the time will come when they will **not tolerate sound doctrine**; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires,

## II. How does it happen?

### 1. Offense

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NKJV)** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own **conscience seared with a hot iron**,

**Matthew 16:22-23 (NKJV)** Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “**Far be it from You, Lord: this shall not happen to You!**” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

**Matthew 13:57-58 (NASB 2020)** And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “**A prophet is not dishonored except in his hometown and in his own household.**” And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

**Matthew 11:6 (NASB 2020)** And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me.”

**Matthew 24:10-12 (NASB 2020)** And at that time many will **fall away**, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will rise up and **mislead many people**. And because **lawlessness is increased**, most people’s love will become cold.

**Acts 24:16 (NKJV)** This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

**1 Peter 2:8 (NKJV)** “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

**When Offenses has happened, you began to devalue: People, the Word, Church, Prayer, stop supporting...**

### 2. Scripture

**John 8:31-32 (ESV)** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “**If you abide in my word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”

**Hosea 4:6 (ESV)** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge,

**Matthew 22:29 (ESV)** But Jesus answered them, “**You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.**”

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB 2020)** All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

### 3. The way of Righteousness (Holiness).

**1 Peter 1:14-16 (NASB 2020)** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your **ignorance**, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also **in all your behavior**; because it is written: “**YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.**”

**Hebrews 12:14-15 (NKJV)** Pursue peace with all people, and **holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone **fall short of the grace of God**; lest any root **of bitterness springing up cause trouble**, and by this many become defiled;

**Holiness: g0038. ἁγιασμός hagiasmos; from 37; the effect of consecration; sanctification of heart and life.**

**Hebrews 12:16 (NASB 2020)** that there be no sexually immoral or godless person like Esau, **who sold his own birthright** for a single meal.

**WHAT ARE YOU GIVING YOUR BIRTHRIGHT UP FOR?**