

# The School of Prophecy Part 3

## Lesson 2: The Great Apostasy

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NIV** - *Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.*

### The Departure from Truth

1. Before the Second Coming of Christ, the scripture says there will be a rejection of the Truth of the Gospel.
2. The Greek word translated as “rebellion” is *apostasia*, from which we get the word “apostasy.”

Rebellion - a defection, revolt, apostasy; to deviate from the right path; to turn aside; to wander aimlessly; to abandon the worship of God

3. Apostasy is a deliberate abandonment from a formerly held position. It is a change of one's previously held belief system rooted in scripture to a denial of God's Word.

**Hebrews 3:12-14 AMP** - *12 Take care, brothers and sisters, that there not be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart [which refuses to trust and rely on the Lord, a heart] that turns away from the living God. 13 But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “Today” [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication]. 14 For we [believers] have become partakers of Christ [sharing in all that the Messiah has for us], if only we hold firm our newborn confidence [which originally led us to Him] until the end.*

4. Paul warned Timothy that in the Last Days some will depart from the faith of the Gospel.

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 AMP** - *But the [Holy] Spirit explicitly and unmistakably declares that in later times some will turn away from the faith, paying attention instead to deceitful and seductive spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 [misled] by the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared as with a branding iron [leaving them incapable of ethical functioning].*

Depart - to become unraveled (as woven threads); to break apart; to depart from life

5. Departure from the Word of God results in giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.

Seduce - to draw aside or entice from the path of rectitude and duty in any manner, by flattery, promises, bribes, or otherwise; to tempt and lead to iniquity; to corrupt; to deprave

6. In the Last Days, people will believe doctrines of demons that will result in a new kind of spirituality.

### **What is “Doctrines of Demons?”**

- A doctrine created by demons that will always deny the deity of Jesus Christ. A doctrine that denies the Cross as the only means of salvation is a doctrine of demons.

**1 John 4:1-6 AMP** - *Beloved, do not believe every spirit [speaking through a self-proclaimed prophet]; instead test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets and teachers have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know and recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges and confesses [the fact] that Jesus Christ has [actually] come in the flesh [as a man] is from God [God is its source]; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus [acknowledging that He has come in the flesh, but would deny any of the Son’s true nature] is not of God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is now already in the world. 4 Little children (believers, dear ones), you are of God and you belong to Him and have [already] overcome them [the agents of the antichrist]; because He who is in you is greater than he (Satan) who is in the world [of sinful mankind]. 5 They [who teach twisted doctrine] are of the world and belong to it; therefore they speak from the [viewpoint of the] world [with its immoral freedom and baseless theories—demanding compliance with their opinions and ridiculing the values of the upright], and the [gullible one of the] world listens closely and pays attention to them. 6 We [who teach God’s word] are from God [energized by the Holy Spirit], and whoever knows God [through personal experience] listens to us [and has a deeper understanding of Him]. Whoever is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know [without any doubt] the spirit of truth [motivated by God] and the spirit of error [motivated by Satan].*

7. In these Last Days of the “Great Rebellion,” to finish strong and remain faithful to Christ, we must continue to go deeper into Jesus.

**Colossians 2:7 NKJV** - *...rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*