

To Depart from the Faith

vs.

Departure from the Earth

2 Thessalonians 2:4-7

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1

Now (moving on to an important issue) **we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** (Rapture) **and our gathering together to Him**, (another word or expression for Rapture—*gathering together with Him*, which is what the local assembly represents.)

2

that you not be quickly shaken from your mindset, or be disturbed (in your understanding of eschatology) **either by a demon or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.** (There is no rapture and you are now in The Tribulation.)

Another important point from this verse is the role of angels. Here fallen angels or demons. We have seen how important angels are throughout the history of mankind.

Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it* (The Tribulation) ***will not come unless the departure comes first***, (departure of the Church and with that departure, the taking out of the HOLY SPIRIT or the restrainer) **and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, the son of destruction,**

We spent last week on the correct translation and understanding of ***APOSTASIA*** as departure, referring to the departure of the Church from the earth at The Rapture. Part of the confusion is that many see 2 Thessalonians 2:3 as referring to the apostasy of the Church that is movement away from the Faith by believers.

So we spent time in four categories to determine to what Paul is referring.

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| 1 | Lexicon definition of the Greek word and saw that one of its primary meanings is departure . |
| 2 | Historical understanding in which we look at the first 7 English translations of the Bible, translated this word departure |
| 3 | Context of chapter 2, namely verses 6-8 |
| 4 | The emphasis of the definite article: ‘The Departure’ |

This careful study left us to understand –**The Departure**, referring to the departure of the church at The Rapture or Gathering Together of the Church to Meet the Lord in the Air.

But there is another verse in the New Testament that many confuse with this verse in 2 Thessalonians 2.

So let us take a look at this verse.

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ **But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,**

From a casual reading of this passage sounds like what a misunderstanding of 2 Thessalonians 3:3 is saying, but let us take a closer look at 1 Timothy 4:1

But the Spirit this is a reference to God the Holy Spirit—who inspires the writing of every verse in the Word of God.

Explicitly says The Greek adverb means just that –distinctly, explicitly **says** This is developed in the doctrine of Divine Inspiration of the Word of God; how the Holy Spirit guides the writers of Scripture to write down exactly what God would have them to say, not violating their own vocabulary.

That this conjunction is used after words of speaking to introduce what is being said **in later times** the Greek adjective for a Greek; word that is used only of time and means later or refers to the termini or the last days of the church.

Plus the Greek word that according to Lexicons has no English equivalent; **times** which does not refer to succession of minutes but to a period of occurrences or opportunities. The word is used in various ways in the New Testament but here refers to appointed time, set time or certain season.

THE FIRST QUESTION that arises is

WHO SETS THIS TIME?

God sets this time. History is set by God Himself.

SECOND QUESTION

What period of times does this refer?

This involves an elaborate study of Dispensations or Time Periods in the Plan of God:

Age of Gentiles (Adam to Abraham)

Age of Israel (Abraham to Jesus Christ)

Church Age (Day of Pentecost to Rapture);

Tribulation (Seven years after Rapture—last 7 years promised to Israel by God)

Millennium (last 1000 years of history of mankind—reign of JESUS CHRIST on earth)

So here in the context of time 1 Timothy 4:1

latter times refers to the latter times of the Church Age.

As to how long of time this refers, we do not know.

1 Timothy 4:1

¹

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times
(nearing the termination of the Church Age) **some will fall**
away from the faith,

Now we come to the crucial distinction between 1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

The word the Holy Spirit uses here for **falling away** is the Greek word **APHISTEMI**: intransitive use:

→to withdraw, →to remove oneself, →to forsake,
→desert, →to cease from something.

However, you will recall that the Greek word used in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 was **APOSTASIA** departure.

The First word **APHISTEMI** is used for moving away from Faith in God in Luke 8:13, Hebrews 3:12 and here in 1 Timothy 4.

Some will fall away from the faith

FAITH IS THE BATTLE

and in the midst of turmoil, testing and tribulation.

That is...

<i>Trust</i>	Faith in JESUS CHRIST,	<i>Trust</i>
<i>Trust</i>	Faith in Holy Spirit,	<i>Trust</i>
<i>Trust</i>	Faith in God,	<i>Trust</i>
<i>Trust</i>	Faith in the Word of God.	<i>Trust</i>

Oh, believer, we are warned against falling away from walking by Faith.

Hebrews 3:12

¹²

Take care, (Present tense means every day in your life and this Greek word emphasizes what is going on in your mind— pay close attention to what is going on in your life)
brethren, (these are born again believers; these people are saved) **that there not be in any one of you an evil,** (used in many different references in the Bible, but here) **an evil heart** (is one which thinks contrary to the Word of God.)

unbelieving (you do not believe what the Bible says;
once you did believe this but no longer)

heart that falls away (this is our word *APHISTEMI* to remove
oneself)

from the living God (The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the
Only Living God.)

QUESTION

How Do You Fall Away From The Living God?

Stop believing, Sin of unbelief.

Take care—(be alert as to what is going in your mind)

---Eve fell, long before she ate of the forbidden fruit.
It started in her mind, as she listened to the Serpent.

People, you have to pay attention to
what is going on in your mind.

I am getting tired of going to Bible study;

I am getting tired of being different than everyone else in this society;

I am interested in talking with another person other than my husband or wife

Take Care

Pay Attention to your **thoughts** and **control your thinking**

...SIN STARTS IN THE MIND

IN OUR THINKING.

Take care, brethren (believer in JESUS CHRIST) **that there not be in any one of you** (you may think that, well, I am not important in society so I am not all that important to God—oh yes you are, you are in Christ and Christ is in you...you are very important to God--and to me!!)

an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away
(no Calvinism here, this is your decision, your choice to move
away from God and His Plan)
that falls away from the living God.

And I must add here that
you have three declared enemies
to **Walking by Faith** and **Living in the Holy Spirit.**

- ¹ **THE WORLD**—being politically correct;
- ² **THE FLESH**—your own flesh nature and its desires that are
always in opposition to the desires of the Holy Spirit.
- ³ **THE DEVIL** who seeks to deceive you as he deceived Eve.

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ **But the Spirit** (Holy Spirit in inspiration of writing Scripture)
explicitly says that in later times (end of the Church Age)
some (not all but some—those who do not Take Care, who do not
Pay Attention to what is going on in their minds)
will fall away (make personal volitional decision to pull away
from what they know to be truth)
from the faith, (and as you pull away in your thinking from
truth, you start listening to Satan's schemes and doctrines.)

This also means that in the later times, many will not believe in Jesus
as the Christ.

paying attention to deceitful spirits demons, what is
important is that word *deceitful* we can all be deceived, we must be
on guard
and doctrines of demons,

Doctrines of Demons are doctrines that are not found in the Word of God but are distortions of Scripture or **deceitful teachings**.

These doctrines center on **religious beliefs**,
contrary to the Word of God
and to **political ideologies**,
also contrary to the Word of God;
and to **morality**, what is moral and what is not.

- ... That premarital sex is OK,
- ... That adultery is not sin
- ... That homosexuality is not a perversion of God's design;
- ... That disregard for authority is admirable.

At the foundation of the deceitful Doctrines of Demons is **self, satisfaction of self, and making you feel good!**

And when you buy into that, you have just entered Doctrines of Demons.

2 Timothy 4:3

³

For the time will come (end of the Church Age) when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

This environment as history moves to the end of the Church Age is further described by Paul.

2 Timothy 3:1

1	But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. (Church Age)
2	For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
3	unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
4	treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
5	holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.
6	For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,
7	always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
8	Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these <i>men</i> also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.
9	But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

So we have the description of the condition of the Church at the closing days of the Church Age. (1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Timothy 3:1-9)
These conditions do not center or even mention what is going on in the world, but what is going on in the church.

A falling away of faith and of sound doctrine.

Now back to 2 Thessalonians 2:4...

And things will reach a point where God simply calls home the Church and that is described as the Departure of the Church in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

Not only is the dictator of the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE the Antichrist; he is also **man of lawlessness and son of destruction**, 2 Thessalonians 2:3,

but when the Church is removed, he is revealed and he announces himself **the declared enemy of God**- 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

⁴

who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Two distinct and deliberate actions...

(a) he opposes God and (b) he exalts himself.

Who opposes Present Middle Participle of the verb meaning to place oneself in opposition: The Middle Voice here confirms that this is his mind-set—to put himself in opposition to the only True God.

What is important here is the run of definite articles describing this being in history:

verse 3

the man of lawlessness

and

the son of destruction

and now

the one who opposes

this participle with the definite article can be translated as a substantive:
“the Adversary” “the enemy” “the supreme enemy of God”

and exalts himself **And exalts himself** the word means more than just to exalt himself, it includes the Mental Attitude of being insolent, highly arrogant, to show off! But I must add here, that even though he exalts himself above God and is arrogant, most people in his kingdom will praise him and it will not bother them that he exalts himself above the True God, because they do not believe in the True God.

Exalts himself is also a present middle participle. So we see this man continually opposing God and continually exalting himself throughout the 7 years of The Tribulation.

There are two different actions here:

first *opposes* then *exalts* He opposes God, he opposes the worship of God; the place of God on earth and in heaven.

and exalts himself above every so-called god (that is) **above** (over, more important than, with the idea that he, himself is the only true God.) **everything being called god or object of worship,**

so that—(goal or objective of exalting himself) **so as to— he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**

To be worshipped as God. Idolatry-throughout-his empire. First he will enter the temple...probably the Holy of Holies and sit in the place to be worshipped, and then he will set up the abomination of desolation (*that causes desolation*) that will be set up in Jerusalem in the middle of The Tribulation.

This also tells us that in the first 3 ½ years of The Tribulation Jews will construct a temple in Jerusalem. (Revelation 11:1-2)

He will declare that he is greater than the true God.

Revelation 13:4 reveals how man will worship him.

Idolatry will run rampant in the seven years of Tribulation.

1	He will declare that he is greater than the true God. Revelation 13:4 reveals how man will worship him. Idolatry will run rampant in the seven years of Tribulation.
2	Remember that he is empowered by Satan, who, himself thinks he is greater than the true God, that is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
3	We know from Revelation 16:13 that he will use demons to control the empire and promote the doctrines of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1
4	After 3 ½ years of exalting himself, he begins to believe that he is god, and goes into Temple of Jerusalem and puts up an image of himself to be worshipped—by the Jews.
(1)	The False Prophet of Israel is in agreement with the dictator (Revelation 13) and actually leads in having this statute put up, and worshipped.
(2)	This again reveals that in The Tribulation, Jerusalem, in fact all Israel is the center of contention. That the man of lawlessness lust after Israel and to be worshiped in the land promised by God to Israel reveals the importance of the Jews to history. As will be seen in the Armageddon campaign Israel is the major issue in the period of The Tribulation. All nations hate the Jews and lust to control Israel. This is why we have seen that if you desire to understand history from God’s perspective you must understand the history of the Jews and that includes the period Church Age.

5 He will personally go into the Temple of Jerusalem (which the people, not God, will construct in the first half of The Tribulation) and set up this image of himself to be worshipped.

6 Although this has not happened in history as yet, it was prophesied by Daniel over 2500 years ago.

Daniel 9:27

27 **“And he** (this is the one that Paul calls the Lawless one and the Son of Destruction. Dictator of the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE in The Tribulation.)
will make a firm covenant (for the protection of Israel.)

The coming Prince of the people who will destroy the temple in 70 ad. He will make this treaty with Israel near the beginning of The Tribulation.

with the many this is a reference to the unbelieving Jews who do not know history prophesied. The leader of Israel, the false prophet will make this treaty to protect Israel from the three other world powers who also are devising plans to overtake Israel. This is not difficult for us to grasp in light of all that is going on throughout the world in anti-Semitism.

for one week, (that is the treaty is made between Dictator of the Kingdom to the West and Israel, for one 7 year period, Daniel’s 70th week) **but in the middle of the week** (after 3 ½ years)

he (the man of sin, the son of destruction) **will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering;** (in Israel)
and on the wing of abominations (this is the statute of abomination of desolation – a statue of himself to be worshiped in the temple)

will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, (Son of Destruction) **one that is decreed,** (by the true God) **is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”** (This is the dragon of Revelation 12, Who empowers the prince of Rome to come.)

2 Thessalonians 2:4 is understood from Daniel 11:36.

Then the king will do as he pleases the dictator of the **REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE** sometimes referred to as the **Antichrist**, According to Revelation once he gains full control, he will rule his empire as he pleases, and moves to annihilate all Jews. He will not be restrained by a congress or council or judges. Not one of the ten subordinate kings will dare to stand against him.
and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god

It is difficult to distinguish between **to exalt** and **to magnify**
It would be easy if it meant **exalt himself over all mankind and magnify himself above every god**, but the structure here is that **he both exalts magnifies himself above every god and magnifies himself above every god.**

To grasp the importance of this phrase you have to remember that each nation's god was imbedded in that nation's culture. This man will set himself above all cultures throughout his empire. He is not of any one nation but he is the leader of the world. He sets himself up above every nation, every culture and every god including the one True God.

and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods;

The word translated *monstrous things*;

NIV	<i>unheard of things;</i>
New Living Translation	<i>even blaspheming the God of gods;</i>
English Standard Version	<i>speak astonishing things</i>
Now watch the King James	<i>and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods.</i>
NET bible	<i>he will utter presumptuous things against God.</i>
Young's Literal Translation	<i>and against the God of gods he speaketh wonderful things.</i>

The Hebrew word (transliterated) **PALA** basically means “wonder” “astonishing” and is mostly used in describing the wonders of God in creation and all He did for Israel.

I think you get the idea, what is going on here: from marvelous things against to monstrous things against.

But here Holy Spirit moves Daniel to use this word as the strongest designation he can for what the Antichrist will say against the True God of gods.

Today man uses Jesus Christ in a derogatory manner and even curses God in movies and art.

But all this is nothing compared to the astonishing things this beast will say against the

*True God,
the Only God,
the God of Scripture.
Our God*

and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

Note Daniel 8:19

¹⁹

He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for *it* pertains to the appointed time of the end.
(End of Tribulation, at the Return of Christ to earth.)

This antichrist will have a limited time of apparent prosperity. Limited by the very God he boasts over! He will be permitted to execute Divine Discipline against Israel (The Indignation) and the world; That is until the anger of the Lord against His people is accomplished.

Just as Nebuchadnezzar was allowed in the time of Daniel taking Israel into 70 years of captivity. Here, this antichrist in for 3 ½ years will become dictator of the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE.

And remember people all over the world will bow to him for he brings a pseudo-peace and world prosperity to everyone who

receives his mark. For three-and-one-half-years no one will be able to stop this man until Christ, the God-man comes and personally ends his rule.

Please know something about future history and all through history.

The Antichrist of The Tribulation will prosper by Divine order, not because of his own intrinsic power, although he will think he is great. God is working out His plan for history, and for all of us who study the Word of God to learn, that He is in control, for His own glory, and righteousness, including who becomes President of USA.

for that which is decreed will be done!

The anger of the Lord against His people is irrevocably *determined by God*.

From the time of **Nimrod** and the **Tower of Babel** man has been trying to usher in a utopia environment and government, **without God**, Just as we are doing today.

This nation was founded on Biblical Principles but man is trying to get rid of God and the Bible and these Biblical Principles and form a utopia without God. It has never been accomplished and in this final scene of history God is showing man that it cannot be done.

Please let this be a lesson in **wisdom** to each one of you, people, for this applies to your personal lives. So many Christians try to make their own world wonderful, doing it their way, without God, only to find emptiness at the end. Man is trying to accomplish this with economic wisdom, with pleased goals, etc., only to find at the end of their journey... emptiness.

2 Thessalonians 2:5

5

Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? (For your advantage; to inform you of future events for your peace and courage, and to protect you from false teaching.)

This is a horrible thing to happen to believers –TO FORGET SOUND DOCTRINE!

This is why it is up to the Pastor-Teacher to keep on studying and teaching.. but also repeating

...and why it is up to you to keep on hearing—THIS IS A WARNING TO ALL BELIEVERS.

It is so important to continually grow in sound doctrine
and
Live Each Day Witnessing for Christ
and
Anticipating Being Gathered to Him in the Air.

What you have for all eternity
is so much more important
than what you have on earth in time.

Live in time in its relationship with eternity.