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CROSS A Message from
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Question: Would you please explain the “apostasy” to me?

Answer: The word “apostasy” comes from the Greek “apostasia” and means a revolt or defection. The New Testament gives a detailed account of how early Christians would depart from the faith.

Paul warned the elders in Ephesus of savage wolves, or false teachers, coming into the church, not sparing the flock. *“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves,” (Acts 20:30).* So, initially, the apostasy occurred when elders, or bishops, assumed more authority for themselves than God gave them. These men began to teach for doctrines the commandments of men, resulting in *“vain worship” (Matt. 15:9).* From this select group of men, one was chosen to demand total power.

Paul said a *“falling away”* would occur before Jesus’ 2nd coming. He described it in terms of a *“man of sin...the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.”* In other words, this man would assume power for himself claiming to be as infallible and holy as God Himself!

Furthermore, Paul described the apostasy by saying, *“...in later times, some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...”* These doctrines would include *“...forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving...” (1st Tim. 4:1-4).* As you examine these warnings in light of man’s teachings today, it doesn’t take great insight to see that these prophecies have all come true!

--Steve McCaslin