

APOSTASY FROM GOD'S TRUE WORD

****Apostasy** is the abandonment of one's religious beliefs. It is to **leave** one's biblical principles or core beliefs.

A. Israel's apostasy was **fore**told that it would happen by them:

1. Amos 3:1-2 - Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, Amos 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

Amos 2:10-12 - Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. Amos 2:11 And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. *Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD.* Amos 2:12 But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

Deuteronomy 31:27-29 - For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death? Deut. 31:28 Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them. Deut. 31:29 For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.

2. God had told them prior in: Deuteronomy 31:16 - [And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.]

B. Even **Jesus** in the Gospels acknowledged Israel's apostasy.

Matthew 23:37 - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

1. Stephen in Acts 7 stated Israel's slide from truth: Acts 7:51-52 - [Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye. Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:]
2. Question? Why did Israel repeatedly stray?

Answer: Israel developed an easiness - **what**ever attitude toward God and His Word. God's Word was His gift that He had **entrusted** with Israel!

C. Apostasy has the foundation that its authority is its own imagination, feelings, and heart on any issue. Apostasy rejects God's absolute truth of His Word. The problem with following your own **heart** is:

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Proverbs 28:26 - He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

1. Some ministers begin to preach/teach their own views as the truth. They cease to interpret the Bible, but only use it to spring board to their own views on issues.
2. They then turn on those who do hold to God's Word as absolute truth by viciously attacking them. Then finally if they can, they try to remove those who do not hold to their views.

II Chronicles 36:15-16 - And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: 2Chron. 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was* no remedy.

D. When Christ came, Israel was spiritually dark.

1. Most Israelites lived by hearsay and not by God's absolute Word.

John 7:40-43 - Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. John 7:41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? John 7:42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? John 7:43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

2. As soon as Jesus began His ministry (the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand), the religion of that day began to attack Him. If they were all Jews, having the same Judaism, then why attack Him?
3. Note: Jesus followed, or was part of Judaism whose faith's foundation was the Word of God, called the

The Torah. *The faith of the religious leaders of Israel was (wrongly) based upon the Talmud.
The Talmud was man's additions to God's Word (like the R.C.C.'s Apocrypha).

E. Jesus believed the entire O.T., just as it was given to Moses and the prophets. The Torah means the Law.

1. Jesus and the common people believed the Torah was the only true preserved revelation from God to His people.

2. However, the majority of the religious leaders overwhelmingly did not. They believed what was added (250-200 B.C.), that came alongside the Torah and came to be called the Talmud.

3. More liberal rabbis and religious leaders say Torah, that, simultaneously when the Law was given to Moses,
God also gave "oral laws" - called the Talmud. Like the written Law, the oral laws were of supernatural origin from God. (But it created false doctrine!). So Judaism's leaders began memorizing the Talmud's rituals, traditions, philosophies, and rabbis' opinions to supplement God's true Word.

4. Even though different, the oral laws - the Talmud (man's additions) became equal with the written

Torah - God's Word. Remember what God said about adding to His Word?

Deuteronomy 12:32 - What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Proverbs 30:5-6 - Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
Pro. 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

*Hitler said: "Repeat a lie often enough and it will become believable."

F. This difference, in what the Word was, created an explosive dialogue between Jesus and Israel's leaders.

1. *They did not believe the same message because they did not follow the same Scriptures!
 2. Jesus had come to fulfill the Law. It wasn't the Law that Jesus was refuting, but rather the Talmud - oral laws - manmade opinions that the apostate Jewish leaders had used to replace God's Word. The Talmud produced erroneous doctrines, creating a false Judaism.
 3. Notice Jesus' encounters with the religious leaders. Notice that Jesus does not say: "You have read in the law of Moses (the Torah), but He says: "You have heard" (Talmud)!
- Matthew 5:17-18 - Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Matt. 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:21-22 - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: Matt. 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:27-28 - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: Matt. 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:33-34 - Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: Matt. 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

Matthew 5:43-44 - Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. Matt. 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

*Jesus was dismissing their traditions based on the Talmud and sought to reestablish the authority of Moses - written revelation. When Jesus would say: "But I say unto you", He took them to a higher principle within Moses' laws.

G. Israel's Torah's apostate leaders gave lip service to written revelation but acted and taught the additions of oral laws.

1. Israel's sin was that they didn't believe in their own God Torah, -given Scriptures. Their faith was in the wrong Scriptures, the Talmud (oral traditions).

John 5:45-47 - Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. John 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

2. Following is an example of how this created conflict.

- a. Mark 7:1-3 - Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. Mark 7:2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. Mark 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash *their* hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

*The real issue wasn't the washing of hands, but Jesus' disciples were not being obedient to the Talmud (the tradition of the elders). Jesus does not let this go by, but He **rebukes** them.

- b. Mark 7:6 - He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.

*Jesus quotes Isaiah [as it is written].

- c. Mark 7:7 - Howbeit Torah, in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

*The leaders' worship was in **vain** because they used the Talmud.

- d. Mark 7:8 - For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

*They put **off** the absolute commandments and followed the error of the Talmud [the tradition of men].

- e. Mark 7:9 - And he said unto them, Full Torah well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

*Again, they rejected the Talmud - **error** as their foundation for their belief system. (Today, KJV-no! But yes to NIV or ESV!).

- H. Jesus would always bring Israel's Torah religious apostates back to written revelation, absolute truth given in God's Word, the

1. Jesus would Torah. say [Have ye not read] the written Word?

2. Matthew 12:2-3, 5 - But when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day. Matt. 12:3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; Matt. 12:5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

Matthew 19:4 - And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,

Matthew 21:16 - And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Matthew 21:42 - Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Matthew 22:31-32 - But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, Matt. 22:32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

I. It's amazing how wrong and unkind one becomes by leaving God's absolute truth - His Word.

1. Today most of Christendom in American has left the K.J.V., even though it is the best English translation from the correct manuscripts.

*Yet we have seen a flood of new versions (Talmud) taking control. It reminds me of those religious leaders of Israel who diminished God's true Word by injecting their own thoughts and opinions.

2. To me, today's apostates are misleading the masses by manufacturing their own Talmud, and the proof is in its fruit!

J. Notice what happens when believers leave the true Word of God:

1. It keeps the masses lost - Matthew 23:13 - [But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.]
2. It creates prosperity stealing - Matthew 23:14 - [Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.]
3. It creates false professions - Matthew 23:15 - [Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.]
4. It makes one to think about what is in it for them - Matthew 23:16 - Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!
5. It makes legalism the priority, not the Spirit or heart - Matthew 23:23 - [Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.]
6. It makes one outwardly religious, but inwardly greedy and materialistic - Matthew 23:25 - [Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.]
7. It creates hypocrisy (inside they are spiritually dead) - Matthew 23:27 - [Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.]
8. It causes pride in thinking you are more spiritual than those of old - Matthew 23:29-30 - [Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, Matt. 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.]

*Israel left God's Word, causing apostasy. They then relied on the **errors** of the Talmud (oral additions) - enforcing laws, rules, regulations, pressure, punishment, jailings, stonings, theft, taxes, and wrong doctrines to live their exorbitant lifestyles. Religious rulers were ruthless!

Remember:

Psalm 12:6-7 - The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Psalm 12:7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Psalm 119:89, 152, 160 - For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. Psalm 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 59:21 - As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

I Peter 1:23, 25 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Revelation 22:18-19 - For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Rev. 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

1. Allis: "Consequently, it is often asserted or assumed that the usage of the Authorized Version represents the speech of 300 years ago, and that now, three centuries later, it should be changed to accord with contemporary usage. But this is not at all a correct statement of the problem. The important fact is this: THE USAGE OF THE AUTHORIZED VERSION IS NOT THE ORDINARY USAGE OF THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY. IT IS THE BIBLICAL USAGE BASED ON THE STYLE OF THE HEBREW AND THE GREEK SCRIPTURES."
2. Token: "I think that this writing down flattening, Bible-in-basic-English attitude is responsible for the fact that so many older children and younger people have little respect and no love for words and very limited vocabularies."
3. Allis: "It is only in very recent days that the Christian people have raised objections to the former language of devotion and worship. When the present century began, people did not raise objections to what we may call a scriptural and biblical style as the language of devotion and worship. They liked it. They did not want the Bible to read just like any other book, to have the up-to-the minute style of the daily newspaper. They loved its quaint, if you wish to call it that, its distinctive, its Biblical way of putting things."