

Chapter 1 of : The Great Dream

THE DIMINISHING GROUND OF THE ABSOLUTE

1 Peter 4:11 **If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God....**

Any man who publicly presents and defends his opinions in religious matters is CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR GOD. If a man is unwilling to PUBLICLY accept responsibility for CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR GOD, then he should keep his OPINIONS to himself. **My brethren, be not many masters** (Grk. TEACHERS), **knowing that WE** (who present ourselves as teachers) **shall receive the greater condemnation** (James 3:1). Those, therefore, who will present themselves as TEACHERS, have thereby claimed EQUALITY with James, a man that God used to write one of the books of the Bible. He, therefore, who will teach his errors to other men, is in greater danger of judgement than he who keeps his errors to himself. There is no suggestion here that we must claim INERRANCY before we dare to speak for God, but that we must be ready and willing to LIVE BY and DIE FOR whatever we speak to others as God's representatives. To teach and defend what we know in our own hearts as only SURMISINGS and SPECULATIONS, is to commit the sin of the Pharisees:

Matt.23:4 **For they bind heavy burdens, and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.**

Someone who stands in awe of your claim to SPEAK FOR GOD may very well take your advice and guide their life according to your counsel. If your teaching leads them into ruin, heresy, failure, or misery, YOU CAN BET, friend, that God will call you to account for it. You will do well to never forget that....

GOD HAS AN OPINION

God is NOT an OMNIPOTENT, AUTOMATED JUGGERNAUT, but is in EVERY WAY a REAL PERSON. God knows Who He is, and He knows that He is not me, or you. God knows all about us, and He has His own opinions about what we are up to. If God cannot have OPINIONS, then He is less than a man, and even less than a beast-for even a beast has likes and dislikes.

When God, therefore, expresses His OPINION to us: that is what we call THE WORD OF GOD. Whether God's OPINION is written, spoken, or discovered in any way, if it is GOD'S OPINION, then IT IS The Word of God. God LIKES and AGREES WITH some things, and God DISLIKES and DISAGREES WITH other things. You can know, therefore, that I KNOW, that GOD HAS AN OPINION. But.....

Ps.11:3 **If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

As I began to write this book, I asked myself: Why write a book that refers to the Bible for PROOF and EVIDENCE when no one really cares about what the Bible says anymore? I know about all those people who claim to "believe in" the Bible: I DON'T BELIEVE THEM. I have been ready to discuss, debate, or argue about the Bible for 21 years. I don't think I have met even 10 professing Christians who changed their doctrine, their religious affiliations, their plans, or their lifestyles, JUST AND ONLY because they were shown "what the Bible says". In the past 3 years I haven't newly met A SINGLE PERSON who was ready to make any major changes in their life OR put themselves at any risk JUST AND ONLY because of "what the Bible says".

Theological debate is treated like A GAME WITH NO STAKES: a GAME, that is played by people who are more concerned with feeling like they won an argument than with LEARNING or PROVING any Truth. There is NO FEAR OF GOD in these people: they obviously don't believe there is a REAL GOD "out there" somewhere Who is looking in and judging the matter, and Who will eventually get around to VINDICATING SOMEBODY and REPUDIATING SOMEBODY ELSE. This apparent DELAY in the VINDICATION of the Truth has given men the courage to despise the idea of TRUTH, altogether.

Ecc1.8:11 **Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.**

But, this is just another one of those Bible quotations that no one cares about anymore. Even so, for the sake of those who like to amuse themselves with theological trivia, I thought I might venture an explanation for this phenomenon-**NOT THAT IT WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE** to you whether I am right or not, for we all know, **DON'T WE?** that theology is just an intellectual amusement for religious people who have a little spare time to waste. Some folks like to play chess, and some folks like to debate religion. In either case, both chess and religion have to wait until after dinner, or after the lawn is mowed, or after we have had our nap; furthermore, if you have discovered that the particularities of your religion seem to have little or no effect on the realities of **YOUR** life, your first priorities have to be the really important things, like accumulating money, pacifying your family, maintaining your property, and earning the praise of the men of This World (John 12:42-43). **NO DOUBT...** after dinner, if your favorite television show is not on, if your car doesn't need washing, if it won't interrupt your plans for the evening, and **ONLY** if you are **SURE** that your opinions will not be challenged or contradicted: **NO DOUBT...**you may spare me 15 or 20 minutes to talk about religion, **BUT**, I had better not be too pushy about it, or demand a **REASON** for your opinion: for **THEN** you are **SURE TO REMEMBER** something "real important" that you simply **MUST** attend to immediately.

Is.8:20 **To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**

Oops! There I go again, **QUOTING THAT BIBLE**, as if by doing so I will actually prove something! Besides...who knows how long we can argue about what the law is, and what the testimony is, and what "light" means. The words "subject to interpretation" must be the **NATIONAL ANTHEM** of Modern Christendom, for I hear them more than any other, and by reciting these 3 "magic words", you think to smother any **ANNOYING FACT** beneath a fog of **NOMINALISM**. It matters not if I produce dictionaries, lexicons, and heaps of Bible quotations to prove my point. It matters not if I quote from the Church Fathers, or the Reformers, or even from your own favorite scribe, for by **THESE 3 WORDS**-**"subject to interpretation"**-every man **NOW** claims the right to design his own universe and also to change it at his own convenience. Oh! How **QUICK** everyone is to remember their "rights". They remind me that they only have to answer to "their" god, and **NOT MINE**. This makes all theological debate into a **WAR OF THE GODS**, in which, apparently, **ALL THE GODS ARE IMPOTENT**.

This "flight into nominalism" is what makes theological debate so vain and tiresome. In modern Christendom, you can always forecast who the so-called "winner" in any religious debate shall be, by inquiring into how much freedom each contestant has to despise his opponent! The one who can afford to show the most contempt thinks he is the "WINNER" EVERY TIME.

All of this just goes on and on, while people live and die around us like rats. Even when someone has misery, failure, tragedy, self-destructive habits, and conspicuous sin in their life, they no longer see this as evidence of any error in their faith, for the modern philosophical convenience of a mechanical universe that ignores EVERY religion, and that ONLY and ALWAYS obeys the dead, cold, and impersonal laws of science (1 Tim.6:20), allows them all to demand pity and call themselves "innocent victims". The denial that there is only one Plain Truth before us, and that IT IS OBVIOUS to all, amounts to a denial that God has made a revelation to The World. The Bible is no longer received as a plain and clear description of reality, because IT DOES CONTRADICT science, falsely so called (1 Tim.6:20), AND BECAUSE, in religious matters, words are no longer held captive to their ordinary definitions. I do not anticipate, in writing this book, to convert ANYONE to my point of view. You who read this will only be hardened into whatever you already were.

Jer.6:16 **Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.**

One wonders if it has always been so. How can I know, since I have only lived in my own lifetime. Of course, we have BOOKS that tell us about how things used to be, but being BOOKS, these also are "subject to interpretation". Besides, us "modern folks" know everything they knew, plus a lot more, DON'T WE?, so those ancient promulgators of ignorant superstition cannot dictate a world-view to us! Those people lived in a world in which whatever was SIMPLY OBVIOUS was TRUE.

Certainly, no one from those ignorant days, before we made science superior to religion, can have anything to say to us. No, we must have our microscope to get to the truth, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE MICROSCOPE: the scientist has it! We'll let him tell us the truth, but then, even when he tells us, we DARE NOT COMMIT OURSELVES, for there

is a bigger and better microscope in the works. When the scientist gets the "new and improved" microscope, he will tell us the real truth, BUT STILL, we will wait until we have checked with all the other scientists, for they have been known to disagree with each other. Even after we have finally consulted with hundreds of scientists who all agree, there are good reasons to wait, and not commit ourselves. There might be one scientist we missed, and then, they are still working on a better microscope.

This is **THE DIMINISHING GROUND OF THE ABSOLUTE**: when the longer and harder you look, the more faint everything becomes. In religious matters, this is illustrated by what has happened to the Bible. After 1500 years of arguing, squabbling, and research, Christendom produced a Greek Text for the New Testament called **THE TEXTUS RECEPTUS**. It was from this text that we got the King James Bible. All was supposedly settled in the matter, and for the next 300 years, the King James Bible was regarded as authoritative and final by the Protestant world. There were 9 minor revisions, and 4 major revisions of the King James Bible between 1611 and 1769: none of which went any further than minor adjustments to the English translation. There were never any significant challenges to the text from which the translation was made, and none of the changes that were made through these 13 separate revisions affected doctrine or theology in the least. Very few people today are aware of these revisions, or that the King James Bible, as originally issued, included the Apocrypha as a separate section between the testaments.

The English speaking world had a settled, sure, and **RELIABLE** Bible. This established an **AUTHORITY FOR TRUTH** in matters of doctrine, to which all Protestants publicly obliged themselves to submit. The King James Bible became **THE GROUND OF THE ABSOLUTE** for Christians: the **UNIMPEACHABLE** authority on every matter of faith, morals, ethics, and doctrine. The general acknowledgement that there was **ONLY ONE SAVING TRUTH** and that it was **CLEARLY** expressed in The Bible received the blessing and affirmation of God, in that what resulted were the greatest missionary efforts, and the greatest revivals of personal holiness, in history. Christians **TRUSTED** their Bible: they were **CONFIDENT** that it was **THE VERY WORD OF GOD**.

But **NOW**, Christendom is completely saturated with a veritable **HOST** of "trendy translations", and "revised revisions", and "polished paraphrases", which not only differ from the King James Version in form and expression (which is not always bad), but also in **SUBSTANCE** and **CONTENT** (and this, is very bad). So-called "Modern Scholarship" has told us that the Bible we have now is **NOT RELIABLE**: So, these new "versions" completely omit, discredit, or change, scores of Bible verses that once stood as the walls of a canyon around the narrow way (Matt.7:14) of truth. On every page there are all those

LITTLE NOTES that tell you that you CAN'T REALLY TRUST WHAT YOU'RE READING. We are told that these DOUBTS and questions about the CONTENTS of the Bible are the product of "better scholarship and recently discovered evidence."

SO,

I GUESS WE BETTER WAIT, AND NOT COMMIT OURSELVES: for these "scholars" are sure to get around to introducing another "new and improved Bible": one that shall FINALLY tell us the real truth. This is **THE DIMINISHING GROUND OF THE ABSOLUTE**: when the longer and harder you look, the more faint everything becomes.

Anyone who consults these "new and improved" versions will be led to believe that NO BIBLE can be trusted. Not only do these "scholars" challenge and discredit the King James Version, but they challenge and discredit all the other "new and improved" versions. They even discredit their OWN VERSION, by inserting all those LITTLE NOTES. In essence, they say: "We have an APPROXIMATELY correct Bible".

NOW WHO,

I ASK YOU,

is going to risk their MONEY, their CAREER, their HEALTH, their FAMILY, or their very LIFE, on the counsel of a Bible that admits to being full of errors, and which MAY OR MAY NOT BE CORRECTED LATER?

Are you?

If I say, THE BIBLE SAYS THIS: they say, "That verse was added in the 10th century, so it has no authority".

If I say, THE BIBLE SAYS THAT: they say, "My version doesn't read like that".

WHERE DOES THIS END?

It ends.....in APOSTASY.

2Tim.3:16-
17

**All scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for**

correction, for instruction in righteousness.

**17 That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

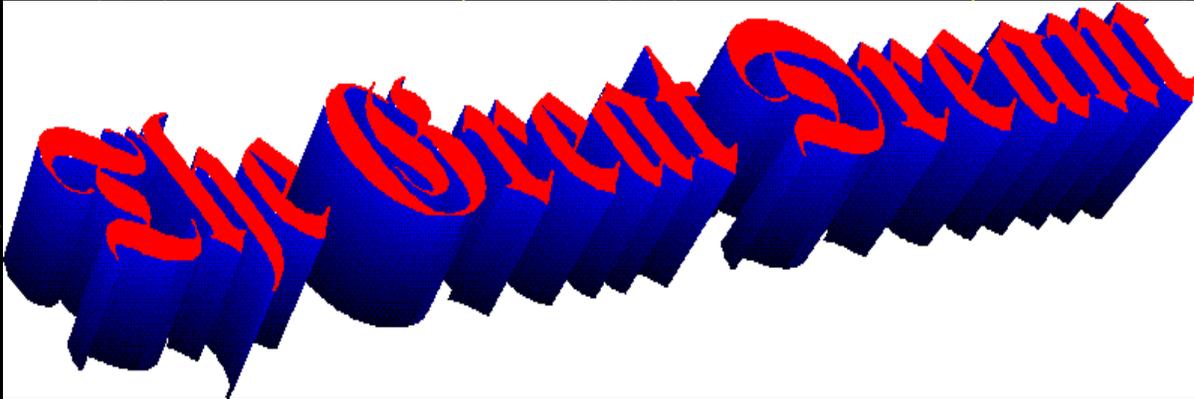
THE END IS HERE!THE CHOICES ARE CLEAR!

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Questions or responses: [e-mail](#) to "US" (1John 4:6)

Here we are at the end of this age. Most of the leaders of Christendom are proclaiming that Christendom's best days are just ahead of us. In contrast, we have the testimony of Jesus Christ and all of His Apostles that the last days would be characterized by The Great And Final Apostasy Of Christendom.



BOOK: THE GREAT DREAM

-The Great And Final Apostasy Of Christendom, described.

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Chapter 2 of : The Great Dream

The Famous Final Scene

So here we are: many now say that we are on the brink of the greatest revival of Christianity since the Book of Acts: even surpassing the worldwide revival of the 1800's and the now nearly forgotten "Jesus People" of the late 60's and early 70's. There is also much talk about The Close of The Age and the Coming of Christ: which talk provokes a sense of urgency to hurry up and get done what can be done, so that when Christ arrives, He will find **a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish** (Eph.5:27). This statement is taken by many as a prophecy that describes the state of Christendom at The End of This Age. Isn't that wonderful? We have also discovered the key to unity: Forget our differences and cooperate in the things we agree on. One of the things we agree on is this: that Christ would **build His church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it** (Matt.16:18). The fact that we don't agree on what Jesus meant by saying, **Many are called, but few are chosen** (Matt. 22:14) has now become insignificant. There are but 3 requirements being made of those who wish to be recognized as real Christians in these **last days: PUBLIC MORALITY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, (and of course) CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.**

Thus has the Lord directed me:

Isa.30:8 **Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:**

9. **That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord:**

10.

Which say to the seers, See not; and to the

**prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things,
speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:**

11. **Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.**

And thus also, has the Lord spoken to those who will not receive this testimony:

12. **Therefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel: Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:**
13. **Therefore, this iniquity shall be to you as abreach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.**
14. **And He shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; He shall not spare; so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.**

On December 12, 1990, God commanded me through the Holy Scripture and by the witness of the Holy Ghost to write a book announcing, describing, and denouncing The Great and Final Apostasy of Christendom. I have no idea who my audience is. It has become by now quite obvious that absolutely no one besides the few we are has any interest in the fact that the Bible plainly predicts that the churches of Christendom will be in a state of terminal apostasy both BEFORE and at the return of Jesus Christ. It has been my sad and disheartening discovery that the peoples of Christendom, and especially their leaders, are all liars. What makes them liars, is that they willfully refuse to acknowledge what, in particular, the Bible has to say about **the last days** of Christendom.

Now I am sure that there are many who will be inquiring into my motives for writing this. "What", you may wonder, "is he after?" But my answer to you is this:

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? All I am going to do here is present you with a 'book report' on what the Bible says about **the last days** of Christendom. Whether I am a good man or an evil man will not change WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS, and neither do I think that 'my opinions' will control the disposition of history. Those who have never endangered themselves for the sake of their "faith" will find it easy to dismiss all that they will read here; BECAUSE, in the end, they DO NOT CARE what the Bible says, and they cannot believe that anyone else really cares either. You ought to know then, that I am not writing this book for you; but for God; Who certainly knows "what I am up to", and has already decided whether I am living up to the light I have, or just inciting a controversy for some malicious and selfish purpose.

I invite you then, Dear Reader, to join me in a review of what the Bible has to say about **the last days** of Christendom. I will forewarn you: every chapter in this book will press you to make decisions about things you never thought you would have to confront. Many, upon reading THE GREAT DREAM, will be deciding all over again whether or not they really are Christians. Many, who need to call themselves Christians, will be reconsidering whether or not they want the plain language of the Christian Bible to be the sole and final authority on all matters of faith, life, and conduct: choosing rather to take the Roman Catholic view: in which the interpretations of the "publicly recognized, State subsidized, and bureaucratically certified clergy" are taken as the Very Word of God.

I invite you, then, whether out of concern for the welfare of your soul, or out of simple curiosity, to become like the Bereans, who **were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so** (Acts 17:11). Let us begin by considering the fact that every single mention of the future state of professing Christendom in the New Testament describes only continuous decay and never any improvement.

Shortly before his martyrdom, the Apostle Paul said this:

Acts.20:29 **For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.**

30.

Also of your own selves shall men arise,

speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31. **>Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.**

And there is NO, not so much as a single mention in the New Testament of any time in which this evil trend will ever be reversed; but in every case, and in every place, all of the inspired writers see nothing but infiltration by false brethren, the rise and popularity of false teachers, and the continuous corruption of Christian doctrine.

2Tim.4:3-4 **For the time will come when THEY will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall THEY heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

4. **And THEY shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

Neither here nor in any other place does the inspired Apostle say that **THEY** will ever renounce their **fables** or the **teachers** that they have **heaped to themselves**. Not only that, but they will **turn away their ears** EVEN from the hearing of **the truth**: they will be obstinately unwilling to even give **the truth** a fair hearing! Will I receive a fair hearing from you?

2Pet.2:1-3 **But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**

2. **And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be**

evil spoken of.

3. **And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.**

Please notice, again, that the inspired Apostle makes no mention here or elsewhere of any kind of reformation or revival during which these **false teachers** and their **damnable heresies** will ever be rejected. These **false teachers** arise, he says, from **among you**: they are not from outside the social network of professing Christians, but are identified as being WITH, FROM, and AMONG the Christians by the rest of the world. Because so **many shall follow their pernicious ways**, they are taken to represent Christianity itself; therefore, it will be presumed that every Christian agrees with their **pernicious ways**. This leaves those who take exception to these **damnable heresies** in an awkward position: they must denounce the whole of Christendom in order to claim allegiance to a Christianity that is NOT guilty of these **damnable heresies**, and these **pernicious ways**. The situation is this: every denominational group and independant church has and defends at least one irrefutable truth. They are not saved by holding to this one truth: but are empowered by God as "hirelings" to keep and defend this one truth. In this singular matter, they are right, and they know it. Because this one truth is denied by the other denominations, they find courage to hold out and maintain their independance. But, every one of these groups also presents and defends their own list of heresies, which heresies are obvious to everyone else. Therefore, the one truth that they present and defend against all others is labeled as just another one of their heresies; and even the one truth they embrace is **evil spoken of**. In order to embrace that one truth, you have to denounce the group that is most associated with it, or you will be regarded as a defender of their **damnable heresies** as well. If then, every denomination and independant group has and defends one or more irrefutable truths that you must receive, you have to denounce THEM ALL in order to avoid the appearance of defending their **heresies** as well.

2Pet.2:3 **And through COVETOUSNESS shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you; whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.**

And here also is one of those inspired details that most who read the Bible will have overlooked: it is said that they shall **bring upon themselves SWIFT destruction**. If all that was meant here was **SURE destruction**, then that is what would have been said. Has every false prophet and teacher of heresies in the history of Christianity been taken out by **SWIFT destruction**?No. As a matter of fact, many false prophets have lived to a grand old age in the midst of prosperity. So that places the time of the particular fulfillment of this prophecy at The End of This Age: for **THEN**, these **false teachers** will have their careers **SHORTENED** by a **SWIFT destruction**.

Tim.3:13 **But evil men and seducers shall wax WORSE and WORSE, DECEIVING, and BEING DECEIVED.**

This chapter of the Holy Writ begins with, **This know, that in the last days perilous times shall come**; and **NOWHERE** suggests that things will ever get any better before the return of Jesus Christ; but **RATHER**, that they will get **worse and worse**; that more and more people will be **deceived**; and that those who are doing the **deceiving** will become more and more **UNTEACHABLE**. In response to this ever growing deception, the Apostle recommends us to pay careful heed to **the Holy Scriptures** (2 Tim. 3:15-16), and those **Holy Scriptures** are unanimously pessimistic about the future and final state of Christendom. So let us consider a certain question which was asked by Our Lord Jesus Christ: . . . **WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMETH, SHALL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?** The answer to any rhetorical question, such as this one asked by Jesus, is always implied by the context in which the question is asked. In this case, Jesus assures us of the faithfulness of God, which is set forth as a contrast to the question (Luke 18:7-8).

THE ANSWER IS.....NO: there may be all kinds of "faith" **on the earth** when **the Son of man cometh**, but **NOT the faith which was once delivered unto the saints** (Jude 3). There are many so called "prophecy experts" around today who have made fine careers for themselves by interpreting the "signs of the times": they compete with each other in gathering evidence to prove that we are **NOW** and **INDEED** at The End of This Age. They analyze political and social trends; they come up with queer and novel ways to interpret Bible prophecy; and they are **ALL**, and **EVERY ONE** of them, **LIARS**. The **ONE "SIGN"** of The End of This Age that has the most prophetic scripture devoted to it is The Great and Final Apostasy Of

Christendom: but this they have wilfully chosen to ignore, because BRINGING UP THAT would still the applause, and jeopardize their "careers". As a matter of fact, as we shall see from the Bible itself, these modern "prophecy experts" who have refused to remind us of The Great and Final Apostasy of Prophecy are described among the very deceivers that we are told to watch out for.

EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT

2Thess.2:1-4 **Now we beseech you, brethren, (concerning) the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and our (being) gather(ed) together unto Him,**

2. **That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter, as from us, as that the Day of Christ is at hand.**

3. **Let no man DECEIVE you by any means: for that day shall not come,**

EXCEPT THERE COME A FALLING AWAY (Grk. The Apostasy) FIRST,

and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

4. **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

We are plainly told here, that before ANY RETURN of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and 'our being **gathered together unto Him**, that two distinct things will take place. **First**, there will be THE APOSTASY, and then the **man of sin**, who is the Antichrist, will **be revealed**. The words translated to "**a falling away**" in this place are '**e apostasia**' in the original. The single and only other place in the New

Testament where '**apostasia**' occurs is in Acts 21:21, where it is translated to '**forsake**.' In Acts, they are accused of apostasizing from Moses, and in 2 Thessalonians, they can only be apostasizing from Christ. In a slightly modified form, '**apostasion**', this word means 'bill of divorce.' Nowhere does this word **apostasia** occur in any form or modification in which it does not mean the unlawful and willful abandonment of a prior commitment. Not only that, but nearly every commentator in the history of Christendom has agreed that this statement, and many others like it, **PLAINLY** predict that Christendom at large will be in a state of **APOSTASY** both **BEFORE** and **AT** the return of Jesus Christ.

The simple and obvious purpose of these inspired and infallible words is to establish that **the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto Him**, **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT HAPPEN** until **AFTER** "The Apostasy" and the public appearance of the Antichrist. There is simply no other way to understand these words without completely ignoring or changing the normal definitions for the words of the inspired language.

These "prophecy experts" that refuse to make a faithful report about what the Bible says about **the last days** of Christendom, are, according to the inspired Apostle, attempting to **DECEIVE YOU**.

2Thess.2:5 **Remember ye not, that when I was with you, I told you these things?**

Here, Paul reminds them that he has already told them **these things**. **WHAT THINGS?** They seem to have forgotten **these things**, so he has to remind them. **YOU** have again forgotten **these things**, and so I am reminding **YOU**.

BEFORE The Day of Christ, and all that it includes; **there shall come 'a falling away' FIRST**. The Greek Original, from which the KJV is translated, reads more precisely, '**THE apostasy first**.' Take note that the Apostle does not say "**there shall come AN apostasy first**" as if to suggest a general condition of apostasy that will always be evident in Christendom. There may well have been many incidents of apostasy in the history of Christendom; and some will say that Christendom has always been 'more or less' apostate: but this is a reference to a **PARTICULAR** apostasy. There is no point in presenting "the apostasy" as a sign of the Lord's return, if this was a reference to some general condition of apostasy that would always be evident, for that would make this into a false prophecy. This is a **PARTICULAR** and **UNIQUE** apostasy that shall **come BEFORE The Day of**

Christ. This apostasy cannot be just the continuance of past errors; for then it could not seen as a sign that the end is near! In order to be a "sign", it will have to be DIFFERENT from all previous incidents and manifestations of apostasy, or it could not be noticed at all.

Most of your modern Bibles will replace the words '**Day of Christ**' with the phrase '**Day of the Lord**'. I agree with the reading in the KJV: but in any case, both **The Day of the Lord** and **The day of Christ** do refer to the same set of events; distinguished only in to whom particular parts of these events apply.

Am.5:18 **Woe unto you that desire the Day of the Lord!
To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord
is darkness and not light.**

The term **Day of Christ**, however, always refers to a time of relief and blessing for those to whom it applies. **The Day of the Lord** begins with and includes The Great Tribulation. **The Day of the Lord will not come, EXCEPT there come THE APOSTASY first.** The APOSTASY does not begin with The Great Tribulation, but BEFORE it. Furthermore, the words, **our gathering together unto Him** are more faithfully translated to '**our being gathered up into Him.**' The Greek word for '**gathering together**' is EPI-SUNAGOGES. The prefix, EPI- means "above", and SUNAGOGES means "housed, or gathered". This is not a reference to each of us coming, on foot, to Jesus after he descends to stand upon the earth; but to our **BEING GATHERED UP** or **SUMMONED FROM ABOVE** by the Lord Himself. This places **THE APOSTASY** before the Rapture and before The Great Tribulation. If we are, as many now like to say, at The End of This Age, and that Christ returns soon: then we are **NOW**, according to the Bible, also in the time of The Great and Final Apostasy of Prophecy.

Now some will see in this the declaration that we will be entering The Great Tribulation, for The Antichrist will be **revealed BEFORE the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and our being gathered up together unto Him:** thus presuming that the Antichrist cannot be **IDENTIFIED** by any of us **BEFORE** he actually comes to power. I am aware that I am now overturning 200 years of popular evangelical doctrine by saying this; for the idea that the Rapture is a 'signless event' has become a catch-phrase among prophetic expositors. But the Apostle has declared that **ANYONE** who denies that **there shall come a falling away FIRST, and that the man of sin will be revealed BEFORE The Day of**

Christ, is attempting to **deceive you**. This language could not be any plainer. But in the next verse, the Apostle distinguishes between the first public appearance of the **man of sin**, and **his time** of power.

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See Chapter 3: [WHERE IS THE LOVE?](#)

Questions or responses: [e-mail](#) to "US" (1John 4:6)
