

Test your Bible Knowledge

1. Joshua's life compared with Moses' was:

- a. longer
- b. shorter
- c. the same
- d. unknown

2. Moses was so upset with people when he saw his people worshipping the calf that he made them:

- a. eat it
- b. eat and drink it
- c. drink it
- d. break it

3. If a man lay with his uncle's wife, the penalty for this:

- a. death
- b. marriage
- c. exile
- d. payment to his uncle

Scriptures:

- 1) Joshua 24:29; Deut. 34:7
 - 2) Exodus 32:20
 - 3) Leviticus 20:20
- Fred Singleton

Private Bible studies available anytime!!

Schedule:

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:45 PM

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"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16

THE GREAT APOSTASY A Falling Away III

As we study the word of God we find that there is much the Holy Spirit has to say, regarding the great apostasy. In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, 15** the Holy Spirit teaches that before the second coming of Christ there would be a falling away and "a man of lawlessness" or "man of sin" would be revealed.

- ✓ This man of sin was going to exalt himself and oppose God. Paul warned of this while he was in Thessalonica, v.4, 5.
- ✓ During the time of the apostles he was being restrained, and the lawless one would be destroyed in the day of judgment, vs.6- 8.
- ✓ The lawless one would even perform false miracles by the power of Satan, v. 9.
- ✓ He deceives those who do not love the truth, v. 10.
- ✓ If one is not a truth seeker God will allow him to be deceived, v. 11.
- ✓ But, the eternal consequence is that he will be condemned, v. 12

In Acts 20:28-32 we find this warning ***"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."***

From these passages of scriptures we learn:

- ✓ Paul is speaking to the elders of the church in Ephesus, v. 17.
- ✓ He told them to guard themselves and their flock, v. 28.
- ✓ He told them that after his departure false teachers would come in and lead men away from the truth and from the disciples.
- ✓ There was going to be two broad areas of departure:
 - There was going to be a departure in church government, the scriptural organization of each local church.
 - There was going to be a departure in various doctrines.
- ✓ Therefore they were told to watch - v. 31 and, stay in God's Word - v. 32!

Some of the first signs of apostasy can be seen in John's epistle. About 85 A.D. John said that that many "antichrists had come." What does the word "antichrist" mean? The word "antichrists" is anyone who actively opposes God, Christ, and His teachings. (See Mt. 24:5, 24-27; Acts 20:29; 2 Tim. 3:1; 2 Pet. 2:1).

Among various religious groups there is the idea that the word "antichrist" refers to a specific person, yet to come. My friends, this teaching is not found [unfound] in the word of God. John taught that there were many "antichrists" which came (1 John 2:18-19). The lack of the article shows this to be a quality or category, not a specific person or group. An antichrist is not so much a person as a principle.

Signs of apostasy also included:

- ✓ Judaizing Teachers, binding circumcision upon the Gentiles -Galatians.
- ✓ Second coming doctrines, teaching that Christ had already returned - Thessalonians and 2 Peter.

- ✓ Some returning to Judaism- Hebrews.
- ✓ Gnosticism - 1 John.
- ✓ Internal divisions - Corinthians
- ✓ Paul warned that not everyone would preach the pure Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). When one turns to a different gospel (a perversion of the gospel of Christ), they are turning away from "Him who called you in the grace of Christ" (vs. 6-7). Those who would preach "any other gospel" will be accursed." (vs. 8-9)
- ✓ Some would use deceit and the "traditions of men" to draw Christians away from the Lord (Colossians 2:6-10).
- ✓ They would use "philosophy," "empty deceit," "tradition of men," and "the basic principles of the world" to turn saints away from God's word (v 8).
- ✓ This cheating was according to the hearts of man, not "according to Christ" (v8). - John Duvall (Why are there Division among Churches pg 4-5)

Because of such departures and divisions, we are told to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1-3). The saints were to test every teaching that they faced, because not everyone would believe in Jesus Christ. Paul put it this way, "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). There must be a standard, a rule that man must follow in order to determine the truth. So what is that standard? Is it man, church doctrine, creed books, the pope, or the preacher? No friends, it's the Word of God, i.e. the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17). I charge all to, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15). Next week if it be the Lord's will, we will take a look at some of the early departures. -Fred Singleton



"The B-I-B-L-E,

yes that's the
book for me,

I stand alone on
the Word of God

The B-I-B-L-E"

HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY? Answers 1.b 2.c 3.a