

Passages Relating to the Apostasy of the Last Times

(From J. Stuart Russell, *The Parousia, A Study of the New Testament Doctrine of Our Lord's Second Coming*, [Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983], pp. 251-254)

I. The Apostasy, predicted by our Lord

False Prophets	Mt. 7.15	“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
False Prophets	Mt. 7.22	“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name...”
False Christs	Mt. 24.5	“Many shall come in my name, and shall deceive many.”
False Prophets	Mt. 24.11	“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many”
False Christs and false prophets	Mt. 24.24	“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders.”
General defection	Mt. 24.10	“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”
	Mt. 24.12	“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

2. The Apostasy, predicted by St. Paul

False Teachers	Ac. 20.29-30	“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”
The Apostasy	II Thes. 2.3	“That day shall not come, except there come first the apostasy.”
False Apostles	II Cor. 11.13-14	“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”
False Teachers	Gal. 1.7	“But there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.”
False Brethren	Gal. 2.4	“False brethren unawares brought in.”
Deceivers and Schismatics	Rom. 16.17-18	“Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”
False Teachers	Col. 2.8	“Beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit...”
False Teachers	Col. 2.18	“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels.”
Judaising Teachers	Phil. 3.2	“Beware of dogs; beware of evil workers; beware of

		the concision.”
Enemies of the Cross	Phil. 3.18	“For many walk, of whom I have told you often...that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.”
Sensualists	Phil. 3.19	“Whose end is destruction; whose god is their belly.”
False Teachers	I Tim. 1.3-4	“That thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine; neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies.”
Judaizers	I Tim. 1.6-7	“Some having swerved, have turned aside unto vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law...”
Apostates	I Tim. 1.19	“Some having put away (faith and a good conscience) concerning faith have made shipwreck.”
Liars and Hypocrites	I Tim. 4.1-2	“Now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”
False Teachers	I Tim. 4.3	“Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats...”
False Teachers	I Tim. 6.20-21	“Avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called; which some professing have erred concerning the faith.”
False Teachers	II Tim. 2.16-18	“But shun profane and vain babblings; for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker; of whom is Hymaneus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
Immorality of the Apostasy	II Tim. 3.1-8	“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...they creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins...Men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.”
False Teachers	II Tim. 3.13	“Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”
False Teachers	II Tim. 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; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
Judaizing Teachers	Tit. 1.10, 14	“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision...Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and comments of men, that turn from the truth.”

Immoral	Tit. 1.16	“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”
---------	-----------	---

3. The Apostasy, predicted by St. Peter

False Teachers	II Pet. 2.1	“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.”
Immorality	II Pet. 2.10, 13, 14	“They walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings, while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin...”
Scoffers	II Pet. 3.3	“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.”

4. The Apostasy, predicted by St. Jude

False Teachers	Jude	Passim. See II Peter II
----------------	------	-------------------------

5. The Apostasy, predicted by St. John

Antichrist and Apostates	I Jn. 2.18-19	“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now there are many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us...”
Apostates	I Jn. 2.22	“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son.”
False Teachers	I Jn. 2.26	“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.”
False Prophets	I Jn. 4.1	“Many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
Antichrist	I Jn. 4.3	“Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”
Deceivers and Antichrists	II Jn. 7	“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”

Conclusions Respecting the Apostasy

From a consideration and comparison of these passages, it will appear—

1. That they all refer to the same great defection from the faith, designed by St. Paul “the apostasy.”
2. That this apostasy was to be very general and widespread.
3. That it was to be marked by an extreme depravity of morals, particularly by sins of the flesh.
4. That it was to be accompanied by pretensions to miraculous power.
5. That it was largely, if not chiefly, Jewish in its character.
6. That it rejected the incarnation and divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ—i.e., was the predicted Antichrist.
7. That it was to reach its full development in the “last times,” and was to be the precursor of the Parousia.