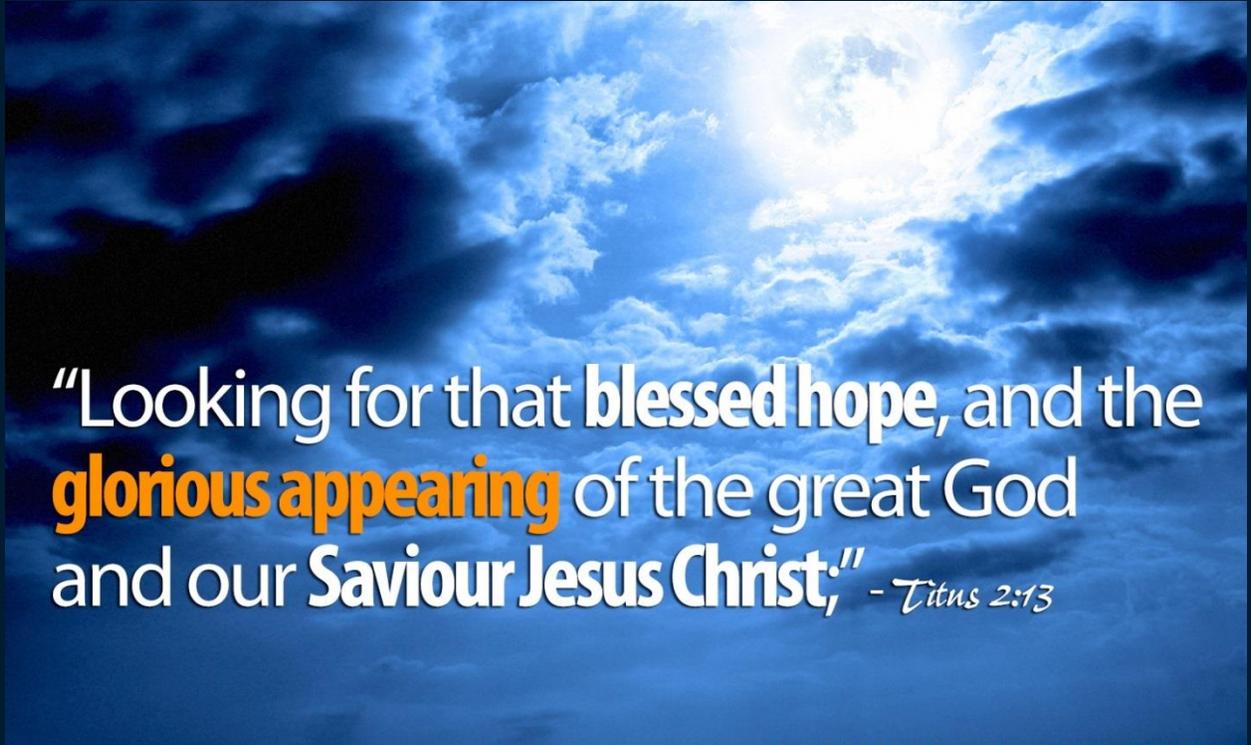


## THE DEPARTURE WITHHOLDS THE REVEALING OF THE ANTICHRIST



“Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our **Saviour Jesus Christ;**” - *Titus 2:13*

### (II Thessalonians 2)

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah, and by our assembling unto Him, that you be not suddenly moved from your mind, nor troubled neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter, as it were from us, as though the day of Messiah were at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there comes a departing first, and that that man of sin be disclosed, even the son of perdition (II Thess. 2:1-3).**

Paul's reference to the term "that day" has to do with the tribulation. He begged the Thessalonians not to be troubled, disturbed with the news from some letter they had received that that day had arrived and they were found in it. Paul emphatically said, "Let no man deceive you." For that to happen a departure must happen first and the man of perdition be revealed. Not until then. Don't you remember that when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (Vs. 5) The departure will precede the revealing of the wicked man and the tribulation. This wicked man, the Bible says, is coming by the effectual working of Satan, with all

power, and signs and lying wonders and in all deceivableness of unrighteousness, **among them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** Therefore, God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe lies (vs.9-11).

When Satan comes in a person of the wicked man or man of perdition, he will not come for the bride of Christ, but for those who have “received not the love of the truth.” It is not to the believers that God is going to send a strong delusion for them to believe lies; they are not the recipients of that, but of the blessed hope of salvation. The Greek word *apostasia* in verse three was transliterated in English as *apostasy*, or the falling away from the faith, from the truth, etc. The word *apostasia* in ancient Greek is made of two words, hence the Bible scholar Bullinger in his commentary on the subject explains: “**apo governs only one case (the genitive).** (Genitive is a word or construction case of origin, according to Webster’s dictionary; in the English language it corresponds to the possessive case) **and denotes motion from the surface of an object; it is used of motion away from a place (e.g. Matt. 3:16; 8:1; Acts 15: 38).** It marks the distance which separates the two places, or the interval of time between two events (e.g. Matt. 19:4; Acts 20: 18). It also marks the origin or source whence anything comes, such as birth, descent, residence (e.g. Matt. 2:1; 15: 1). Apo may consequently be used of deliverance or passing away from any state or condition (e.g. Matt. 1: 21; 14: 2; Mark 5: 34; Acts 13:8; Heb. 6:1). Apo would imply a cause virtually passive and more remote.”

As we learn the function of the word *apo* in its genitive form, we understand that its meaning does not reflect the word *apostasy*; it is confirmed by the earliest English Bible translators who translated the Greek word *apostasia* of II Thessalonians 2: 3a as *departure*. Here is the list: The Wycliffe Bible (1384), Tyndale Bible (1526), Coverdale Bible (1535), and the Cranmer Bible (1539), the Breeches Bible (1576), Beza Bible (1583), and the Geneva Bible (1599). But in 1611 King James translators translated the word *apostasia* as the “falling away.” This caused confusion and misunderstanding among the believers until today. The translation of the Greek word *apostasia* to “falling away or apostasy” is not contextual. Spiritual falling away had its beginnings in the first century A.D. In the book of Revelation YAHSHUA warned the church of Ephesus of their abandonment of their first love. Ephesus was the church of the first century. They had forsaken YAHSHUA- their first love. Thus, we have the beginning of apostasy

among believers. The Apostles John, Peter and Paul all dealt with the matter of apostasy in their time. The falling away is not anything new to the faith. And definitely, there is no specific “apostasy” for the definite article to be used as such. But there is without a doubt, a definite departure, unlike no other, that will take place before the antichrist is revealed.

When the physical departure is confused with the spiritual departure found in II Thessalonians chapter 2:3 it will result in fear, the mind quickly unsettled and disturbed and alarmed, as it was the case for the Thessalonians. That’s what Paul was precisely fighting against, when he wrote the Thessalonians the second time. He reminded them of the things he had taught them, by saying, “Don’t you remember when I was yet with you, I told you these things?” What things? Let’s turn the pages to I Thessalonians to find what Paul taught them in this subject: Chapter 1:10 speaks of the deliverance from God’s wrath to come; the catching up of the bride to meet with the Lord forever (I Thessalonians 4:13-18); and the assurance that God had not called the bride to wrath, but to obtain salvation through the Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah, Who died for her so that whether she is still alive or are dead [at His appearing], she might live together with Him and share His life. (I Thessalonians 5: 10).

When the Bible translators translated the word apostasia as the falling away, they changed Paul’s reason and meaning for writing this letter to the Thessalonians from comfort to worries and contextual confusion. Paul warned the Thessalonians of the need to remember what he had taught them, not to be deceived with information contrary to what they had heard from him. This contextual confusion of translation has led Christians to be angry with those who believe the word to be departure, and therefore the rapture to be before the tribulation. It has caused division among us; a thing that was not the purpose and plan for the church of Christ. YAHSHUA prayed for our unity as one, as He was one with His Father. We err, YAHSHUA said, for not knowing Scriptures neither the power of God (Matt. 22:29). Paul encouraged Timothy to study and be eager and do his utmost to present himself to God approved, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing the Word of Truth (II Tim. 2:15). Zeal without knowledge is pure ignorance; ignorance is blindness; those who have it will soon fall prey to it. Knowledge of Scriptures is a weapon that will keep the believer from falling into false teachings. The Apostle John warned us

not to put faith in every spirit but to test them. Believing the spirit of error coming from false teachers and prophets is a sign that we do not know the Word of God.

The written Word of God will never contradict God Himself; it will never contradict His plans and purposes for man and the world. Yes, there will be the departure coming our way, very soon before the man of perdition will be revealed. He will be revealed to his own, to those who are looking for him. But for those who are waiting for the Lord YAHSHUA and who love His appearance, He will be revealed to them. Watch whom you are waiting for; you might just get him! Strive to be students of God's Word and be free from spiritual confusion.

Reference: The Companion Bible, Appendix 104: Prepositions