

Compilation and commentary by Stella Paterson
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New Testament study of the word “apostasy”

The word “*apostasy*” is not found in the Bible, but the Greek word from which it is taken was translated as found in this study. It is a short study because of so few references to “falling away” or its synonyms. In spite of that fact, massive apostasy has infiltrated the Church. As Paul the Apostle said, this apostasy would occur before the second coming of Christ.

As with previous studies, the Greek words and their meanings are listed, followed by the verses in which they occur. And the quotations are from what is known as the *Revised KJV*. The reasons for this can be found in the articles on Bible versions. Personally, I am not a “Authorized KJV-only” adherent. Over the years I have learned much about the history of various versions. You will find it interesting to read about Bible versions and how they relate to apostasy.

This study will be a good reference tool to be used with the article “*What is Apostasy?*”

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#### **Greek #646**

apostasia (ap-os-tas-ee'-ah) Feminine of the same as G647

Definition: “**defection from truth (properly the state), (“apostasy”)**”

Translated: “falling away, forsake”

#### **Greek #647**

apostasion (ap-os-tas'-ee-on) Neuter of a (presumed) adjective from a derivative of G868

Definition: “**properly something separative, that is, (specifically) divorce**”

Translated: - (writing of) divorcement.

## Greek #868

aphistēmi (af-is'-tay-mee) From G575 and G2476

Definition: **“to remove, that is, (actively) instigate to revolt; usually (reflexively) to desist, desert, etc.”**

Translated: “depart, draw (fall) away, refrain, withdraw self”

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Definition: **“defection from truth (properly the state), (“apostasy”)**

Translated: “falling away, forsake”

- The words “*falling away*” and “*forsake*” were used in both the Revised KJV and the “authorized” KJV in the verses below.

2 Thessalonians 2:3(&4): “*Let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the **falling away** first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God.*”

Acts 21: (20&)21: “*And they, when they heard it, glorified God; and they said unto him, Thou seest brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of them which have believed; and they are all zealous for the law: and they have been informed concerning thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to **forsake** Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.*”

Greek #647

apostasion (ap-os-tas'-ee-on) Neuter of a (presumed) adjective from a derivative of G868

Definition: **“properly something separative, that is, (specifically) divorce”**

Translated: - (writing of) divorcement.

- The word “*divorcement*” was used in both Revised KJV and the “authorized” KJV in these next verses:

Matthew 5:31: “It was said also, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of **divorcement**.”

Matthew 19:7: “They said unto him, Why then did Moses command to give a bill of **divorcement**, and to put her away?”

Mark 10:4: “And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of **divorcement**, and to put her away.”

Greek #868

aphistēmi (af-is'-tay-mee)

Definition: “to remove, that is, (actively) instigate to revolt; usually (reflexively) to desist, desert, etc.”

Translated: “depart, draw (fall) away, refrain, withdraw self”

- Various verb tenses of the word “depart” were used in the “authorized” KJV. See the following verses for its use in the Revised Version.

Luke 13:27: “And he shall say, I tell you, I know not whence ye are; **depart** from me, all ye workers of iniquity.”

2 Corinthians 12:8: “Concerning this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might **depart** from me.”

1 Timothy 4:1: “But the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart** from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”

2 Timothy 2:19: “Howbeit the firm foundation of God standeth, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of the Lord **depart** from unrighteousness.”

Luke 2:37: “And she had been a widow even for fourscore and four years, which **departed** not from the temple, worshipping with fastings and supplications night and day.”

Luke 4:13: “And when the devil had completed every temptation, he **departed** from him for a season.”

Acts 12:10: “And when they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth into the city; which opened to them of its own accord: and they

went out, and passed on through one street; and straightway the angel **departed** from him.”

Acts 15:38: “But Paul thought not good to take with them him who **withdrew** from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.”

Acts 19:9: “But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he **departed** from them, and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.”

Acts 22:29: “They then which were about to examine him straightway **departed** from him: and the chief captain also was afraid, when he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.”

Hebrews 3:12: “Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in **falling away** from the living God.”

- The words “drew away” and “refrain” were used in both the Revised KJV and the “authorized” version in these next verses:

Acts 5:37-38(&39): “After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the enrolment, and **drew away** some of the people after him: he also perished; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered abroad. And now I say unto you, **Refrain** from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will be overthrown: but if it be of God, ye will not be able to overthrow them; lest haply ye be found even to be fighting against God.”

- The words “fall away” were used in both the Revised KJV and the “authorized” version in this verse:

Luke 8:13: “And these on the rock are they, which, when they have heard receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in the time of temptations **fall away**.”

1 Timothy 6:5: “Wranglings of men corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth, supposing that godliness is a way of gain.” [The phrase “from such withdraw thyself” is found in the “Authorized” KJV]