



# **HERESY AND APOSTASY**

## **1. Definition**

- Heresy
  - "a choice; a taking for oneself; a sect or school of philosophy".
  - a chosen course of thought or action;
  - divisions arising from different opinions and beliefs
  - doctrinal departures from revealed truth, or erroneous doctrinal views.
  - Heresy itself, which is the result of making a wrong choice among competing ideas, may have been entered into as a result of being deceived - Eph. 4:11-18
  - or of falling into a snare of Satan.
  - Heresy becomes apostasy
- Apostasy
  - Apostasy is the deliberate act of a professing Christian who knowingly and deliberately rejects revealed truth regarding the deity of Jesus Christ, redemption through His atoning sacrifice, or any part of the doctrines related to Salvation.
  - The apostate is in revolt against God.
  - He maintains an outward profession of faith and a facade of true spirituality; but he departs from the faith.

## **2. Examples of heresies**

- Doctrine of man – Mt 15:9
- Go against the revealed revelation – Acts 15:24
- Allow deceiving spirits – 1 Tim 4:1-3
- Listen to false teachers – 2 Pt 2:1
- Relying on own input – 2 Pt 3:17

## **3. How to avoid heresies**

- Know the Word – Mt 22:29, Jhn 20:9
- Continue in revealed truth – Acts 2:42
- Peace will guide you – Col 3:15
- Check thing out with Godly leaders – Heb 13:17

#### 4. Apostasy

- Satan is the author of apostasy – Jhn 8:44, 2Cor 4:4
- Demons help to carry out apostasy in the world - 1 Tim 4:1
- Examples of apostasy in the human race mentioned in Jude are:  
Cain - who rejected the Word of God and went religious.  
Balaam - who accepted a bribe to curse Israel and fell victim to slavery to the details of life.  
Korah - who led a revolt against authority, was anti-establishment.
- **Religious apostasy has many facets:**  
 False gospels: Gal 1:6-12; 2 Cor 11:3-4  
 False doctrines: 1 Tim 4:1-2; 2 Pet 2:1; 1 Jhn 4:3  
 False messiahs: Jhn 5:43; Mat 24:5  
 False prophets, teachers, and evangelists: 2 Pt 2:1; 1 Jhn 4:1; 2 COR. 11:13-15  
 False ritual: 1 Cor. 10:20-21; Rom 11:9; Is 1:10-14  
 False Gods: 1 Cor 8:5; 10:19-21  
 False righteousness: Phil 3:9; Mat 5:20
- **Characteristics of apostate doctrines:**  
 They reject the Person and work of Christ - 2 Pet 2:1; 1 Jhn 2:22-23;  
 They reject the authenticity of the Word of God - 2 Pet 3:3-4  
 They ignore the judgments of God, 2 Pet 3:5-6
- **Apostasy is judged by God:**  
 Angels were judged for their apostasy -2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6  
 Civilizations are judged for apostasy, 2 Pet 2:5.  
 Cities and national entities are judged for apostasy, 2 Pet 2:6; Jude 7;
- **Apostates are described in the Bible as:**  
 Animals of instinct, minus doctrine and minus morality, operating on emotional impulses and licentious desires - 2 Pet 2:12.  
 Fruitless trees that are twice dead; they are spiritually dead, and they will go to the Lake of Fire - Jude 12.  
 Waterless clouds, unstable, driven by the wind - 2 Pet 2:17; Jude 12.  
 Vicious waves of the sea, dangerous and to be avoided, Jude 13  
 Wandering stars, living in delusion and error – Jude 13
- **Apostasy is prevalent in the last days of each dispensation:**  
 Age of the Gentiles – Gen 11:1-9  
 Age of Israel – Rev 13; 2 Thess 2  
 Church Age, 2 Pet 3:3; 2 Tim 3:1.
- There will be no apostasy during the Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20:1-3; Col 2:15
- A brief period of apostasy will follow the Millennial reign of Christ – Rev 20:7-11.

#### 5. Summary

**Do not allow heresies in order to stay away from apostasy**