

LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS

A dramatic landscape with dark, stormy clouds and a field of bare, skeletal trees in the foreground. The scene is dark and moody, with a sense of impending doom or a desolate, post-apocalyptic setting. The trees are mostly without leaves, and the ground appears to be a mix of dark earth and some sparse, dry vegetation. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a hint of light breaking through near the horizon.

2 Thessalonians

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-12 PT. 1



“PAUL REVIEWS ESCHATOLOGY”

2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Outline:

2. The book's purpose and argument:

Observations:

- 1: 3-4 commend the church
- 1: 5-12 encouragement for the church
- 2: 1-12 correcting error in the church
- 2: 13-15 reinforce truth to the church
- 3: 1-5 request prayer from the church
- 3: 6-15 instruct the church in proper living
- 3: 16-18 blessing and conclusion



The Sequence:

1. Departure comes first



2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first,



Acts 21:21 (NKJV)

21 but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

Luke 2:37 (NKJV)

37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Luke 4:13 (NKJV)

13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Acts 12:10 (NKJV)

10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

2 Corinthians 12:8 (NKJV)

8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

“Departing First” or “Falling Away”

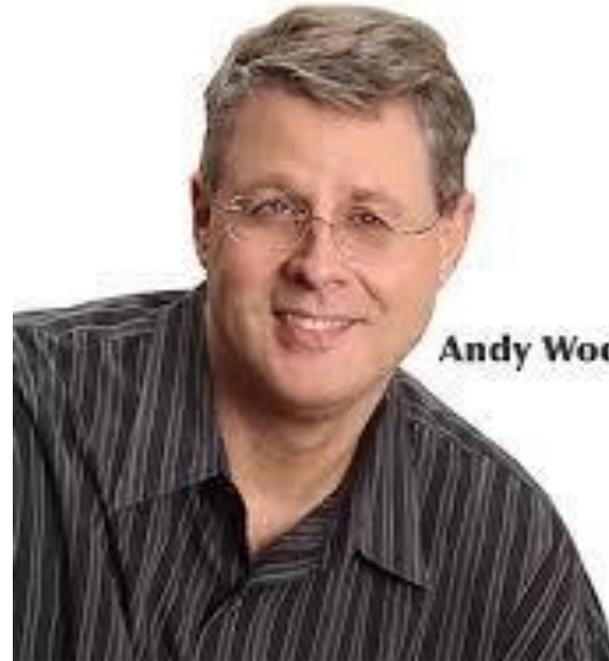
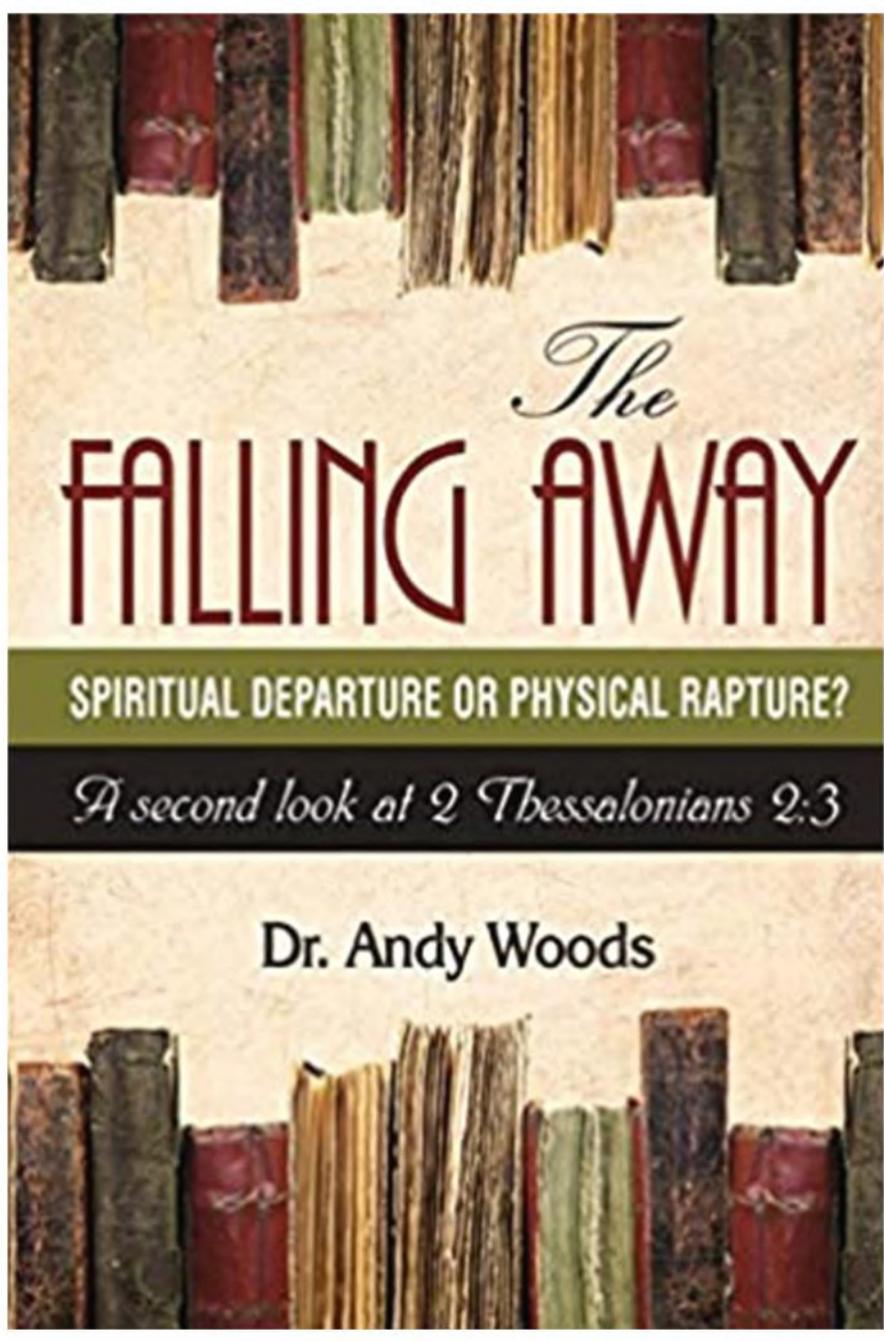
Year	Bible	Translation
1384	Wycliffe Bible	Departynge First
1526	Tyndale Bible	Departynge First
1535	Coverdale Bible	Departynge First
1539	Crammer Bible	Departing First
1576	Breeches Bible	Departing First
1583	Beeza Bible	Departing First
1608	Geneva Bible	Departing First
1576	Rheims Bible	The Protestant “Revolt”
1611	King James V.	Falling Away

“Departure” =

View #1 a SPIRITUAL departure

View #2 a PHYSICAL departure





Andy Woods: JD, ThM, PhD



AW's 10 reasons:

- 1. There have always been doctrinal departures**
- 2. 2 Thess. was an early letter**
- 3. The definite article before apostasia**
- 4. Noun apostasia can refer to physical departure**
- 5. Verb aphistemi can refer to physical departure**
- 6. Extended context favors physical departure**
- 7. Immediate context favors physical departure**
- 8. 2 Thess. Is a review**
- 9. Early Bible translations favor physical departure**
- 10. Physical departure is held by credible scholars**

The Sequence:

- 1. Departure comes first**
- 2. Man of sin is revealed**



2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,



The Sequence:

- 1. Departure comes first**
- 2. Man of sin is revealed**
- 3. Man of sin exalts himself as God**



2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.



The Sequence:

- 1. Departure comes first**
- 2. Man of sin is revealed**
- 3. Man of sin exalts himself as God**
- 4. Man of sin displays power**



2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,



Matthew 24:23–26 (NKJV)

23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26

“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.

The Sequence:

- 1. Departure comes first**
- 2. Man of sin is revealed**
- 3. Man of sin exalts himself as God**
- 4. Man of sin displays power**
- 5. Unbelievers receive “great delusion”**



2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

The Sequence:

- 1. Departure comes first**
- 2. Man of sin is revealed**
- 3. Man of sin exalts himself as God**
- 4. Man of sin displays power**
- 5. Unbelievers receive “great delusion”**
- 6. Man of sin is destroyed**



2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (NKJV)

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.



The Sequence:

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- 3. Man of sin exalts himself as God**
- 4. Man of sin displays power**
- 5. Unbelievers receive “great delusion”**
- 6. Man of sin is destroyed**
- 7. Unbelievers are destroyed**



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And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.



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Application:



- Are you a believer?
- Are you evangelizing?
- Are you living like Christ's return is any moment?

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