****

**The Acts of the Apostates**

**(I Kings 19:10)**

* **Apostasy** (Greek: /əˈpɒstəsi/; ***ἀποστασία*** ***apostasía***, 'a defection or revolt') is the formal disaffiliation from, abandonment of, or renunciation of a religion by a person.

***The Apostle Paul:***

***I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9; NKJV)***

***The Apostle John:***

***They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. (I John 2:19; NKJV)***

***For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. (II John 1:7-8; NKJV)***

***The Apostle Jude:***

***Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:3-4; NKJV)***

***Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. (I Kings 16:30; NKJV)***

***I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, “Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?4But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” (Romans 11:1-4; NKJV)***

***So, he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”***

1. **Abandoned God’s Word** (“Forsaken Your Covenant”)
2. **Assaulted God’s Worship**  (“Torn down Your Altars”)
3. **Assassinated God’s Witnesses** (“killed Your Prophets”)

* **The first characteristic** Elijah points out is that Israel has “***Forsaken God’s Covenant.”*** They abandoned God’s Word.The Word of God is “***watered down***” by progressives, liberal “***woke***” preachers who compromised. They are apostates.

***But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (I Peter 2:9-10; NKJV)***

* **The second characteristic** Elijah points out is that Israel has “***Torn down God’s altars***.”

Israel has torn down the altars of worship – Consequently, worship is a futile attempt to approach a non-existent deity created in many perverted humanistic imaginations.

***If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah. Therefore, the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.*** ***Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. (I Kings 12:27-30; NKJV)***

***He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. So, he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense. (I Kings 12:31-33; NKJV)***

***And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrew2 10:24-25; NKJV***)

This, again, was one of the characteristics of this “***collapsing culture***” of Israel during the reign of King Ahab.

***“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. But the prayer of the upright is His delight.” (Proverbs 15:8; NKJV)***

***“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!” (Proverbs 21:27; NKJV)***

* **The third characteristic** Elijah points out is that Israel had “***Killed God’s Prophets***”.

Israel has killed Your Prophets (Witnesses) –

***And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water. (I Kings 18:3-4; NKJV)***

By the way, the name “**Obadiah**” means “**servant of the Lord”**. Obadiah was a manager of Ahab’s royal palace and a devout worship of the Lord who had demonstrated his devotion to the Lord by protecting 100 of the Lord’s prophets from death by the evil Jezebel. He represents the “remnant” in “wicked and adulterous generation” much like the one we live in.

***“The greatest danger to the church today is not humanism, paganism, atheism or agnosticism. The greatest danger is not increasing hostility against our faith from the culture. Our greatest danger is apostasy on the inside, arising from false teachers- theological liberals who deny and distort biblical doctrine and lead others down the same path.”***

~ **Mark Hitchcock, “**[**The Coming Apostasy**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/51572069)”

The Apostle Jude tells us how to be inoculated, or vaccinated from that “***Spirit of Apostasy***”

***But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21; NKJV)***

* **Edification** – building yourselves up on your most holy faith.
* **Communication** – Praying in the Holy Spirit
* **Sanctification** – Keep yourselves in the love of God.
* **Anticipation** – Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.