



Key Scripture:

Revelation 1:3 NLT

God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and He blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for **the time is near.**

What time is it?

Matthew 24:10 NASU

At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

First things first

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NKJV

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 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,

apostasia: falling away, forsake, depart from the revealed truth.

Reasons of Falling Away

✓ **Disconnected/Defenseless/Delinquent**

Matthew 13:19 NLT

The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and **snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.**

✓ **Difficulties/Discouragement/Doubt**

Matthew 13:20-21 NLT

20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long.

They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

✓ **Distractions/Desires/Drift/Deceit**

Matthew 13:22 NKJV

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, **and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches** choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

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Two Minute Warning

The Falling Away

Stand firm in difficult times...

1. **Discern** the truth from the lies.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 NASU

But ***the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith,*** paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

2 Thessalonians 2:10 NLT

He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to **love and accept the truth that would save them.**

2. **Discipline** yourself.

1 Peter 1:13 NRSV

Therefore prepare your minds for action; **discipline yourselves;** set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Message

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith.

Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out.

If you fail the test, **do something about it.**

3. **Determine** in your heart that Jesus is Savior & Lord.

Jude 24-25 NLT

24 Now all glory to ***God, who is able to keep you from falling away*** and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault. 25 All glory to Him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are His before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

Notes: _____

