

**THE GREAT APOSTASY:  
CONSIDERED IN THE  
LIGHT OF SCRIPTURAL  
AND SECULAR HISTORY**

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The Great Apostasy: Considered in the Light of Scriptural and Secular History by James E. Talmage

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**JAMES E. TALMAGE**

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and Secular History

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## Preface.

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims the restoration of the Gospel, and the re-establishment of the Church as of old, in this, the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. Such restoration and re-establishment, with the modern bestowal of the Holy Priesthood, would be unnecessary and indeed impossible had the Church of Christ continued among men with unbroken succession of Priesthood and power, since the "meridian of time."

The restored Church affirms that a general apostasy developed during and after the apostolic period, and that the primitive Church lost its power, authority, and graces as a divine institution, and degenerated into an earthly organization only. The significance and importance of the great apostasy, as a condition precedent to the re-establishment of the Church in modern times, is obvious. If the alleged apostasy of the primitive Church was not a reality, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not the divine institution its name proclaims.

The evidence of the decline and final extinction of the primitive Church among men is found in scriptural record, and in secular history. In the following pages the author has undertaken to present a summary of the most important of these evidences. In so doing he has drawn liberally from many sources of information, with due acknowledgment of all citations. The little work has been written in the hope that it may prove of service to our missionary elders in the field, to classes and quorum organizations engaged in the

study of theological subjects at home, and to earnest investigators of the teachings and claims of the restored Church of Jesus Christ.

JAMES E. TALMAGE.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

November 1, 1909.



# Contents.

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Conditions at beginning of Christian era.—Religious systems, Jewish, Pagan, and Samaritan.—Jewish sects and parties.—Law of Moses fulfilled and superseded.—Apostles chosen and ordained.—Apostolic administration.—The Church established on the western hemisphere.—The “meridian of time.” 1-17

## CHAPTER II.

### THE APOSTASY PREDICTED.

The Church has not continued in unbroken succession.—Divine foreknowledge.—The divine purposes not thwarted.—Apostasy from the Church compared with the apostasy of the Church.—Specific predictions concerning the apostasy.—The Law of Moses a temporary measure.—Isaiah's fateful prophecy.—Predictions by Jesus Christ.—By Paul.—By Peter.—By Jude.—By John the Revelator.—Apostasy on the western hemisphere predicted. . . . . 18-38

## CHAPTER III.

### EARLY STAGES OF THE APOSTASY.

The apostasy recognized in apostolic age.—Testimony of Paul.—“Mystery of iniquity.”—Summary of Paul's utterances concerning early apostasy.—Testimony of Jude.—Of John the Revelator.—Messages to the churches of Asia.—Nicolaitanes denounced.—Testimony of Hegesippus.—Early schisms in the Church.—Declension of the Church before close of first century.—Apostasy on the western hemisphere.—Destruction of Nephite nation by the Lamanites . . . . . 39-53

## CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER IV.

## CAUSES OF THE APOSTASY.—EXTERNAL CAUSES CONSIDERED.

- Causes of the apostasy, external and internal.—Persecution as an external cause.—Judaism and Paganism arrayed against the Church.—Judaistic persecution.—Predictions of Judaistic opposition.—Fulfilment of the same.—Destruction of Jerusalem . . . . . 54-63

## CHAPTER V.

## CAUSES OF THE APOSTASY.—EXTERNAL CAUSES, CONTINUED.

- Pagan persecution.—Roman opposition to Christianity, explanation of.—Number of persecutions by the Romans.—Persecution under Nero.—Under Domitian.—Under Trajan.—Under Marcus Aurelius.—Later persecutions.—Persecution under Diocletian.—Extent of the Diocletian persecution.—Diocletian boast that Christianity was extinct.—The Church taken under state protection by Constantine the Great 64-81

## CHAPTER VI.

## CAUSES OF THE APOSTASY.—INTERNAL CAUSES.

- Diverse effect of persecution.—Imprudent zeal of some.—Return to idolatry by others.—“Libels” attesting individual apostasy.—Sad condition of the Church in third century.—Testimony as to conditions of apostasy at this period.—Decline of the Church antedates the conversion of Constantine.—Departure from Christianity.—Specific causes of the growing apostasy . . . . . 82-95

## CHAPTER VII.

## INTERNAL CAUSES.—CONTINUED.

- First specific cause: “The corrupting of the simple principles of the gospel by the admixture of the so-called philosophic systems of the times.”—Judaistic perversions.—Admixture of Gnosticism with Christianity.—Gnosticism unsatisfying.—New Platonics.—Doctrine of the Logos.—“The Word.”—Sibellianism.—Arianism.—The Council of Nice and its denunciation of Arianism.—The Nicene Creed.—The Creed of Athanasius.—Perverted view of life.—Disregard for truth. . . . . 96-112

## CHAPTER VIII.

## INTERNAL CAUSES.—CONTINUED.

Second specific cause: "Unauthorized additions to the ceremonies of the Church, and the introduction of vital changes in essential ordinances."—Simplicity of early form of worship ridiculed.—Formalism and superstition increase.—Adoration of images, etc.—Changes in baptismal ordinance.—Time of its administration restricted.—Ministrations of the exorcist introduced.—Immersion substituted by sprinkling.—Infant baptism introduced.—Changes in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.—Fallacy of transubstantiation.—Adoration of the "host."—Proof of apostate condition of the Church 113-129

## CHAPTER IX.

## INTERNAL CAUSES.—CONTINUED.

Third specific cause: "Unauthorized changes in church organization and government."—Early form of church government.—Equality of the bishops.—Origin of synods or church councils.—Bishops of Rome claimed supremacy.—Title of Pope assumed.—Secular authority asserted by the pope.—Indulgences or pardons.—Infamous doctrine of supererogation.—The traffic in indulgences.—Tetzel the papal agent.—Copy of an indulgence.—The sin of blasphemy.—Scripture-reading forbidden to the people.—Draper's arraignment of the papacy 130-149

## CHAPTER X.

## RESULTS OF THE APOSTASY.—ITS SEQUEL.

Revolts against the Church of Rome.—John Wickliffe in England.—John Huss and Jerome of Prague.—The Reformation inaugurated.—Martin Luther, his revolt; his excommunication; his defense at Worms.—The Protestants.—Zwingle and Calvin.—The Inquisition.—Zeal of the reformers.—Rise of the Church of England.—Divine over-ruling in the events of the Reformation.—The "Mother Church" apostate.—Fallacy of assuming human origin of divine authority.—Priestly orders of Church of England declared invalid by the "Mother Church."—The apostasy admitted and affirmed.—Wesley's testimony.—Declaration by Church of England.—Divine declaration of the apostasy.—The sequel.—The Revelator's vision of the Restoration.—The Church re-established in the nineteenth century 150-169