

place before the revelation of the "man of sin." I find the passage very difficult to interpret from any other viewpoint, but I have good friends who differ with me as to this interpretation. They point out that in the only other place where *apostasia* occurs in the New Testament, it refers to departure from the teaching of Moses (Acts 21:21).

It was on account of the way that it seems to me to fit with the entire teaching of the passage in 2 Thessalonians that I was so pleased to hear Dr E. Schuyler English suggest that "departure" might be the meaning of the word in this place. Although my own primary field of study is Old Testament and Hebrew, I immediately did considerable research into the Greek evidence involved.

I found that Dr English based his suggestion on the fact that the large authoritative classical Greek dictionary by Liddell and Scott, in its more recent editions, gives "departure" as a second meaning of the noun *apostasia*. The editions of Liddell and Scott published before 1900 do not give this meaning. In Greek literature the word occurs rather frequently, and usually with one of two meanings. The first of these is a removal of loyalty; thus it occurs in Greek historical records when they relate that an area transferred its allegiance to a city different from the one that formerly controlled it. The other meaning, equally common, designates a space or interval, as when a record speaks of guards being placed with a certain "interval" between them.

The fact that later editions of Liddell and Scott insert the meaning "departure" between these two definitions is based upon the publication in 1900 of a sixth century commentary on Aristotle's *Meteora* in which the author says that the stiffening of a material is caused by the *apostasia* of water from it. This would seem to be a clear case of the use of a word to mean removal from one place to another, and thus warrants the meaning "departure." Unfortunately I have been unable to find any additional reference in Greek literature where the meaning is clearly one of departure from one place to another. It seems to me that additional warrant for accepting this as a possible meaning can be properly based on the meaning of the verb from which the noun *apostasia* is derived. This verb occurs a number of times in the New Testament, and in most of them refers to a departure from one place to another. Usually the King James Version renders it by the word "departure" or by a synonym. In Acts 5:38 the KJV translates it "refrain from," but in this case the meaning is quite