



Hideout 5: What is the Concept of “Den of Thieves” from Jesus and Jeremiah 7, and the Word of God.

QUESTION: In your worship at your house of prayer and God, are you treating this house of God and Prayer as if it is a Den of Thieves? Learn how that can be by an extended look at Jeremiah 7, Jeremiah 7:11, and where Jesus quoted as He drove the moneychangers out of the temple.

The most obvious thieves in churches are hardly dealt with in this book, unless in the list of the bad habits or follies of II Timothy 3:1-8: the dens of big business CEOs and board members that have robbed their employees and others of a retirement with 401k's, the priests who would steal innocence from helpless children **{which is worse, hard to say, priests or leaders of the FLDS that steal and abuse}**, and the churches who would steal salvation from the unknowing by stepping between them and Christ **{let us never forget that priests and others would steal the prerogative from God Himself to forgive sins, now that is sacrilegious and blasphemy!}**. Bible exegesis of “Den of Thieves” from Jeremiah, from the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus in John, and from a similar cleansing of the Temple in Matthew provide a real definition of the “Thieves” in church dens in terms of their bad habits or follies. Of course the primary bad habit is hypocrisy in worship where God is given split loyalty with the “Queen of Heaven” from Jeremiah; and while literally many church members today who unlike God's people of Jeremiah do not worship all week a goddess like the Queen of Heaven, one who God's people of that generation caused them to prosper and be in health, they thought, many substitute idols for the real God of the Universe presently exist among church members that take prime loyalty over God, or at least split loyalty. God will not take split loyalty as indicated by the message to the church of the first century, and thus to us also, that God with a preference for “hot” would prefer “cold” over lukewarm.

Of course, some space must be given to counter those who would steal Peter as a Pope or those who would steal “the church” for themselves alone exclusion all other Christians from it and salvation. We are reminded that when Christ ascended to heaven to give gifts to men there was no Pope in the list, only “Apostles and Prophets, pastors and teachers, and evangelists.” In reality after the local church at Rome approximately 100 A.D. decided that their church should have the top bishop--“bishop” was already a good New Testament word, the same as “pastor”--then they out of their own wisdom, with no Scriptural justification--chose Pope as the title for the head bishop; and then posthumously ordained Peter as the first Pope. Peter knew nothing of it, nor Christ, nor the other of the 12 Apostles; and certainly Paul as he was crucified with Peter in Rome

knew nothing of this top billing on the part of Peter. Of course the Bible does teach that the 12 Apostles will rule under God and Christ in the New Jerusalem. Others often more so than the Roman Catholics try to steal "the church" for themselves, like the Mormons and Church of Christ. Would it not be nice if we could re-write history to make ourselves in the line of history that provides for automation as a Christian, or if we could put up a sign out in front of our church that made it automatically synonymous with the "church of the firstborn written in heaven." Now Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, and etc. down the line of denominations like the Roman Catholics, are not innocent of this exclusive attitude in that often they use "THE" in front of their denominations and after the denominations add "church" instead of churches. But we will let exegesis of the Bible take care of them on the 120 times the word church is used in the Bible with at least 3 distinct meanings; and exegesis of "Den of Thieves" in Jeremiah, John, and Matthew, with help from other Scriptures to keep it in the total context of the Bible. After all, the Scripture as the Word of God is our source of faith and practice! Where do these churches and denominations and church members stack up today against the Bible as it is written and as it was written originally. While few churches or church members would disagree on the wording of the Bible as it exists in most hands and churches, it is the many throughout history who have placed themselves above scripture, or who have attempted to replace Scripture with a superiority of other documents or even special revelation, that have lead us into the present Falling Away where "they will not endure sound doctrine". (II Timothy 4:3,4).

Even as there was a period in the History of American Thought when historians themselves tried to rewrite history with a certain bias, before the scientific method became popular, and then even later as there was a certain bias shown in the re-writing of American History like in Turner's Frontier Thesis; so there have been at least four major efforts of churches and denominations to rewrite first century Christianity to magnify themselves as the other church or Christians: (1) Of course the most famous is that of the Roman Catholics as (a) they rewrote the life of Peter to make him the first Pope, a thing that the fisherman would never have permitted, (b) they have rewritten the gifts that the Ascended Christ left to men--apostles and prophets, pastors and teachers, and evangelists--to include a Pope {sometime after 100 A.D. and the passing away of all the 12 Apostles, the church at Rome decided that their "bishop", bishop being another word for pastor in the New Testament and thus authorized by Christ but not Pope, should be the head bishop and after Christ and after the complete writing of the New Testament--with a complete record of "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3)--decided that this head Bishop in the church at Rome should be called a Pope}, and (c) they have also out of their more than august wisdom, decided that the head of the Roman Vatican, a State within itself in the city of Rome, should be successor to this fictitious position of Pope which

Peter never had. {Yes, we know about the distortions of Peter's profession of faith and the statements by Jesus that upon the rock of faith, He would build "My Church"; and we briefly discuss it in later chapters, but this perversion of the sound doctrine of the Bible, for personal profit and interest and the personal gain of Rome and the early church at Rome, is one of the first intolerances toward sound doctrine of history (II Timothy 4:3,4)}, with certainly the church at Rome leading with the fulfillments of the heresies of the "latter times" as they forbade to marry and commanded to abstain from healthy meats, things ordained and blessed by the God they came to oppose, which the Word of God says comes from "doctrines of devils" and "seducing spirits" (I Timothy 4:1-5). Goodness, do we ignore these obvious references to the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope in Scriptures, much less to the Dark Ages of Church History where the Vatican was more a contribution and hindrance to human rights than the State. Is the Pope's recent visit to the United States, with all his pomp and circumstances, going to achieve the intended purpose of making Roman Catholic church attendance more popular, make the sexual abuses more acceptable, and recruit more Americans for the priesthood?

In many of his speeches and sermons {by the way which have set back in many ways the American tenets and especially Baptist Distinctive of "Separation of Church and State" as a Head of a Vatican State and representative of one religious establishment was allowed to preach his propaganda for hours on CNN and the other news channels--where is equal time for the Baptists or other Protestants, and later we will discuss how by the State taking priests to courts over child abuse the State has understandably lost some distinction between Church and State and that Roman Catholics have taken advantage of that loss}...in many of his speeches and sermons, the Pope out of a long history of continuity that goes all the way back to the early centuries {certainly not to Peter, Christ, the Apostles, and church doctrine of the first century}, put Americans in place as newcomers and seekers after American Independence, something Emerson and other writers of the American Romantic Period thought they did with respect to Italy and the rest of Europe many years ago. {Remember the American Scholar from Emerson, also remember, and others of the Romantic Era who demanded an intellectual independence of Europe like the political one of the American Revolution; and I think in spite of this recently exhibited superiority of history from the German Pope, it has been obtained both intellectually and religiously. Certainly, it is prayed do we have a definite Separation of Church and State lest we slide back into the Dark Ages at the same time as the Falling Away.}

This is not pope-bashing day, although with the audacity of using politics and national news to increase in America their popularity perhaps the Vatican has earned, if not

bashing, at least the intellectually honest toward the fraud they have perpetrated on the American people. It was a fraud when the pastor of the early church at Rome claimed to be the head pastor, alias the pope, and it is still a fraud now. Can you imagine Peter, the fisherman, wearing such ridiculous looking dunce caps which look more like the KKK than a group of original disciples of Christ, and those costumes? Can you help but think of where Jesus criticized the religious leaders among the Jews for seeking "honor from men, more than honor from God" (John 5:44)? Obviously with all this pomp and circumstances, with these dunce caps and costumes, honor from men has become far more important to the Vatican than honor from God Himself. Do you really think that God, sitting up there on the great white throne in great majesty and power, is impressed by these costumes of authority? The whole visit to America reminds one of the temporal and superficial triumphant entry of Christ where later the same multitudes crucified Christ, now where is the crucifixion; and is it left for the humble like us! **{However, I must say that I wish Associational Missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, even if they are not going to protest on the Baptist Distinctive of the Separation of Church and State, would with other professional denominational workers wear those little red beanies.}**

Is all this sacri-religious with disrespect for the holy? It palls in comparison to the major thesis of this book that: MOST CHURCHES IN AMERICA HAVE BECOME A HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS , another way to say "Den of Thieves"; and all these things about the pope, and other rewrites of history such as that of the blood tracing of Landmark Baptists, the futile efforts of the members of Christ of Church churches to trace their history back to Jerusalem in 1 A.D, and the fictions of the Mormons in the Book of Mormon where Jesus made a visit to North America during the three days in the grave. Oh, if the revisionists historians of American Intellectual Thought had studied and dealt with in a truly scientific manner these perversions of church history and of the sound doctrines of the Bible. Everybody including the Jews want to be the elect of God, God's people, and there are many creative ways in which men have sought to identify themselves historically and otherwise with the Christ.

One thing that needs to be said and up front right now, as the pope also quoted from John 1:12, that blood and history and the will and status of men in the final analysis have little or nothing to do with salvation: "But as many as received him **{Christ}**, to them **{believers of any age and any group}** gave He power to become the Sons of God; which were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of men, but of God." (John 1:12) The thing that needs to be said is that where there is a real group of believers, it is because there has been a real work of the Holy Spirit in individual hearts; and all this promotion of the inherent unity that the pope and Warren ride, is not the P.R. work of any organization, religious or otherwise, but the personal work and provision

of the Holy Spirit of God. It is not only the Pope but also Warren and Osteen that would steal the work with honor for themselves of what only the Spirit has done and can do. What it comes down to in the final analysis, that if a few natives in the darkest recesses of Africa or Latin America were to stumble across a Bible through which the Spirit could talk to them **{and some things similar have happened}**, right there the Spirit could create Christians and a local church, yes one also written in heaven in the church of the firstborn, without any history and religious authority from men!

Actually what you will find is more bashing of Baptists, especially Southern Baptists and the fundamentalists wing of the SBC, in this "Den of Thieves" book more so than Catholics, Church of Christ, Mormons, and the "THE denominations". While I love Baptists historical doctrine and history, especially the history of the SBC up until the fundamentalists took over approximately 30 years ago **{which by the way is curiously close to the same time you could easily mark beginning of the final great Apostasy called the Falling Away}**, Baptists church members and churches just like all churches and denominations of the world have fallen deeply under the influence of the world movement--"as sin abounds the love of many will wax cold"--called in the Bible the Falling Away. (II Thessalonians) And where warnings have been given in previous books from SunGrist_Bible and on websites about popularity during the time of the Falling Away--that is, it is a curse rather than a blessing as the "many" fall away--primarily among Baptists and interdenominational churches like the New Life Movement and the National Evangelical Association established and headed by Ted Haggard--we can not ignore, especially at this juncture in history as the Vatican seeks more popularity in America, the Roman Catholics.

The main point here is that the Vatican **{alias the Roman Catholic "church"-denominations}** is a State with a flag, property within the city of Rome and all over the world, an army and security guards, a hierarchal organization with ambassadors and all those things. That the Pope and the Vatican have intruded into American and international politics can hardly be denied; and unless CNN, Fox, MSNBC, etc. give to some Protestant leaders equal and free time on national TV for religious propaganda **{truth like the Pope tried to say with his distortions of John 14 on the "way, the truth, and the life, much like he has distorted Peter's Profession of Faith with Jesus' statement about the "My Church" for personal gain, much like the gifts given by the Ascended Christ; and my goodness, if Christ had really chosen a Pope to rule over all other bishops in the first century, why would he have chosen the church at Rome, famous for the place both the Apostles Peter and Paul were crucified and where Paul identified that they even sought to enhance the persecution of the Apostles (Philippians 1:15,16) with words like "add to our afflictions" .}**

"Den of Thieves" is more about hiding than stealing. After men and women and children, like in Jeremiah, have committed misdemeanors {follies and bad habits as in II Timothy 3:1-8} and felonies {substitute loyalties for God generally called in Jeremiah and other Prophets, "fornication" against God or "adultery" against God} against God all week, they need a place to hide on Sunday {the Sabbath in Jeremiah}, so they often chose the church {the Temple in Jeremiah and the time of Jesus}. Of course, it is obvious that on the surface in the Temple cleansing twice by Jesus, that some "merchandising" for profit was condemned (John 2) as Jesus showed His zeal or enthusiasm for the House of God in the driving out of the money changers and other profiteers from religious acts of worship; but more than the obvious appearance, is a righteous judgment on the deeper meaning of the text (Jeremiah 7:11) and the larger context of the Prophet Jeremiah's Temple Message that Jesus quoted from in the cleansing of the Temple the second time. (Matthew 21:12-17)

Where in Jeremiah does God really get angry {yes, even as contrary to popular opinion Christ did get angry enough to drive the money changers out of the Temple, so the God of love and justice is also a God that can get angry, and you can count on it that God is angry when He will no longer listen to prayer}, it was after He told Jeremiah that He saw the diversion of loyalty of His own people, perhaps trying to make Him jealous but really embarrassing themselves, as women, their husbands, and their children participated in the worship and loyalty to the "Queen of Heaven". {There are a lot of Queens of Heaven today: heavenly idols of the two footed kind, false distortions of Mary as a person to whom one can pray and receive forgiveness of sins and other help, our "Mother in Heaven" as some Mormons believe and practice, and etc.} God knows us, and God knows that there are other "gods", either in our minds or in the priority and loyalty of our lives made effectively "gods" because of the place in the lives of church members.

"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bride." (Deuteronomy 10:17)

"God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods." (Psalm 82:1)

"I said, 'You are gods' {in Hebrew Elohim, that is mighty ones or the judges}, and all of you are children of the Most High. But you shall die like men..." (Psalm 82:6)

"Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things." (Romans 1:22,23)

Does it not make sense that if Satan has worked thousands of years to cultivate churches under his control that he will also control false prophets to protect and preserve that control? The problem is: how do we identify those churches and those denominations to the extent that the church control has extended to a large enough group to be called a denomination, or should we even try; and as mere mortals, albeit Christians that are destined to judge the world, are we entitled to label any church as a "Den of Thieves"?

God also knows, like He told God's people through Jeremiah, that these idols of gods, and the gods themselves, are "cisterns that can not hold water." (Jeremiah 2:13) There is only one God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and the God of the Christian Bible, with power and position and love and concern for individuals, and righteousness **{Who is also without human prejudice and will not take brides}** to take care of His own people and also manage the world to the extent that He desires. **{Like Pastor James said at the Great Jerusalem Conference, "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning." (Acts 15:18)}** So what happens when you give loyalty to a "god" that does not really exist? Well, either (1) to give loyalty to the only other real supernatural being, that of Satan and his fallen angels, or (2) to do what you want to in the first place with the religious devotion only be a cloak for personal desires.

A prime doctrinal sub-thesis of this book is that Sound Living comes from Sound Doctrine. You cannot have a sound Christian and sound church member without the sound doctrine that comes from the faithful preaching and study of the "ALL SCRIPTURES" of II Timothy 3:16,17. Even as the proof text method of the pope and other fundamentalists, like in the SBC, will not satisfy the "ALL" in "ALL SCRIPTURE", so the failures to follow up brief mentions of Scripture without the profitability of "doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness" of that same portion of the Word of God. Catholic priests in America, and do not exclude the rest of the world, are the same corrupt men among "God's People" that the pope and catholic teachings have made them. And also the people! Have we forgotten the old classical saying of the Old Testament that "like the priests like the people, and like the people like the priests"? It would be amazing indeed if the priests of the Roman Catholic churches, and the child abusers each day that we hear more about in the news of Protestant and Mormon churches, could remain holy and distinct and separated from the world wide movement as the Falling Away rides on the rising tide of the mystery of lawlessness and sin of II Thessalonians. Even as religious leaders like the pope seek an integration in American communities and States, they can not ignore the world wide and inevitable movements of the Falling Away where: (1) the rising tide of sin and lawlessness floods over all communities and churches; and (2) the intolerance toward sound doctrine of II Timothy

4:3,4 replaces "want-TOs" and itching ears Bible teachers of all denominations where sound Bible doctrine and profitability belongs.

Fundamentalists--whether the Roman Catholics, the cult of the Mormons like in El Dorado, Texas recently, or the fundamentalists that took control of the SBC about the same time that the Falling Away got well under way in the United States--like to substitute their own history and traditions for the Bible of the Word of God. What you really have in the fundamentalists Mormon cult compound of El Dorado, as Texas authorities are beginning to find and make public, is tragedies of: child abuse, child sexual abuse, and abuse of State benefits for personal gain where say one husband gets the welfare money for up to 22 wives, and the abuse of the freedoms of individual rights. You talk about stealing with a "Den of Thieves" those such Mormons and even illegal aliens who take advantage of other Americans, most often encouraged by the Roman Catholics, that steal these benefits away from Americans can be considered also a "Den of Thieves". Where the fundamentalists of the SBC have placed their traditions over the Word of God is in a preference for the eschatology of Scofield Notes over the Bible Itself, especially as they have taught and defended a false doctrine of a thousand years on earth when Christ comes Again, separate from the new earth of eternity. Yes, it is this one thousand years, believed and taught by the fundamentalists that really split the Convention! Add to that a "bad spirit", which many church members failed to test like the Apostle John recommended, of these Bible Baptist fundamentalists **{they left the SBC approximately 1920 but out of the "spirit within them that lusted to envy" (James 4:5), they lusted after the prosperity of SBC churches}** that fought and caused warfare and fighting's; and based on a previous, condemned by Paul practice, in the church at Corinth where they, like the fundamentalists today, took a superior and bad attitude that "the Word of God came to them only" or "that the Word of God came out of them" (I Corinthians 14:36). This same haughty attitude you see today among Pentecostals and other charismatics, by the way a movement that has cut across with the Falling Away all denominations, who claim for themselves and their people special revelations.

I tell you this problem of the Falling Away is big enough to require some discussion and safeguards against. It can not be ignored! It is sort of like a friend in the Navy who on a training flight accidentally popped the chute of his chest pack, and the more he stuffed on it so the chief petty officer would not see, the larger it grew!

There is no hope of getting out of this Falling Away. There is only the individual hope for a few individuals and perhaps a few isolated churches to avoid the onslaught in itching ears doctrine and living. You can not escape after a study of the gigantic falling away of God's People in the wilderness, from which only a few were saved, how especially in Hebrews and from Christ in Matthew 24, that this is an example of what will happen

to all churches and all church members, alias Christians, during the Falling Away. You can not escape also the simple fact that the leaders in the Falling Away are and will be the churches, the church leaders, and the church members, since they alone of all the world are the only ones, like God's people in the wilderness, who have seen the works of God for over 40 years. There are certain things that can be done to resist this tide in your church; and there are certain things that can be done to individually as a Christ, like certain church members in the failing 7 churches of Asia Minor, avoid the Falling Away, and those are emphasized, even encouraged in these chapters. (Revelation 2 and 3) However the solution is not to ignore the inevitability of the Falling Away problem! That only exasperates the problem and covers it up. Goodness knows, church leaders including the Pope, have become creative and efficient at the covering up of Bad Habits of Church Members, especially of covering up when their only House of God has become a "Hideout for the Bad Habits" of II Timothy 3:1-8.

Unfortunately Satan has a lot working for him such as sin, love of self among church members **{don't forget the large list of "follies" of II Timothy 3:1-9 among church members includes many bad attitudes such as love of self and lovers of pleasure}**, false prophets identified by Paul long ago to the Ephesian elders that will come from within the church and from without the local church, say on the denominational level, and the itching ears Bible teachers as the time has come when they **{church members}** will no longer endure sound doctrine that are being "heaped up" in and out of churches, in Bible schools, colleges, and seminaries, on TV and in novel best-selling books; and then above all the history of the Falling Away is now on the side of Satan--albeit, known unto God are all the works of world history that He permits even as He controls per Pastor James, "known unto God are all His works from the beginning". To see how the current history of the Falling Away, which can easily be called now "Church History" or the "History of Denominations" **{later we will deal with how in reality, so-called community churches of the non-denominational and interdenominational garden variety are for all practical purposes also denominations}** contributes to the control of churches like Satan already controls the world **{Jesus Himself stated that Satan is the prince of this world, and by the way also said that "he has nothing in Me" which unfortunately can no longer during this Falling Away be said of the churches}**. You need only read once again II Thessalonians to develop strong convictions that the rising tide of the flood of sin and lawlessness of the Falling Away is a universal world-wide flood that comes into the churches and their man-made extensions in denominations as well as in the greater body of unbelievers of the world, that this period of history is synonymous with the increased control of Satan over the world and the churches as he cultivates a "Man of Sin" to lead in the great world movement of the Falling Away and the final war, and as the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from earth **{surely this will affect most churches except perhaps the Charismatics that will never know the difference}** which in turn

releases Satan to dominant the rest of the world and churches. {Notice churches are used instead of the church, since Satan will never dominate the church of the firstborn, written in heaven. He no longer ever has access to heaven, and we must quickly come to the primary theme or gist of this book which is that WHEREAS GOD ORDAINED AND BLESSED A CHURCH AS A "HOUSE OF PRAYER" AND WORSHIP, MAN HAS CREATED CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONS WHICH JESUS HIMSELF, JEREMIAH, AND ISAIAH, LIKE THE TEMPLES OF OLD WOULD CALL A "DEN OF THIEVES". }

Don't worry from this primary gist if you did not get all the subtleties of the wording and language the first time around! Development of this gist is what the book is all about based primarily on the "Den of Thieves" quote from Jesus {which by the way we have almost completely misunderstood, and to understand it you must go back to the famous Temple Message of Jeremiah}, based on the proper interpretation of "Den of Thieves" from the context of Jeremiah and the Temple Message, and based on the contrast with a "House of Prayer" from Jesus and Isaiah. However in this day when the buzz words are "purpose driven", it should also be stated with regard to the purpose of this book and of the above stated gist that not only is the book an attempt to write the current history of churches and denominations centered around the historical fact of the Falling Away, if indeed we find in the pages of the book that we are legitimately {ethically, morally, and doctrinally} entitled to place the label "Den of Thieves" any local church or collection of local churches in a denomination. Goodness, as you study the current history of denominations from the phone book, the signs in front of the church, or the internet you will find no shortage of man made labels such as "Friendliest Church", "the church of Christ", or "church of Christ", or "the church". However our goal is to base any conclusion about "Den of Thieves" label and entitlement on "All Scripture" since it is the Bible in the total context that can profit us, whether that profit comes by way of "doctrine, correction, or instruction in righteousness", practices no longer even popular in most church pulpits and on television which within itself gives us a clue how deep we are into the Falling Away and of how the churches themselves must become leaders in the Falling Away since they alone among the total world population are the only ones who have seen the works of God for over 40 years. {As you read and study the first great Falling Away of the children of Israel in the wilderness as presented in Deuteronomy and explained further in the book of Hebrews, you will see that the Falling Away is not from the congregation or churches but a departure from the living God. If you do not understand this, please read volume 4 of the LEARN CHRIST commentaries, "Christ, Paul, and the Falling Away", or the book also from SunGrist_Bible entitled "Snatching, Stumbling, or the Falling Away", or if you desire a more positive approach of what to do during this Great Apostasy please read also from SunGrist_Bible and available on the website

www.biblecombibleman.com the book "Friends of Jesus in this Age of the Bible and the Computer".}

Wait a minute! There was such an effort to give some of the Biblical basis and the current history basis for the primary gist that we skipped over the secondary purpose driven basis. Well, they're really several! First, with the premise that the similarities between unbelievers in the world and unbelievers in the church, increasingly the famous "tares" identified by Jesus--increasingly due to the Falling Away--we can present REPORTS FOR UNBELIEVERS equally addressed to the church and unchurched as we have done for the website www.biblecombibleman.com under the title of "The John Quinn Reports for Unbelievers".

This is to say that while we may by the end of this book be able to legitimately label a church or denomination as a "Den of Thieves", or perhaps on further examination most churches and denominations, still we will not give up on the potential for salvation and faith on the part of these unbelievers. Paul and the Word of God did not give up on them and the future church members who would also have the same problem, writing to those "brethren" of churches to "beware" and not to develop "an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God."

"Beware brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." (Hebrews 3:12)

Even in this straightforward verse, you see the cisterns that can not hold water, broken cisterns of idols and "gods", as the Bible acknowledges that there can be a departure from the living God in favor of a dead god, like the "Queen of Heaven". Unfortunately it takes a lot of Bible, or fortunately as it promotes from of the Word of God, to realize the several convictions of this one single verse in order to appreciate the full impact on contemporary history and the great Apostasy called the Falling Away.

(1). The Falling Away is largely a movement among church members where they depart from the living God, since only church members--herein addressed as "brethren"--are the ones who have witnessed the works of God for 40 years.

(2). Young people, under 21 years of age, are safe from the Falling Away, and the Falling Away can in no way be categorized as an attack on the younger generation. It is rather an identification of an inevitable movement of history, the last great movement before the Second Coming.

(3). It takes a lot of Bible understanding, even of the 10 commandments and the processes for the making of an image of God called an idol, especially as explained by

such Bible believers and preachers as Charles Allen in his book "God's Way of Thinking", of how God can be departed from by church members as slowly over a period of 40 years they replace the God of the Bible and of the Universe with other gods or mental images of God. After all, a wrong mental image of God is just as wrong as a carved physical image of a god, and the misleading results are far more disastrous as we worship some wrong god than if we just call a piece of wood or other image "God".

(4). While we have not come far as Christians in an adequate Bible-based concept of "evil", being often more influence by contemporary and the history of American Thought and politics, we certainly have not an adequate concept of "an evil heart of unbelief." We just do not appreciate how in the sight of God; unbelief is more an evil than murder or adultery or lying. We certainly do not appreciate the consequences in the lake of fire and brimstone after the falling away and the Second Coming, and after the separation of the tares and the wheat in the churches, how this lake is populated with not only adulterers and murderers, but also unbelievers. It is evil in the sight of God to allow an "evil heart of unbelief" to be cultivated in your heart"; and by the way, this applies to unchurched as well as churching unbelievers. It might be considered among the first of many reports for unbelievers period!

(5). Deeply ingrained in the mind and heart of Paul as he wrote under the inspiration of God the words of Hebrews 3:12 was the thoughts of Jesus from the parable of the seed and the sower that more than false mental or physical idols can divert unbelievers from the living God. Study carefully the parable of the seed and the sower, and you will see it some of these pages also; and you will find that other diversions from the living God can come from "cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and other things" in spite of one of our Major and popular False Prophets who writes today and preaches, heaped up by a vast congregation of itching ears church members, about a good Christian life purpose driven by "things". **{At some point we must also develop based on the Bible how all that is called "God" is not really the God of the Bible, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the LORD of Creation, and the only Living God of the Universe.}**

Since there is only one Living God, this Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, this God of the Bible, what happens to a person who prays to any other "living God", is that with only one other supernatural being who can hear prayers being that of Satan, then those prayers--and beliefs--go to Satan. In fact, when you come right down to the nitty-gritty of the process or how man takes a church so blessed by God and ordained by God, then makes of it a "Den of Thieves", you will have to consider that at some point this man and collectively these men have somehow made an image of God which is not the God of the Bible. Therefore, you will constantly in these pages find a contrast between the (1) God-blessed and God-ordained "House of Prayer" and (2) the man ordained and man-created

"Den of Thieves". Of course, you must understand the concept of "Den of Thieves" from our Master and Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ; and as background which Jesus knew as He quoted it, and the first disciples knew as students of the Bible, and even all Israel was painfully aware as the cause of the loss of the first great Temple, indeed of the destruction of Jerusalem, Judea, and Israel, and of Captivity under Assyria and Babylon. All need only look at the remnant of the Temple of God today in Israel to know what a "Den of Thieves" or many such DENS in a nation can do to that nation! And as you might expect the next chapters are on respectively (1) The "Den of Thieves" from Jesus; (2) The "Den of Thieves" from Jeremiah; and (3) the "House of Prayer" from Isaiah. You will be amazed how much of the teachings of Jesus, the book of Jeremiah, and the book of Isaiah that we must consider in order to appreciate this "Den of Thieves" concept in the total context of the Bible. I will warn you now, especially in Isaiah and later as explained in the book of Revelation that it comes all the way to God's statements about how can "man make a House for Him", and the new earth under the new heavens with a New Jerusalem where there is no need for a Temple House of God because in the New Jerusalem God Himself, and His Son, dwell with man. They can be seen by all the new inhabitants of believers "face to face". **{That is the kind of warning that you can enjoy, much better than the warning to beware of the possibility of departure from the living God!}** We will leave this chapter now; for this is much food for thought; however come back in the next chapter and next chapters for solid foundations in the Word of God, and realizing that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God", that all part of the Scripture, even that you have perhaps neglected or ignored is profitable, and also realizing though not nearly as comforting as the message you hear each Sunday in church or on TV, also that "doctrine, correction, and instruction in righteousness", like comfort and security, are also the methods of Scripture as valid as "all Scripture", and going hand in hand with the ALL.