

"might depart from me". ~~ix ii &ixixixixix ixix~~ Usually it simply means to go away from a person, as in Luke 4:13, where the devil, after tempting Christ, "departed from him for a season", and in Acts 12:10, where the angel, after delivering Peter from prison, "departed from him". Thus the New Testament instances make it abundantly clear that this verb means depart, or go away, in a very wide sense, and is only in certain instances specialized to the idea of a departure from the faith.

The noun 'apostasia' is used in Greek literature in various senses. The most common is rebellion against civil authority (as in Josephus and Plutarch). It occurs in the Septuagint a number of times, in the sense of rebellion against divine authority. Thus in II Chron. 29:19 and 33:19 it translates the Hebrew word which our English renders "trespass". Other Greek texts employ the same noun to mean "distance" or "interval", as, for instance, in the Geometria of Archimedes. The more general meaning, "departure", is not as common as these special types of departure, but it does occur, as evidenced by the second meaning given in the latest edition of the standard Greek lexicon by Liddell and Scott: "departure, or disappearance." As proof of this meaning the lexicon cites a passage in a commentary on Aristotle's Meteora by the sixth century philosopher Olympiodorus, where the stiffening of a material is said to be caused by the 'apostasia' of water from it.

Liddell and Scott state that apostasia is a later form of a different word, apostasis. Both words have about the same range of meaning. The earlier word does not occur at all in the New Testament, but in the Septuagint the two words are about equally common. In some instances where manuscript A has one of them manuscript B has the other, and vice versa. In addition to having the same specialized meanings as the later word, the earlier word is also used by Philostratus and others as a rhetorical term for a particular figure of speech involving a separation (departure) of clauses. The general sense of depart is no commoner here than in the case of the later word, but does occur, as, for instance, in a scholium of Pindar.