

ASTRAY, DEVIATE, DEVIATED, SWERVED

Under the Mosaic Law, if a person saw his enemy's ox going **astray**, he was required to bring it back to him again. He couldn't ignore it and do nothing.

- **Exodus 23:4:** "If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again."

Under the Mosaic Law, sentences given by judges, priests, or Levites couldn't be **deviated** from by going to the right or to the left.

- **Deuteronomy 17:9-11:** "And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the Lord shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left."

Under the Mosaic Law, if someone saw another person's ox or sheep going **astray**, they were required to return the sheep to the person who lost it. They weren't allowed to simply ignore it.

- **Deuteronomy 22:1:** "Thou shalt not see thy brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou

shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother."

Under the Mosaic Law, if someone saw another person's ox or sheep or donkey going **astray**, but they didn't know who the sheep belonged to, the person who found it was required to bring it to their house and take care of it until its owner came looking for it. At that point they were required to give the sheep back to its rightful owner. (This principle also applied to clothing and to any lost possessions.)

- **Deuteronomy 22:2-3:** "And if thy brother be not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house, and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again. In like manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou do with his raiment; and with all lost thing of thy brother's, which he hath lost, and thou hast found, shalt thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself."

Everyone has gone **astray**.

- **Psalm 14:3:** "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

The wicked go **astray** as soon as they're born.

- **Psalm 58:3:** "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

When the Hebrews were in Canaan, they were led **astray** with

their own works. (This seems to be referring to their idolatry.)

- **Psalm 106:39:** "Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions."

The psalmist said that before he was afflicted he went **astray**. (This seems to mean he went astray from God's commandments.)

- **Psalm 119:67:** "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."

The psalmist prayed that God would seek after him, for he had gone **astray**. (When we go **astray**, we need to pray that God would seek us and save us.)

- **Psalm 119:176:** "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments."

We must always stay on the right path, and never **deviate** from it in any way (either by adding to the law or taking away from it).

- **Proverbs 4:27:** "Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."

The folly of the wicked will lead him **astray**.

- **Proverbs 5:23:** "He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."

Those who reject instruction will go **astray**.

- **Proverbs 5:23:** "He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."

Foolishness leads people **astray**. It leads people into perversion.

- **Proverbs 19:3:** "The foolishness of man perverteth his way; and his heart fretteth against the LORD."

We must reject false teaching, along with everything that leads people **astray**.

- **Proverbs 19:27:** "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."

Those who cause the righteous to go **astray** will be punished. They'll be caught by the trap they used to ensnare the righteous.

- **Proverbs 28:10:** "Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession."

It's possible to cause the righteous to go **astray**. They're not immune from temptation and sin.

- **Proverbs 28:10:** "Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession."

When people are led **astray** by others, God doesn't hold them innocent. Even though someone else led them astray, God still

holds them accountable for the things they've done.

- **Isaiah 9:16:** "For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed."

The people of Israel who were led **astray** by their leaders were going to be destroyed.

- **Isaiah 9:16:** "For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed."

All of us have gone **astray**. We're compared to sheep who have wandered away from their shepherd.

- **Isaiah 53:6:** "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

During the days of Jeremiah, one of the things that led the Jews **astray** from God was their religious leadership.

- **Jeremiah 50:6:** "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace."

One of the reasons God was going to punish both false prophets and those who sought after them was to stop the Jews from going **astray** from Him.

- **Ezekiel 14:10-11:** "And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be

even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him;
That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me,
neither be polluted any more with all their
transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I
may be their God, saith the Lord GOD."

The wealth of the prince of Tyrus caused him to be proud. His
wealth led him **astray**.

- **Ezekiel 28:5:** "By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick
hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up
because of thy riches:"

Israel went **astray** by worshiping idols.

- **Ezekiel 44:10:** "And the Levites that are gone away far
from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray
away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their
iniquity."

God would punish the Levites and the Israelites who went
astray by worshiping idols.

- **Ezekiel 44:10:** "And the Levites that are gone away far
from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray
away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their
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The sons of Zadok kept the charge of God's sanctuary when
the Israelites went **astray** from God and worshiped idols.

- **Ezekiel 44:15:** "But the priests the Levites, the sons of
Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the

children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:"

In the millennium, God is going to reward the sons of Zadok for not going **astray** during the time of Israel's idolatry. They will have temple privileges that the rest of the priests won't be given.

- **Ezekiel 48:11:** "It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray."

There was a time when the Levites and the Israelites went **astray** and worshiped idols. (When that happened, the sons of Zadok remained faithful to God.)

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God knows every detail of everyone's life. No one can **deviate** from the plan that God has for them.

- **Habakkuk 1:11:** "Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god."

If a shepherd finds a sheep that was lost, he rejoices more

over it than he does over the sheep that never went **astray**.

- **Matthew 18:13:** "And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray."

Jesus didn't want His disciples to be deceived when it came to end-times prophecy. He wanted them to understand the subject well enough so they weren't led **astray**.

- **Matthew 24:4:** "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."

We must have discernment so we're not led **astray** by false claims that the Messiah has already returned.

- **Luke 17:23:** "And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them."

We must not tolerate heresies, because they can lead people **astray** and corrupt them.

- **1 Corinthians 15:33:** "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

What the Galatians believed (salvation by works) wasn't the truth. Their beliefs brought them trouble because they led them **astray** from God.

- **Galatians 1:7:** "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

There may be angels who try to lead us **astray** from the gospel of Christ.

- **Galatians 1:8:** "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

There may be people who try to lead us **astray** from the gospel of Christ.

- **Galatians 1:8:** "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Paul didn't have a private conversation with Peter before confronting him over his sinful actions. Instead he confronted Peter in front of everyone (because Peter had been leading people **astray**.)

- **Galatians 2:14:** "But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"

Paul wanted to know who was responsible for leading the Galatian church **astray** from the truth.

- **Galatians 3:1:** "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"

There are some people who try to deceive Christians and lead them **astray** (and there are also people who are deceived by them).

- **Ephesians 4:14:** "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

We must seek to be grounded so that we're not led **astray** by false doctrines.

- **Ephesians 4:14:** "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

Once we're perfected in Christ, we'll no longer be led **astray** by false doctrines.

- **Ephesians 4:12-14:** "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

Christians aren't bound by the commandments and doctrines of men. We must not be led **astray** by them and drawn away from Christ and His commandments.

- **Colossians 2:18, 22:** "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,... Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?"

Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to know how to recognize when the tribulation started so they wouldn't be led **astray** by people making false claims.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:2:** "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."

If our lives are full of sin, or if we're ensnared by lusts, then we're in danger of being led **astray** by evildoers and false teachers.

- **2 Timothy 3:6:** "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"

It's important for women to be on guard against those who seek to lead them **astray**.

- **2 Timothy 3:6:** "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"

There are evil people who target women that have already been led **astray** through lust.

- **2 Timothy 3:6:** "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"

Paul told Timothy to not be led **astray** by evil men and seducers, but instead to continue in the doctrines that Paul had taught him.

- **2 Timothy 3:13-14:** "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"

The love of this present world is a dangerous thing and can lead us **astray**.

- **2 Timothy 4:10:** "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."

Paul said that deceivers are dangerous because they're teaching things that must not be taught (salvation by works), and leading **astray** entire households.

- **Titus 1:11:** "Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."

Heretics are subverted. They've diverged from the truth and gone **astray**, and the church must separate from them.

- **Titus 3:10-11:** "A man that is an heretick after the first

and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Peter compares Christians to sheep who were once going **astray**, but who have now returned to their Shepherd (the Lord Jesus Christ).

- **1 Peter 2:25:** "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

People who are unstable may be led **astray** by false teachers.

- **2 Peter 2:14:** "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"

False teachers have gone **astray** from righteousness and from the truth.

- **2 Peter 2:15:** "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;"

It's wicked to be led **astray** from the doctrines of the Bible. We must develop discernment so that we're not led astray by false teachers.

- **2 Peter 3:17:** "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own

stedfastness."

The church has forgotten the truths of the Old Testament and has been led **astray** by evil men.

- **Jude 1:4-5:** "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not."