

## Devo 10 – The Times of the Gentiles

“...and Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).

In order to understand what Jesus meant by this statement you must understand the Book of Daniel. Daniel is the key to Biblical prophecy. Without Daniel we could neither understand nor explain the inevitable future of the Gentile nations. The Lord’s prophecies in the Olivet Discourse (including Luke 21) can only be understood through Daniel’s prophecies. The same could be said about II Thessalonians 2 and the entire Book of Revelation. “The times of the Gentiles” refers to the Gentile domination over the Jews and Jerusalem. The “times” began during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar when Babylon invaded Judah, destroyed Jerusalem, and exiled the Jewish people for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11). Even though King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple, Israel’s sovereignty has always been temporary. At the time of Jesus, Jerusalem and the Jews were under the control of the Romans. When the Jewish people rebelled (AD 66-70), the temple was destroyed, the Jews were forced to flee, and Jerusalem was no longer under Jewish control. Even though Israel became a state in 1948, eastern Jerusalem and the Temple Mount have been controlled largely by Muslims. During the seven-year Tribulation, there will be a future persecution and capture of the Jewish people under Antichrist (Luke 21:20-24). The Jews will remain under Gentile domination until Jesus returns. Thus, “the times of the Gentiles” have not yet been fulfilled. We must go back to Daniel 9 to understand what is required for the completion of the rule of the Gentiles over the Jewish people. We will look at that in the next lesson.