

## Prophecy devo 13 – Why the church will not go through the Tribulation (Part 1)

“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this” (Revelation 1:19).

The Book of Revelation is divided into three parts: (1) “The things which you have seen” (chapter 1). This is a vision of Christ dressed as a High Priest walking among the golden lampstands (the churches). He had in His hand seven candlesticks which are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches. The seven stars are called a “mystery,” because the church is a mystery not revealed until the New Testament. The church is nowhere to be found in the Old Testament. (2) “The things which are” (chapters 2-3). These two chapters have to do with the church age. Seven churches are mentioned that existed in Asia Minor at that time. They represent churches from the first century to today. (3) “The things which will take place after this” (chapters 4-22). Everything from chapter four follows the church age, after the Lord said, “Come up here...” (4:1). When Jesus was alive He said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will ‘come’ again and receive you to Myself...” (John 14:22-3). Jesus was speaking of the rapture of the church. The rapture will consist of dead saints being resurrected and living saints translated to Heaven to be with Christ (I Thessalonians 4:13-17). It involves an instantaneous change to a glorified body, in a glorified state, with a glorified Christ (I Corinthians 15:52). “Thus we shall always be with the Lord.” The Tribulation has nothing to do with the church. The church will not enter the Tribulation. “Therefore comfort one another with these words” (I Thessalonians 4:18).