

## Prophecy devo # 19 – Why the church will not go through the Tribulation (Part 7)

Reason #6: The Tribulation is not the end of the church age but the end of the “Times of the Gentiles”

“Times of the Gentiles” refers to a period of history when the Gentiles will rule over Israel. The phrase appears only once, in Luke 21:24, by Jesus concerning the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple at the end of the Tribulation. The time extends from the Babylonian captivity (586 BC) to the future Tribulation period. Nebuchadnezzar envisioned four empires that will rule from Daniel’s time to the end of the Tribulation. The four empires are Babylon (the head of gold), Medo-Persia (chest and arms of silver), Greece (thighs of bronze), and Rome (legs of iron and feet of iron mixed with clay). Then a rock cut from a mountain hits the statue and smashes it to bits. That symbolizes the coming of Christ’s future kingdom. The ten toes represent the end-time revival of the Roman Empire. Daniel prophesied that the time of Gentile rule would be 490 years, described as “seventy weeks” of years (Daniel 9:25). After 483 years (69 weeks of years) the Messiah would be cut off. That refers to His crucifixion. That marked the end of the 69<sup>th</sup> week or 493 years of prophecy. The church is not a part of the “Times of the Gentiles.” It is a mystery revealed in the New Testament (Ephesians 3:9). The church is a parenthesis between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel. The church is called out to preach the Gospel to the world. Before Jesus ascended to Heaven the disciples asked, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” His answer was, “You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit will come upon you (Acts 1:6-8). That is the church age, and will continue until the rapture. The Tribulation is the inglorious end to the “Times of the Gentiles.” It is Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week of prophecy. The “Times of the Gentiles” will end when Jesus returns to earth.