

## “The Times of the Gentiles” Luke 21:24

Introduction: The Word of God describes three categories of people in I Corinthians 10:32. These are the Jews, the Gentiles, and the church of God. The Jews began with Abraham and is traced through his genealogy. They are known as God’s chosen people. Secondly, the church of God consists of both Jews and Gentiles (John 10:16). Lastly, the Gentiles are a group of people that is not Jewish in descent. Scriptures tell of a time when the Jews will be trodden down of the Gentiles because of their idolatry (Luke 21:24). This is a form of judgment from God upon His chosen people (Romans 11:2, 11, 25-26). It is only temporary, for the Lord will revive the Jewish nation again (Ezekiel 37). The Bible describes this period as the times of the Gentiles.

1. The times of the Gentiles began with the complete domination of Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B.C. (Jeremiah 27:5-7). It will continue until the battle of Armageddon in Revelation 19.
2. The fullness of the Gentiles (Romans 11:25) is different than the times of the Gentiles. It began on the day of Pentecost and will continue until the rapture of the church just before the tribulation period. It is a period when God is gathering both Jew and Gentile into the church of God.

Body: The times of the Gentiles is outlined in the book of Daniel by a series of dreams and visions. Nebuchadnezzar had one dream while Daniel had four visions. Each of these gives greater detail as to Gentile rule. Let us study each of these and rightly divide their meaning.

- I. The Great Image Daniel 2:31-45
  - A. The Image’s Head Daniel 2:32
    1. It represents the Babylonian Empire from 606-539 B.C. Daniel 2:38
    2. It parallels with the lion of Daniel 7:4
  - B. The Image’s Breast and Arms Daniel 2:32
    1. It represents the Persian Empire from 539-331 B.C.
    2. It parallels with the bear of Daniel 7:5
  - C. The Image’s Belly and Thighs Daniel 2:32
    1. It represents the Grecian Empire from 331-323 B.C.
    2. It parallels with the leopard of Daniel 7:6
  - D. The Image’s Legs and Feet Daniel 2:33
    1. It represents the Roman Empire from 322 B.C. through 476 A.D.
    2. It parallels with the beast of Daniel 7:7
- II. Four Great Beasts Daniel 7:1-8
  - A. The Four Great Beasts of Daniel 7:3 parallel with the four beasts of Revelation 13:2.
  - B. The Lion Daniel 7:4 (It represents Babylonian rule under Nebuchadnezzar)
  - C. The Bear Daniel 7:5 (It represents Persian rule under Cyrus)
  - D. The Leopard Daniel 7:6 (It represents Grecian rule under Alexander the Great)
  - E. The Beast Daniel 7:7-8 (It represents Roman rule under the Caesars and ending with the Anti-Christ.)

- III. The Ram and the He Goat Daniel 8:1-27
- A. The Ram Daniel 8:1-4
1. The two-horned ram represents the Medes and the Persians Daniel 8:20
  2. Their leader is Darius III
- B. The He Goat Daniel 8:5-8
1. The one horned goat represents Greece Daniel 8:21-22
  2. Their leader is Alexander the Great
  3. The four horns represents Syria under the leadership of Antiochus Epiphanes Daniel 8:8-12, 23-27
  4. The four horns (Daniel 8:8) are a type of the four divisions of Alexander's kingdom: Thrace, Macedonia, Syria, and Egypt.
  5. The little horn of the fourth beast, little horn, fourth horn, he goat, and the willful king (Daniel 11:36-45) are all the same: It reveals that the Anti-Christ will come out of Syria (A part of the old Roman Empire).
- IV. Seventy Weeks Daniel 9:24-27
- A. Seventy Weeks Daniel 9:24
1. The seventy weeks represents 490 years
  2. One day equals one year
  3. One week equals seven years
- B. Seven Weeks Daniel 9:25
1. Seven weeks equals 49 years
  2. This period is from 445-396 B.C.
  3. It marks the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls on March 14, 445 B.C.
  4. The walls of Jerusalem was rebuilt in troublous times Nehemiah 3-6
- C. Threescore and Two Weeks Daniel 9:26
1. Threescore and two weeks equals 434 years
  2. This period is from 396 B.C. to 32 A.D.
  3. It ends when Messiah is crucified
- D. One Week Daniel 9:27
1. One week equals seven years
  2. It is the time of the tribulation period
- V. The King of the South and the King of the North Daniel 11
- A. The north and the south refer to their geographic relation to Palestine.
- B. The King of the South Daniel 11:5 (It represents the King of Egypt)
- C. The King of the North Daniel 11:6 (It represents the King of Syria)

Conclusion: We must be reminded that the times of the Gentiles will not last forever. It is just a brief period when the Gentiles will be the world power. God promised Israel that He would not make a full end of them. They will not be pulled up out of their land forever. The Lord will gather the scattered remnant of Israel and restore them nationally and spiritually.