

Four Pauses or intervals in Revelation

When John wrote about the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments that will come upon the earth during the tribulation period he stopped his chronological descriptive writing of these judgments on four separate occasions.

He did this to describe or to explain the events he was seeing, those events that were about to happen, or those events that had already happened.

1. The first pause occurs in the seal judgments between the breaking of the 6th and 7th seal and includes all of Revelation chapter 7. The final seal is broken in verse 1 of chapter 8.

A. In this first pause these events are described:

(1). God will place His mark of ownership on 144,000 Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel, chapter 7:1-8.

(2). John will see a great number of people standing before the Throne of God, chapter 7:9-17.

(a). This is a picture of all the saved people who will be martyred during the Tribulation period.

REVELATION 7:13-14, ¹³*Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"* ¹⁴*I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

2. The second pause occurs between the breaking of the 6th and 7th Trumpet seal judgments and includes all of chapter 10 and continues to verse 14 of chapter 11. The final trumpet judgment sounds in verse 15 of chapter 11.

A. In this second pause these events are described:

(1). John is given a little book and told to prophecy, chapter 10:1-11.

(2). The temple at Jerusalem is measured, chapter 11:1-2.

(3). The two witnesses are described, chapter 11:3-12.

(4). A great earthquake occurs on earth, chapter 11:13.

3. The third pause occurs between the 7th trumpet judgment and the 1st bowl judgment and includes all of chapters 12, 13, 14, and 15. The bowl judgments start in chapter 16 verse 1.

A. In this third pause these events are described:

(1). The vision of the nation of Israel illustrated as the woman is revealed, chapter 12:1-6.

(2). Satan is thrown out of heaven, chapter 12:7-12.

- (3). Satan persecutes the nation of Israel illustrated as the woman, chapter 12:13-17.**
- (4). The Antichrist is revealed, chapter 13:1-10.**
- (5). The False prophet is revealed, chapter 13:11-18.**
- (6). John took a look ahead to when Christ will return to earth and described Christ standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000 Jews, (marked by God in chapter 7), chapter 14:1-5.**
- (7). Three angels make three announcements:**
 - (a). An angel will preach the Gospel, chapter 14:6-7.**
 - (b). Another angel foretells the destruction of Babylon, chapter 14:8.**
 - (c). The third angel warns people not to take the mark of the beast, chapter 14:9-13.**
- (8). John looked ahead and described the carnage of the battle of Armageddon, chapter 14:14-20.**
- (9). John described the angels as they get ready to pour out the bowl judgments, chapter 15:5-8.**

4. The fourth pause is between the 7th bowl judgment and the return of Christ and begins in chapter 17 verse 1 and ends at chapter 19, verse 11.

A. In this fourth pause these events are described:

- (1). The detailed destruction of Babylon, chapter 17 and chapter 18 through verse 19.**
- (2). Rejoicing in heaven, chapter 18:20 through chapter 19:6.**
- (3). The Bride of Christ is revealed, chapter 19:7-8.**
- (4). The announcement for the marriage supper of the Lamb is given, chapter 19:9-10.**