

Interludes in Revelation

Revelation 6 = 6 seals

Revelation 7 = Interlude (Sealing of 144, 000)

Revelation 8-9 = 7th seal (includes 6 trumpets)

Revelation 10-11:13 = Interlude (Little book, 2 witnesses)

Revelation 11:14-19 = 7th trumpet (includes 6 bowls)

Revelation 12:1 -15:8 = (Background for bowl judgements)

Revelation 16:1 – 22:21 Bowl judgments and Kingdom

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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The Purpose of This Interlude

- This section answers the question asked in Revelation 6:17 ...for the great day of their wrath has come, and **who is able to stand?**
- The answer: The 144,000 of Israel sealed by God (7:4)
- Timing Indicator:
Revelation 7:1 **After this** I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth.
Revelation 4:1 **After these things** I looked, and behold...

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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The Restraint of The "Four Winds"

Revelation 7:1 After this I saw **four angels** standing at the **four corners** of the earth, holding back the **four winds** of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

Jeremiah 49:36-37 I will bring upon Elam **the four winds from the four ends of heaven**, and will scatter them to all these winds; and there will be no nation to which the outcasts of Elam will not go. 37 So I will shatter Elam before their enemies and before those who seek their lives; and I will bring calamity upon them, even **My fierce anger**, declares the LORD...

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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Salvation Comes From The East!

Revelation 7:2-3 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "**Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.**"

Revelation 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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Salvation Comes From The East!

Genesis 2:8 The LORD God planted a garden **toward the east**, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

Ezekiel 43:1-2 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east; 2 and behold, **the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east**. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Matthew 2:2 Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? **For we saw His star in the east** and have come to worship Him.

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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Salvation Comes From The East!

2 Peter 1:19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.**

Revelation 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, **the bright morning star.**

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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The 144,000 Are Sealed For Protection

Revelation 7:2-3 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

Great Contrast:

Seal = sphragis (John 6:27; Eph. 4:30)

Mark = charagma (Rev. 13:16-17)

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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The Old Testament Background

Ezekiel 9:4-6 The LORD said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.” 5 But to the others He said in my hearing, “Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare. 6 Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary.” So they started with the elders who were before the temple.

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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God Is Faithful To His Promises

Revelation 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel...

Romans 11:25-26 NET For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion; he will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”

Revelation 7:1-4 The First Interlude

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