

Three Eras of Earth and Mankind

from Randy Alcorn's *Heaven* (Tyndale House Publishers, 2004)

Past	Present	Future
Genesis 1 – 2	Genesis 3 – Revelation 20	Revelation 21 – 22
Original mankind	Fallen mankind/Some believe and are transformed	Resurrected mankind
Original Earth	Fallen Earth, with glimmers of original	New Earth; resurrected on mankind's coattails (Rom. 8)
God delegates earth's reign to innocent mankind	Disputed reign with God, Satan, and fallen mankind	God delegates earth's reign to righteous mankind
Mankind given dominion, with intended stewardship of Earth	Mankind's dominion thwarted, frustrated, and twisted; culture tainted	Mankind's dominion fulfilled; redeemed stewardship of Earth under King of Kings; culture redeemed
God in Heaven, visiting Earth (walking in Eden)	God in Heaven, cut off from fallen men (indwells believers by his Spirit)	God's face gloriously seen, as He dwells with mankind on New Earth
No Curse	Sin and the Curse	No more Curse
No shame	Shame	No shame or potential for shame
Tree of life in Eden (mankind can eat)	Tree of life in Paradise (mankind cut off from)	Tree of life in New Jerusalem (mankind can eat it again)
River of life in Eden	Rivers and nature, with glimmers of past and future	River of life flows from God's throne in city
No death	Death permeates all	Death forever removed
Mankind created from the Earth	Mankind dies, returns to the Earth; new life to some	Mankind resurrected from Earth to live on New Earth
First Adam reigns	First Adam falls; mankind reigns corruptly, with glimpses of good; Last Adam, Jesus, comes	Last Adam reigns as God-man, with mankind as co-heirs and delegated kings

Past	Present	Future
Genesis 1 – 2	Genesis 3 – Revelation 20	Revelation 21 – 22
Serpent, Satan, on Earth	Satan judged but still present on Earth	Satan forever removed from Earth, thrown into eternal fire
Creation and mankind perfect	Creation and mankind tainted by sin	Creation and mankind restored to perfection
Mankind names, tends, rules the animals	Animals and mankind hurt each other and suffer	Animals and mankind live in complete harmony
Ground fertile, vegetation lush	Ground cursed, vegetation diseased	Ground fertile, vegetation thrives
Abundant food and water	Hunger and thirst, toil for food and water	Abundant food and water
Restfulness, satisfaction in labor	Restlessness, toil in labor	Enhanced restfulness, joy in labor
Paradise	Paradise lost, sought; glimmers seen, foretastes	Paradise regained and magnified
Mankind in ideal place	Mankind banished, struggles and wanders in fallen place(s)	Man restored to ideal place, but much improved
Mankind able either to sin or not to sin	Mankind enslaved to sin, empowered not to sin	Mankind unable to sin, permanently empowered
One marriage (Adam and Eve)	Many marriages (designed to reflect Christ and church)	One marriage (Christ and church)
Beginning of human culture	Contamination and advancement of culture	Purification and eternal expansion of culture
Mankind learns, creates in purity	Mankind learns, creates in impurity (Cain, Babel)	Mankind learns, creates in wisdom and purity
God's plan for mankind and Earth revealed	God's plan for mankind and Earth delayed and enriched	God's plan for mankind and Earth realized