

Glimpses of Glory

Class #2

... no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him ...
1 Corinthians 2.9

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine,
But God who calls me here below, will be forever mine.

Chris Tomlin, Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

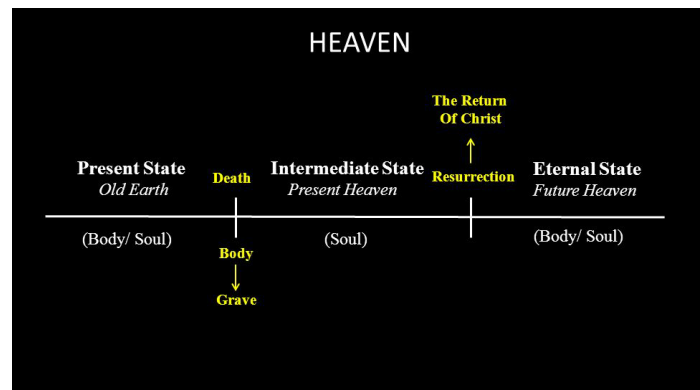
Biblical Christianity doesn't give up on humanity or the earth. Our destiny is an earthly one: a new earth, an earth redeemed and transfigured. An earth reunited with heaven, but an earth nevertheless.

Anthony Hoekema, The Bible and the Future

I. A Brief Recap

The Present Heaven is ...

- Far better" than life here on earth
- Engaged vs. disengaged
- Emotional vs. bland
- Real vs. illusory
- Personal vs. impersonal
- Anticipatory vs. final/complete



II. Answering a Question

Where will the Final (or Future) Heaven be?

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

Isaiah 65.17

For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

Isaiah 66. 22

Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19. 27-28

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Acts 3. 19-21

... according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3.13

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...

Revelation 21.1

III. Studying a Passage

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Revelation 21. 1-8

Three Eras of Earth and Mankind from Randy Alcorn's <i>Heaven</i> (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