

INCLUSIO OF EARTH HISTORY FROM EARTH TO THE NEW EARTH

Premise or Presupposition: Much of what occurs on earth now (gravity, friction, eating, work, play, games, sports, entertainment, artists, actors, singers, producers, manufacturers, distributors, builders, maintenance, administrators, rulers, worship) will take place on the new earth, minus sin and the effects of the curse.

EARLIEST AGES

1

God's Original Plan For Earth

- God gave Adam a job to do, to maintain Eden—a gardener serving God (Gen 2:15). God had a plan for his life; Adam didn't choose his own career.
- had Adam and Eve not sinned, men would have populated the earth, become farmers and shepherds (Gen 4:21), made inventions (4:22), begun buying and selling, and formed nations.
- all of this was subverted by sin.
 - God's first try to establish a Theocratic Kingdom on earth failed because of disobedience.



JEWISH AGE

2

God's Plan For Israel

- God's second try to establish a Theocratic Kingdom was a dismal failure because of sin, the curse on the earth, and the rejection of the Messiah.
- this is a preview of the future Millennial and Eternal Kingdoms. It's the way God has chosen to run his Kingdom—forever.
 - Israel was "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:6) mediating between the Gentiles and God.
 - institutions such as the levitical priesthood, sacrifices, sabbaths, feasts, and holy days are forever and will be reinstated in the Millennial and Eternal Kingdoms (Ex 29:9; 30:8; 31:16; Lev 23:14).
 - their king, Jesus, was rejected and crucified by the Jewish leaders.
 - this kingdom fails, is cut short by seven years, and is replaced by the Church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

Session on the FATHER'S THRONE (Ps 110:1; Rev 3:21)



ASCENSION



CHURCH AGE AND TRIBULATION

3

God's Plan For The Church Age And Tribulation

- God's intent is to form a Kingdom of Royal Priests after the order of Melchizedek (Rom 15:16; Heb 7; 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6; 5:10).
 - most of these royal priests will be Gentiles and their numbers will far exceed the number of levitical priests. They will serve as priests and kings in gentile nations during the Millennium.
 - rewards such as riches, crowns, position, and privilege will be given at the Judgment Seat of Christ to those who seek glory and honor now (Rom 2:7; 2 Cor 5:10; 1 Tim 6:19; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:10).
- this Kingdom of Royal Priests also fails (2 Tim 3:1–9).
 - the failure of the ancient Theocratic Kingdom of Israel will be complete when most of the Jews (and most of the world) reject Jesus throughout the 70th Week of Daniel, called the Tribulation (Rev 6–19).

Jesus Returns to Earth (Rev 19:11–16)



SECOND COMING



MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

4

God's Plan For The Millennium

- God's third try to establish a Theocratic Kingdom will be a partial success. The curse on the earth is removed but sin natures remain; at the end great numbers attempt to overthrow the righteous government of King Jesus (Rev 20:8–9).
- the laws and rituals of the former Theocratic Kingdom are reinstated, such as sabbaths, feasts, sacrifices, and the levitical priesthood (Ezk 44:10–16).
 - levitical priests will serve in Israel and in the Temple (Ezk 44:10–16); priests of the order of Melchizedek will serve in gentile nations around the world (Rev 20:6).
 - saints of all previous dispensations will live in this Theocratic Kingdom.
 - rewards will be given to saints of all previous ages at the beginning of the Kingdom (Matt 25:31–40).
 - the King will be rejected by many (Rev 20:8–9).

Seated on DAVID'S THRONE (Rev 3:21)



ETERNAL KINGDOM

5

God's Plan For Eternity

- God's fourth try to establish a Theocratic Kingdom is successful because men no longer have sin natures.
- it's populated with resurrected people.
- laws and rituals not related to sin, and the priesthoods of the two previous Theocratic Kingdoms are reinstated forever (Ex 12:14; 1 Chr 15:2; 23:13).



God's Plan: Earth history is an inclusion: it begins with the creation of the present heavens and earth (Gen 1–2) and ends or begins again with the creation of the new heavens and earth (Isa 65:17; 66:22; Rev 21–22). An inclusion or *inclusio* is a literary device in which the opening word, concept, or theme is repeated again at the end—sandwiching or bracketing everything in between. A good example is the first and last verses of Psalm 118. In the end earth history comes full circle: perfect environment (Gen 1:1–3:7), followed by a cursed earth (3:17–19), followed by lightening the curse in the days of Noah (5:29; 9:2–3), followed by more lightening through technological innovation (e.g., Industrial Revolution), followed by removing the curse (but sin remains) during the Millennium (Zech 14:11), followed by creating a perfect environment again on the new earth (Rev 22:3). God's original intent was to form a Kingdom of righteous, obedient people who would "multiply and fill the earth" (Gen 1:28). The plan was to populate not just Eden but the entire globe. But God's repeated attempts to establish a perfect Kingdom on earth will not succeed until the new earth.

Theocratic Kingdom of Israel: There was no attempt to form a Kingdom of God on earth from the fall to Sinai, which includes the dispensations of Conscience, Human Government, and Promise. The success or failure of the Kingdom of Israel depended on obedience to the covenant (Lev 26:27–39; 2 K 18:11–12; Ezk 8:4; 9:3; 10:4; 11:23). The first, second, and third attempts to form a permanent Kingdom on earth are frustrated by human free will, disobedience, and sin.

Church: The Church is a Kingdom of Royal Priests with a king *in absentia* (Col 1:13) and ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20) but is not a Theocratic Kingdom. Why? Because God is not present and ruling over his people in a temple in Jerusalem.

Millennial Kingdom: Saints of all preceding ages, including the Church Age, will be governed by the moral, civil, and ceremonial laws of the Theocratic Kingdom. You probably won't care much about the holy days, feasts, sacrifices, levitical priesthood, and ritual law of the Old Testament until you realize that *you* will live under these very laws throughout the Millennial and Eternal Kingdoms! You, along with everyone else, will be keeping the sabbath, making pilgrimages to Jerusalem for the feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, bringing gift and fellowship offerings, and watching levitical priests perform their duties before God. Animals will be offered in the Millennium but not in the Eternal Kingdom. These sabbaths, holy days, and festivals will be days off around the world to gather together to worship God. Perhaps this bit of insight may motivate you to start learning what your future life will be like for all eternity!

Eternal Kingdom: The new earth will boast dirt, plants (including the 80% now extinct), animals (perhaps those that lived on this earth), farming, manufacturing, economic activity, jobs (from cotton pickers to kings) forever. We may find cotton planted and growing in fields, harvesting, weaving fabric, tailoring, and buying and selling clothes. God's throne will not be in a temple (Rev 21:22) but in a recreated Garden of Eden (22:1–3)—and Adam may resume his gardening career. Your God-given talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts will determine your future career, and your faithfulness will determine your rung on the corporate ladder (Ezk 44:10–16). Mechanics may maintain machines on the new earth; administrators may manage businesses; and pastors may lead worship services in gentile nations (more praise than teaching). Without sin and the curse, all work (service for God) will be enjoyable and fulfilling. Amen. So be it!