

TWO PERSPECTIVES ON THE TIME STRUCTURE OF PARADISE LOST

Chronological Order

Expository Order

(eternity)

The Father exalts the Son.

Satan rebels.

The War in Heaven

Son triumphs over rebel angels

Rebel angels plummet to Chaos

Rebel angels lie "vanquish't,
rowling in the fiery Gulf"
World created
Day of rest and rejoicing
Adam explores Paradise, names
the beasts, discovers
his loneliness, and is
given a companion, Eve

Satan lifts his head and speaks to
Beelzebub

Building of Pandemonium

Council of fallen angels

Satan flies through Chaos to the world
(Christ offers himself as ransom
for what is about to happen)

The temptation and fall

Doom falls on Satan and his followers

Sin and Death arrive on earth

Angels push to poles of the earth apart,
inaugurating mortality and decay

Michael descends, prepares Adam for
history.

Adam and Eve are expelled from
Paradise

Human history unfolds
Christ is born, crucified

The Second Coming

(eternity)

Satan recovers from confusion

Building of Pandemonium

Council of fallen Angels

Satan heads for Paradise,
pausing to pay a visit
to Sin and Death

God foresees the fall; Christ
offers himself as ransom
for fallen humanity

Satan arrives in paradise

Satan incites rebellion in Heaven

War in Heaven

Fall of rebel angels

Creation of this world

Creation of Adam and Eve

Temptation and fall

Sin and Death enter the world

Michael arrives in Eden

Human history unfolds

The Second Coming

Adam and Eve expelled from Paradi