

An Incredible Place

Revelation 21:1-5

5 Minutes: Intro Scripture

1. Hello everyone.
2. My Name Is Vernon James
3. Filling In For Sandy on trip
4. He'll be back this Week for Muscle Up Wednesday.
5. Verse by Verse through book of Acts
6. Title Is An Incredible Place - Revelation 21:1-5. I
7. Turn there in bibles.
8. If you need a bible, just raise your hand and an usher will get one to you.
9. While you do that I will introduce myself for those of you who do not know me.
10. I run the booth back there and handle the IT and Media around here. It is really an important job because when Pastor Sandy is up here, he expects things to work. And if something goes wrong, he has his way of letting me know. **Play Clip of Killing me Vern!**

Everyone have their Bible?

Let's Pray

Lord, I pray that you open and excite our hearts for the wonderful things and places you have in store for us. That you will guide us in applying this message to our lives and that it bear's fruit in our hearts. Help us to focus and to be engaged as your word goes forth before us. In Jesus Holy Name we pray, Amen!

Before we read Revelation, be aware that this is the Apostle John who is having a vision from God. He is told to write down what he is seeing, which are mostly things that have yet to come.

Let's read ...

REVELATION 21:1-5

1) Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2) Then I, John, 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 heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

HIT IT D

Intro - Music about Heaven (first Service 45 seconds)

Wow what an really good song. It's called "I'll Take You There" by BeBe and CeCe Winans.

They are singing about a Wonderful, Incredible Place!

- They're saying that they know a place
 - where AINT nobody crying
 - Aint nobody worrying,
 - And certainly Aint no lying, sleazy, fast talking, smiling faces .. Lying to the races.
 - **There is A LOT of that going on today isn't it!**
 - They are singing about an Incredible place.
 - We can only imagine what this place is like.

But it is certainly worth getting excited and making a song about! Look at verse 1 again.

REVELATION 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

Guys, God is making a NEW heaven, and a NEW earth!

How many of us get excited about getting something NEW! We get excited when we get some new shoes, clothes, smartphone and especially a new Car!!! For the younger guys, whenever a new Xbox, PlayStation, or Nintendo system or game come out, they go nuts. Seriously. I've had to tell some of our younger staff not to bring that stuff in. They get so excited they can barely put it down. For some of ya'll, when you hear that UPS truck coming down the road, you look out the window just in case they are stopping at you house, knowing good and well you didn't order nothing. And if you did, you run out to the UPS man before he can get out the truck! It feels like Christmas time when you see him don't it!

[SLIDE – So EXCITED] But the idea here is that knowing that you are getting something new, it produces excitement and anticipation!

But let me be the one to tell you, NO ONE gives better gifts than God. NO ONE!! PERIOD! Revelation 21:1 tells us that He is giving us a new EARTH AND a new HEAVEN!

[SLIDE – Mic Drop] As far as I concerned, Jesus, can drop the mic now For like the gazillionth time.

God is so Incredible! Make me want to change the title of this sermon from Incredible Place to Incredible God. But for the sake of staying on topic ... I'll leave it!

John continues in verse 1:

for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

You know what I like about God? He likes to get rid of clutter. He's not a pack rat. When God gets something new, he does away with the old! You know, I've implemented this way of managing clutter in my home. Whenever my kids ask me to get something new for them, I tell them they must get rid of something old. If I didn't do this, we would not have room to contain all the toys. It WORKS!!! Well, that is, until the grandparents mess things up with all the shopping they do. They

are always messing up our system all because they love them adore them. It's like all grandparents have the gift of Giving. Well, only to the grand kids. Certainly, doesn't apply to the adult children! Any ways, I digress.

But, you should know, that God is not simply getting rid of the old earth and old heaven just for the sake of having something new. No. These old places have been associated with sin. They have all been tainted with the presence of evil beings, such as ourselves, fallen angels, and demons. Not that John writes, "And the sea was also gone." In the bible, God associates the seas as the place where evil dwells. John rights in **Revelation 13:1** that the 7 horned beast rose out of the sea.

So, God is going to cleanse the area. Its quite interesting how God will do this! Even though John describes it hear as they simply disappeared, in **2 Peter 3:10 NKJV**, Peter gives us a description of how God will go about getting rid of the old earth! It says, "*the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*" Man, I would hate to be on earth when that happen. God is intense, isn't He? Right now, though, for the world, He is intense in His Grace to hold this off event longer until as many people as possible come to Him for salvation. According to **2 Peter 3:9**, "*His will is that not any should perish, but have everlasting life*" in the New Heaven and Earth!

John continues in verse 2

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Man, when it comes to showing His loved ones with Gifts, God is such a show boat. He's all about presentation. He could have just snapped His ethereal finger and the old heaven, earth, and sea would disappear and the new heaven and earth would appear, all in an instant. But Nooo. God must put on a show by melting the old earth with fire only to then have A WHOLE CITY, descend upon a new Earth. A CITY. Just imagine it. And this is not little, Lilburn, sized city. Have any of ya'll driven through downtown Lilburn? I've been told there is one. I've been living here for 6 years and I still not sure if I've driven through it. Just kidding. But honestly, I had driven through it a few times and did not realize I was downtown Lilburn. Its ..

Ahh... lol. According to . [SLIDE – CUBE] **Revelation 21:17**, John measures the city to be pretty much a large cube shaped structure 1,400 miles wide, 1,400 miles long, and get this ... 1,400 miles high! Incredible!!

To emphasize the idea that we will be with God, This is not the first cubed shaped structure that God dwelled in. According to **1 Kings 6:20**, the Most Holy Place in the Temple of Jerusalem was shaped like a cube. **It says, "The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar."** What is interesting is that the Most Holy Of Holy was only allowed to be visited by a priest once per year. It represented an area where sin was not allowed and the closest one could get to God. The Priest would have to have sacrificed a lamb on behalf of the nation to go inside. That sounds very similar to how we are able to enter into New Jerusalem.

In Revelation 21:22-23, John writes that he *"saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."*

The only part of the temple that God keeps is the Most Holy Of Holy, the very part where He dwelled. Folks, in this Incredible place, God's going to keep right next to Him. He will live among us! No veils, not sacrifices, just 24/7 direct access to Him. He will be so radiant, the whole place will be lit with His light! It is going to be Incredible!!

Jesus is will adorn this city with many precious metals and pearly gates. John describes it in verse 2 ... *like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband*. Now, as I said before, God's a show off. As John was going through this experience, In Revelation 21:9-11, one of the angels began to speak to him.

9) *"Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."* **10)** *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **11)** having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal*

.
Skipping down to verse to 18-23

18) The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. [SLIDE - STONES] 19) The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20) the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. [SLIDE – Pearl Gates] 21) The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. [SLIDE – Gold street] And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

The great care that a bride has when preparing for her wedding ceremony is what God has done here. It will truly be a site to behold!

Continuing, John writes in verse 3,
I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

Now, we are getting to the Good stuff. Because as beautiful and wonderful this New humongous city is, **verse 3 points** out the MOST INCREDIBLE part of this Incredible place. *That is, "God himself will be with them."*

Guys, God Himself will live among us. Now, if you don't know, ask somebody who loves Jesus, because they will tell you that the closer you get to Him, oh man, the more blown away you are in your heart and mind about His amazing love. You know how many of us tend to get really interested in hobbies. Take sports for example. Some of us are REALLY into sports. We track it, analyze it, talk about it, fantasize about it, and even get with others to celebrate it. Well, that is what it is like when you began to grow in knowledge and understanding of God's love for you. Began to become consumed by it. You began to track evidence of God actively demonstrating His love for you, of even the smaller things. You began analyzing and meditation on it via His word. You talk with others about it and you even fantasize about it. Well, LIVING with Jesus among us will give us an eternity of the pursuit of this "hobby."

Other hobbies I'd like to partake in is flying, instant transmission, and even exploring the galaxy! Oh, and picking God's brain! Man living with God is going to be INCREDIBLE.

In verse 4, John writes:

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

I've spent the last 15 minutes explaining how Incredible this place will be. But this verse here I believe God gave John to write so that we can more easily understand just how Incredible this place will be on an emotional level. As you enter this place, God himself "*will wipe away every tear from your eyes.*" That thing you were crying about last night, God sees it and promises that there will be a time where such things will be a thing of the past. "*There will be no more death or sorry or crying. All these things are gone forever.*"

God is giving you an emotional visual. He is helping you to imagine how it will FEEL to live in this incredible with Him. Just imagine it, to be completely comforted with no more pain and suffering.

This will be a place where everyone there want to live according to the ways of His Kingdom. Look at the person next to you. Know that your ability to love that person next to you and all fellow citizens of the New Heaven and New Earth will exceed the love you have for your spouse here on this old earth! Go ahead and put your arm around that person, tell them you love them. This is just a glimpse of what is to come. There will be no embarrassment or shame, fighting or arguing. No sickness or diseases. I know I keep saying this, but this place will be Incredible. And the reason why it will be Incredible is because will be With Jesus!

That leads us to the big question. Do you want to come too? Like Bebe and Cece, I'll take you there? We would love the opportunity to take you along with us. We'll simply grab your hand and introduce you to Jesus, that is, if His Spirit is not moving on you already. If it is, take this opportunity to Join us on our Incredible journey to

that Incredible place that Jesus promises us. Anyone tired of the evil in this world. Anyone tired of all the pain and suffering. The selfishness, lustfulness, bickering and backbiting? Theft and jealousy. Maybe you recognize that you are dealing with this sin in your heart. If so, that can change today. If you want to come down, then come on down and our prayer counselors will pray for you. God will forgive you of your sins and began the process of helping you to grow and not sin. In the meantime, he will give you His righteousness so that you will be in good standing with the Heavenly Father right now! All you must do is denounce this world, put your hope and trust in Jesus to forgive your sins and give you access to His Kingdom.

He'll make you a new creation, one fitting for such an Incredible place like this. You may have a hard time believing that He can change a Wretch like yourself, but I am telling you, that He can and does every day to those that choose to live according to His way. He's done it for me. This is what Jesus does. It is His specialty. John writes in verse 5:

5) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

You can take God's Words to the Bank. Come. Make the right decision and join us on our journey to be With Jesus in the Incredible Place that He is preparing for us!