



Revelation 21—part 2
Verse 3
From Sermon 5.5.19

Read *Revelation 21:3*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: this verse is monumental in previewing our new, restored physical relationship with God. While we have so much to look forward to in glory, this should reign supreme—the Eden relationship restored. It's been a long, painful journey to make verse 3 happen. We did everything in our old nature to prevent it. But, God prevailed over our sin.

From Sunday: What makes man unique in all of Creation? See *Genesis 1:26-28 & Psalm 8:4-5*

- Man is the only creature made in the image of God. Discuss: God is not a physical body (until Jesus' incarnation), but He sees, hears, feels, functions. It's far more about the attributes of God: mind, reason, self-awareness, emotion, volition, will, ability to create/think abstractly
- All of this because He designed man for relationship/intimate fellowship
- This would lead man to worship the God who created him.
- He put man in charge of all of the rest of Creation—to rule it, subdue it, explore and enjoy it
- He gave man an immortal spirit
- God made man just a little lower than the angels
- Extra: He only provided a redemption path for man

What happened that changed/ruined the grand, original design? Adam and Eve sinned, thus cursing the universe and all mankind after them. God could not dwell, physically, in the sin. He had to separate His holy self from sinful man.

See *Genesis 3:19 & Romans 5:12*

Even in the severed relationship, what are some ways God showed grace, mercy, and love? Various answers. But include: He didn't strike Adam and Eve down where they stood. He covered their nakedness at the expense of some animals. He pours out common grace on mankind—rain, crops, life, joy, love, the beauty of nature.... He provided the Law, so we would know His Standard. He sent Jesus—whose death is sufficient to cover all the sin of all men from all time.

Read *John 1:14*. From Sunday, what does “dwelt” mean, in the original language? Tabernacled. A noun transformed into a verb. God dwelling, physically, where man is. See *Exodus 33:7-9*

How did this happen anew when Jesus came to earth? He veiled Himself and walked with man, communed with him, fellowshiped with the believers.

See *1 John 1:1-3*

How is God “dwelling” with believers today? God the Holy Spirit in us. See *1 Corinthians 3:16*

Each of those “tabernacles” was temporary. What happens in heaven that is permanent? We are transformed into the final glory of Christ. Because of that, all sin, human nature is gone. We can be again in His/God's unveiled Presence without being consumed, fearful, dread, ruined. We can have the face-to-face, intimate relationship we were originally designed for. We'll talk with Him, fellowship with Him, worship Him perfectly. He will serve us in unimaginable ways.

See also *Luke 12:37, Luke 22:14-18, John 14:1-4, & 1 Corinthians 2:9*