

# ***Revealing Revelation's Rewards***

## **An Introduction to the book of Revelation**

*“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”* Revelation 1:1-3

### **Introduction:**

Written by the Apostle John somewhere around 95 A.D. Written to real, contemporary churches!

Obvious patterns of “7”—e.g. Seven Blessings:

1:3 14:13 16:15 19:9 20:6 22:7 22:14

John being “in the Spirit” at major junctures in the book:

1:10 4:2 17:3 21:10

## **Acknowledging Different Approaches**

**Preterist:** Fulfilled entirely or mainly in the First Century.

**Historicist:** Fulfilled in stages throughout church history.

**Idealist:** Fundamentally symbolic.

**Futurist:** Fulfilled mainly in the future.

*Our approach will be eclectic; focusing on the futurist but incorporating preterist and idealist approaches. However, since godly men and women have and still do take each approach with good evidence, we need to proceed with humble caution!*

## **Be Ready!!!**

*“Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”*  
*“Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”*

Revelation 13:10 & 14:12

**Be Ready by Holy Living:** *“Let the...righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”* Revelation 22:11

**Be Ready by Fruitful Living:** *“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”* Revelation 22:17

**Be Ready by Unified Living:** *“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”* Revelation 21:2

## **A Final Exodus**

### **An Example of a Thematic Approach to Revelation**

1. *“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”* Revelation 1:5
2. The plagues on Egypt of darkness, hail, locusts, boils, frogs, and water turning to blood are found throughout the book of Revelation.
3. *“Dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt.”* Revelation 11:8
4. Note that a “dragon” persecuted Israel (Ezekiel 29:3) and does so once again (Revelation 12:3ff).
5. Once Israel escapes from this dragon, she is found to be nourished in the wilderness (Revelation 12:6 & 14).
6. Israel sang the Song of Moses after crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 15); the redeemed sing the *“Song of Moses and the Lamb”* in Revelation 15:3.
7. The Heavenly Tabernacle is referenced throughout Revelation; the reality behind Moses’ earthly copy.