The Function of the Church in Warfare in the Book of Revelation

This dissertation demonstrates the function of the church in war in Revelation. Chapter 1 tracks the development of publications that address this subject and also illustrates the need for another academic contribution to it. Furthermore, it explains this dissertation's particular narratological approach. Chapter 2 examines the plot of Revelation. Borrowing the tools from narrative plot criticism, this chapter shows the priority of the warfare motif to the structure and development of Revelation's plot. Chapter 3 analyses Revelation's characters. Like Chapter 2, it proves the significance of the warfare motif to the author's process of characterization. Although minor characters are given a brief discussion, more attention is given to the way in which the main characters contribute to the concept of war. Chapter 4 illustrates the relevance of war to the author's point of view (POV). This chapter presents an analysis of passages wherein the author's POV is manifest in order to test the import of the war motif for the author's perspective. Chapter 5 identifies specific images in Revelation that contribute to Revelation's theology of the ecclesia. Provided is an exegetical defense for understanding the seven churches (1:4-3:22), the 144,000 and the multitude (7:1-17), the temple (11:1-2), the two witnesses (11:3-13), the 144,000 male virgins (14:1-5), and the
Chapter 6 considers how each of the passages and images discussed in chapter 5 describe the function of the church in warfare in Revelation. All the preceding chapters warrant and support the concluding findings. Thus, this work hopes to fill a gap in ecclesiological and narratival studies in Revelation. The aim of this work is not simply to perform a specific kind of narrative critique upon Revelation, but to show how narrative criticism informs Revelation's theology of the church. Specifically, the Apocalypse mandates the ecclesia to do much more than obey; the narrative calls the church to engage her enemies in the cosmic war with specific acts of obedience until Christ's final, consummative victory.

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The Book of Revelation Bible Study Material. Mark Brighton. Copyright © 2008 Mark Brighton All rights reserved. Preface. This Bible study is designed to highlight the major points of Revelation in eight weeks. These horsemen symbolize tyranny, warfare, economic upheaval/famine, and death. The fifth seal answers for how long and why God's people suffer. The sixth seal, on the basis of similar language in Mk. 13:25-26, Joel 2:21, Is. 34:4, and Jer. The dragon and the two beasts also constitute within the book of Revelation a type of anti-trinity. In this and several other ways, such as the marking of those who follow the beast, John draws our attention to how evil, in attempting to usurp divine power and worship, parodies or mimics that which it intends to supplant.