Martyrdom as an impetus for divine retribution in the book of Revelation

Abstract
This dissertation examines the relationship between martyrdom and divine retribution against the martyr's persecutors in the book of Revelation. The argument is made that Revelation portrays martyrdom as an impetus of Divine retribution against the persecutors of the martyrs. Chapter 1 traces the trend in recent scholarship to view Revelation's portrayal of martyrdom as contributing to the conversion of the nations. Basic assumptions of this view are discussed, as well as some replies from traditionalists. Chapter 2 discusses the methodology and sources used to defend the thesis. A discussion of intertextuality in the book of Revelation leads to the conclusion that the Old Testament, and particularly the prophetic tradition of Israel, is the primary background. The genre analysis leads the author to adopt a modified idealist approach to the symbolism of the book. Chapter 3 argues that martyrdom is the confirmation of the saints' testimony against the persecutors of the church. It is argued that the concept of witness is drawn from the background of...
Nevertheless, retribution neither has to be nor should be the inexorable response to real persecution in the past. Some early Christians themselves provide alternative and supplemental discourses. Rather than inciting a "martyr complex" leading to retaliation, a refined understanding of the mistreatment of early Christians can actually lead to a renewed interest in a universal concept of religious liberty. Overview. Moss asserts that the early Christians were not persecuted in the first decades of the Jesus movement, because this would be logically impossible, as they were not yet a distinct g Reading the Book of Revelation can be challenging — the storyline twists and turns and isn’t strictly chronological. The author of the Book of Revelation, Saint John the Divine, offers a transcription of seven letters and later describes strange beasts, visions of judgments, governments, demonic battles, heaven, and a new world order — a prophetic vision for the end of the world. Even through all of this there is a clear structure; take a look at the layout of the Book of Revelation: Prologue (Rev. 1). Revelation is a book which presents "the great revealing." It discloses the full character and identity of Jesus of Nazareth by lifting the veil. Christ's identity and work are outlined by His various names in this great book. I provided links to the verse and chapter in the Book of Revelation (The Apocalypse) where these names can be found. In Jewish eschatology Messiah became a technical term for the long-awaited, divinely chosen King of the Davidic line who would rule over the golden age. The prophets and the Psalms teach that the messianic king would not be simply another in a series of "anointed" rulers, but He was The Anointed One. He is "anointed" par excellence, a King of kings who would destroy the enemies of Israel and install a reign of peace and prosperity.