Abstract
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...
When you study the Book of Revelation, one of the first things that you will look at are the seven churches listed in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. There you will see seven actual letters from Jesus — one to each church. In the letters He applauds and chastises each church and He offers them advice on how to get back on track. Much of the dialog is directed towards the leaders in the churches regarding the way the truth is being taught, or not. All of these seven churches mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are literal churches that were located in Asia Minor. These churches were planted a