

The act of martyrdom in the worldview of the Apocalypse is usually considered to be an exemplification of non-violent resistance. In contrast, Paul Middleton argues that such an act represents direct participation by Christians in divine violence against those the author of the Book of Revelation portrays as God's enemies. Martyrs follow the model laid down by the Lamb, who was not only slain, but resurrected, glorified, and executes judgement.

Exploring the interface between the apparent pacifism of early Christianity and the imperialistic Roman worldview, Middleton's analysis covers the entirety of Revelation, and offers fresh perspectives on the extent of persecution against early Christians, and the Christology of the Apocalypse. Middleton argues that, in deploying the image of the Lamb, John presents Jesus as both proto-martyr and divine judge. Through accepting martyrdom, readers are offered the invitation to participate in Revelation's divine judgement. Providing a new interpretation on suffering and martyrdom in the Apocalypse, this book is vital in considering the relationship between violence and Christianity.

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