

**MORE THAN CONQUERORS: THE CONQUEROR (ΝΙΚΑΪΩ)  
MOTIF IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

by

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*I dedicate this dissertation to my late father Reverend Young-Kweon Shin.*

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## SUMMARY

**Title: More Than Conquerors: The Conqueror (Νικάω) Motif in the Book of Revelation**

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**Degree: Doctor of Philosophy**

This dissertation intends to reveal the theme of the conqueror, which is spread throughout the book of Revelation. I try to determine the identity and function of the conquerors who were faced with various problems in their present situations. Various present situations such as the political, economical, social, and religious phenomena that the first Christians confronted must be considered. Thus, the main aim of Revelation is to persuade compromising Christians to disengage from pagan idolatry and to sustain those who resist. One must remember the fact that the designated conquerors were absolutely embedded in their historical and sociological situation. We should recognize why John wanted to send his prophetic message through various symbolic references and universes, providing a different heavenly perspective in contrast with an earthly point of view.

In general, the conquest can be linked with both a military and political meaning, such as Messiah and the son of David in Jewish literature and the Old Testament. But the conqueror figure in Revelation can be understood from a different angle. The characteristic of the conqueror is explained through the symbolic transformation of redemptive death and victory. It means that the idea of conquering has been changed. Conquering doesn't depend on a military or political power that is the interpretation of the traditional messianic expectation, but self-sacrifice of the Lamb on the cross. The characteristic of the Lamb as conqueror is closely linked with the image of an atoning, sacrificial victim.

The theme of suffering and death in Revelation is linked with the victory of the conquerors. That is, the conquerors can be defined as those who endure suffering, slander, poverty and tribulation unto death as Jesus has done. From a worldly

perspective, Satan looks like the almighty figure as the conqueror that persecuted the people of God, but in terms of the heavenly perspective, he is defeated and conquered by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of God in 12:11. Therefore, conquering is provided from the heavenly perspective to encourage the conquerors as seeing the present reality. Just as the Lamb has conquered the evil ones by his blood, the conquerors should conquer the evil ones by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. Thus, the victory of the conquerors can be attained by means of witness and death. The idea that the conquerors are the victims might provide the people of God with a powerful symbolic transformation as a marginalized group in a hostile world.

The conquerors are provided with a heavenly perspective, implying an eschatological fulfillment and God's presence in the New Jerusalem. The image of the New Jerusalem provides a rhetorical effect that the people of God as conquerors will experience salvation in the future. Whereas the city of Babylon was drunk with the blood of the conquerors, the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven will dwell with God as the completion of the fulfillment God promised (cf. 21:1-22:5).

## KEY WORDS

- The Conquerors
- The promise statement given to the conquerors
- The fulfillment statement given to the conquerors
- The One like a Son of man
- The Lamb
- The Divine Warrior
- The people of God as the conquerors
- The word of God and the testimony of Christ
- The heavenly and the earthly perspectives
- The symbolic transformation

## ABBREVIATIONS

### A. General abbreviations

AD.	Anno Domini
Ant.	Antiquities
J.W	Wars of the Jews
BD.	Before Christ
Cf.	Compare, confer
Ch (s).	Chapter (s)
Ed (s).	Editor (s), edited by
E.g.	For example
Etc.	Et cetera
I.e.	That is
LXX.	Septuagint
N.d.	No date
NT	New Testament
OT	Old Testament
Trans.	Translator, translated, translation
V (s)	Verse (s)
Vol.	Volume

### B. Abbreviations for books of the Bible

#### ► OLD TESTAMENT (OT)

Genesis	Ge.	Ecclesiastes	Ecc.
Exodus	Ex.	Song of Songs	SS.
Leviticus	Lev.	Isaiah	Isa.
Numbers	Nu.	Jeremiah	Jer.
Deuteronomy	Dt.	Lamentations	La.
Joshua	Jos.	Ezekiel	Ezk.
Judges	Jdg.	Daniel	Da.

Ruth	Ru.	Hosea	Hos.
1 Samuel	1 Sa.	Joel	Joel.
2 Samuel	2 Sa.	Amos	Am.
1 King	1 Ki.	Obadiah	Ob.
2 King	2 Ki.	Jonah	Jnh.
1 Chronicles	1 Ch.	Micah	Mic.
2 Chronicles	2 Ch.	Nahum	Na.
Ezra	Ezr.	Habakkuk	Hab.
Nehemiah	Ne.	Zephaniah	Zep.
Esther	Est.	Haggai	Hag.
Job	Job.	Zechariah	Zec.
Psalms	Ps.	Malachi	Mal.
Proverb	Pr.		

► **NEW TESTAMENT (NT)**

Matthew	Mt.	1 Timothy	1 Ti.
Mark	Mk.	2 Timothy	2 Ti.
Luke	Lk.	Titus	Tit.
John	Jn.	Philemon	Phm.
Acts	Acts.	Hebrews	Heb.
Romans	Ro.	James	Jas.
1 Corinthians	1 Co.	1 Peter	1 Pe.
2 Corinthians	2 Co.	2 Peter	2 Pe.
Galatians	Gal.	1 John	1Jn.
Ephesians	Eph.	2 John	2 Jn.
Philippians	Php.	3 John	3 Jn.
Colossians	Col.	Jude	Jude.
1 Thessalonians	1 Th.	Revelation	Rev.
2 Thessalonians	2 Th.		

### C. Abbreviations with regard to books and series used:

AUSS	Andrews University Seminary Studies
Bib	Biblica
BibSac	Bibliotheca Sacra
BT	The Bible Translator
BTB	Biblical Theology Bulletin
CBQ	Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CR	Currents in Research
CTJ	Calvin Theological Journal
EvQ	Evangelical Quarterly
GTJ	Grace Theological Journal
HTR	Harvard Theological Review
Int	Interpretation
JBL	Journal of Biblical Literature
JETS	Journal of the Evangelical Theological Studies
JRL	The John Rylands Library
JSNT	Journal for the Study of the New Testament
JTS	Journal for Theological Studies
Neotest	Neotestamentica
NIC	New International Commentary
NIDNTT	New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NovT	Novem Testamentum
NTS	New Testament Study
QR	Quarterly Review
SA	Sociological Analysis
TDNT	Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
VoxEv	Vox Evangelica
WBC	World Biblical Commentary
WTJ	Westminster Theological Journal
WW	Word and World



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