Through a thorough and close reading of the primary source documents produced by Baptist denominations and their periodicals, this dissertation addresses the following historical research question: *How did Baptists in the United States relate to Jews and respond to Nazi anti-Semitism and their persecution of the Jewish people during the turbulent era of 1933 through 1948 (from Hitler’s rise to power to the establishment of Israel)?*

Were Baptists in the United States silent while the Nazis persecuted the Jews and killed millions of people during the course of the Holocaust? This work demonstrates that Baptist denominations in the United States did express varying degrees of opposition and protest against anti-Semitism in general and to the Nazi campaigns against the Jews in particular. Baptist organizations passed dozens of resolutions and statements that were shared with thousands of congregations, published in newspapers, and distributed to politicians.

A comprehensive exploration of articles published in five Baptist newspapers and periodicals indicates that Baptists in the United States had access to a great deal of information about the Nazi persecution of European Jewry. Throughout the United States, Baptist national denominations, state conventions, city societies, local churches and individual clergy passed resolutions, conducted protests and offered theological arguments for opposing Nazi totalitarianism and anti-Semitism. The historical records of the largest Baptist denominations in the United States are explored in detail (the Northern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.). This study situates the African-American Baptist response within the wider context of that community’s struggle for civil rights. Smaller Baptist denominations and alliances (the German Baptist Conference, the Swedish Baptist General Conference, the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, the Seventh Day Baptists, and Baptist evangelicals) are also surveyed. Baptists in the United States expressed their convictions through a global fellowship, the Baptist World Alliance. Its responses to anti-Semitism, the rise of Hitler and the Holocaust are examined.

Particular attention is paid to Baptist ministries directed at the Jewish community, and to the prophetic ministries of selected female leaders, including the Christian Friendliness missionaries of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Woman's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention. The ministry of Jacob Gartenhaus is contrasted to other influential Southern Baptist leaders, who displayed varying degrees of anti-Semitism.

Baptists responded to the Nazi persecution of the Jews in light of classic Baptist theological concepts. Key Baptist convictions such as soul liberty and the separation of church and state, in combination with two subsidiary theological insights – *personality* (the infinite value of all humans because they have a spiritual nature, a premise denied by totalitarian regimes) and *racialism* (a term employed to denote the topic of race relationships and specifically, discrimination against Jews, African-Americans and Japanese-Americans), were applied to counter Nazi anti-Semitism. Furthermore, this study contributes to scholarly analysis of the Baptist responses to the Zionist movement and the establishment of Israel.