

GUIDE TO THE WRITINGS
OF HERMAN BAVINCK

Guide to the Writings of
HERMAN BAVINCK
(1854–1921)

Eric D. Bristley

With an Essay by John Bolt



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Introduction

This guide provides English readers with a resource for the study of Bavinck's works. For many years the study of this master of Reformed theology was restricted largely to those who could read Dutch. But with the recent translation of the four volumes of *Reformed Dogmatics, Essays on Religion, Science, and Society, Saved by Grace*, and other titles, English readers throughout the world now have access to more of his main publications.

Three purposes are in view in the publication of this guide. First, it is designed to help readers appreciate Bavinck's broad contribution to a distinctively Christian and Reformed worldview. Second, it is hoped that this guide might stimulate the desire for further translations into English and other languages. And third, it is intended to serve students and scholars in their research into Bavinck's unique contribution to theology, philosophy, psychology, education, history, and culture.

This work is based on the diligent labors of many. Chief among them is Dr. Jan Veenhof, whose bibliography appeared in Rolf H. Bremmer's, *Herman Bavinck als Dogmaticus*.¹ Dr. Bremmer's definitive study of Bavinck's theological works was supplemented by his companion biography, *Herman Bavinck en zijn Tijdgenoten*, which contained additional bibliographical items by Veenhof.²

A modified version of Veenhof's bibliography was posted on the website of Project Neocalvinisme (www.neocalvinisme.nl), which provides links to most of Bavinck's writings in Dutch. A subsequent bibliography by Dr. Ron Gleason was made available at his Bavinck site, which includes some annotations (www.hermanbavinck.com).

Building on these labors, I have sought to make Veenhof's work more readily available and bring it up to date. I have collated and verified references to books and brochures which I have been able to check firsthand or through internet library databases. I have added a few items missing from Veenhof's work. I hope that others will add to this work as well.

1. R. H. Bremmer, *Herman Bavinck als Dogmaticus* [Herman Bavinck as Theologian] (Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1961), 425–46. Jan Veenhof taught theology at the Free University of Amsterdam from 1973 to 1989.

2. R. H. Bremmer, *Herman Bavinck en zijn Tijdgenoten* [Herman Bavinck and His Contemporaries] (Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1966), 299–301.

Veenhof's work was organized by type of document. He listed (a) books, lectures, brochures and contributions by year; (b) articles and reviews listed by journal; (c) articles from *De Bazuin*; (d) introductions to the writings of others; (e) translations; (f) and government speeches.

The present work takes a more historical approach by listing all items according to year of publication. Since it is designed to serve English readers, annotations, quotations, and reviews of the various works are provided to give an idea of their content and significance. Veenhof's and Gleason's annotations have been used and frequently modified or supplemented. A system of cross references has been provided, to show various versions and related documents.

The guide is organized as follows: The first section provides a concise biography to help the reader see Bavinck's publications in the context of his life. This is followed by an essay, "Bavinck Speaks English," by Dr. John Bolt, which sheds much light on the history of Bavinck translations in their historical context. The main bibliography follows, covering documents from 1880 until the present. There is a separate listing of government speeches, the contents of the Bavinck archive at the Free University, and various collections of letters. Next is a bibliography of secondary literature about Bavinck, both biographical and scholarly. The guide concludes with an index to titles in Dutch, translations, book reviews, and finally a general index of all the primary titles in Dutch and English.

I would like to thank a number of people who have contributed to this guide. First, I am most grateful to my wife, Kathleen, for her careful copyediting. I have greatly appreciated the encouragement and suggestions of Dr. John Bolt, who graciously allowed the inclusion of his essay. I am grateful also to Dr. Ron Gleason for his valuable input. To Dr. Joel Beeke for his enthusiasm for the project and to Jay Collier for his help in bringing it to print, I express my heartfelt thanks. I am indebted to Dr. Jan Veenhof for his original bibliographical work. Finally, I want to express gratitude for Dr. R. H. Bremmer, with whom I had the pleasure of discussing Bavinck's work many years ago, and for Rev. Andrew Petter, who instilled in me a love for the works of Bavinck.

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This site provides a place for making suggestions, corrections and additions to the *Guide to the Writings of Herman Bavinck*. It also includes a number of additional Bavinck resources and links.