

# BOOKS ON THE HEIDELBERGER: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM FOR PASTORS

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## Introduction

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM, on its 450th anniversary, remains a wonderful teaching tool for the church, an exhibit front and center of warmhearted Christianity, and a beautiful expression of the Reformed faith in its sixteenth-century codification. As such, it remains unsurpassed by any other Reformed catechism or confession. This is not hyperbole. While Presbyterians worldwide have good reason to treasure the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the Heidelberg—with its Christologically focused first question and answer, its easily grasped outline (sin and misery, deliverance from sin and misery, and gratitude for such deliverance—guilt, grace, gratitude) its exposition of the Apostles' Creed as a summary of the contents of the Christian faith, its extraordinary treatment of justification and good works, and its exposition of the sacraments and the keys of the kingdom, and, finally, its sane and insightful treatment of the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer—remains the pinnacle catechetical achievement of the Reformation in all of its codifications, from the first generation Reformers to the height of Reformed orthodoxy. No other catechism among the Reformed surpasses it in structure, splendor of expression, pastoral sensitivity, and practical import.

Such a source, with such pedigree, has a long and involved history. It is not our interest to attempt a sketch of that history here. It is, however, our interest to point those who embrace this confessional document of the church and who, even more, are engaged in using this document for teaching and instruction in the faith, to the myriad of books and volumes that may readily assist in this task. Thus, below we have provided a rather fulsome list of resources, individual monographs and multi-volume sets of books that treat the Heidelberg Catechism. Our comments attached are intended to alert interested parties regarding what to expect.

That simple remark, of course, requires amplification. It should be noted that readers will not find here works that are designed to be used in a catechism class for youth, though there are a few exceptions. Thus, for example, I will not mention or comment on a work

like Gordon J. Spykman's *Never on Your Own: A course of study on the Heidelberg Catechism and Compendium* (Grand Rapids: Board of Publications of the Christian Reformed Church, 1969). I also will not include in this bibliography unpublished manuscripts on the catechism. No doubt, many ministers have produced their own collection of sermons on the catechism or produced catechetical materials that exposit the catechism—some of which float about on the internet or may be downloaded from blogs. Some such sources, however, may be of value but I will forgo any acknowledgment of them (including my own). I also will not be examining articles in church magazines and theological journals that treat some aspect or topic or issue surrounding the Heidelberg Catechism. Many such articles are valuable and ought to be read, but these usually have a more technical or polemical point and do not have the focus I intend with this bibliography.

Therefore, in contrast to those sorts of sources, I will limit my focus to published works, some of which are new and in print and therefore readily available to readers, but many of which are older and out-of-print. These out-of-print sources, however, can often be found via the internet or used book stores or in the libraries of retiring ministers.

Finally, I am limiting this bibliography to works on the catechism which are written in either the English or Dutch language. Thus, I am not including Latin or German works, for example, which have not been translated into English or into Dutch. Many readers may even question the value of including so many Dutch sources in this bibliography. My reasons for this are twofold. First, there is an enormous literature on the Heidelberg Catechism in the Dutch language, and much of this literature is theologically insightful and practical in nature. Second, a number of readers can handle the Dutch language, and so this benefits such readers. However, if you count yourself among those who have never studied this tongue, but anticipate preaching and teaching the Heidelberg Catechism throughout your ministry, the long list of Dutch sources may inspire you to learn this language, for there is great value in being able to use it. Indeed, for those who prize their Reformed heritage, this list of Dutch books represents a small sample of the rich and robust tradition that comprises the Reformed tradition.

In offering this selected bibliography, presented below, with my appended comments, I have no doubt missed some important sources currently available. I have tried, however, to be sufficiently thorough. A majority of the books listed I have been able to examine—many of which I own and have used in my own labor with the catechism. As for works with which I have no direct familiarity, I have made no comment.

The bibliography is divided into two parts. Part one consists of English works on the Heidelberg Catechism, including works trans-

lated into English from another tongue. Initially, I thought of placing works that are not strictly an exposition of the catechism into a distinct category from those that are, but this proved an artificial arrangement. Readers therefore will find the books ordered alphabetically—thus, whether a volume focuses on background or serves as a general introduction or is a collection of sermons or a formal commentary, or explores the history of the catechism, the arrangement is by author's name. Part two lists volumes that are in the Dutch language, and the same arrangement as explained above applies here as well. I have usually noted the number of pages which comprise each book or set of volumes in order for the reader to get a sense of the bulk or slenderness of a given volume or series. As noted above, to some volumes I have appended no annotation—this is because I either have been unable physically to obtain the source or I simply view the title as needing no comment, though the former is usually the case.

There is an unavoidable degree of subjectivity involved in offering abbreviated comments on the selected volumes listed below. I certainly intend no disrespect to any author. Moreover, my comments are geared with a particular audience in view and with a specific vocational goal in mind—that is, pastors are my intended primary audience and their homiletical and catechetical aims are my specific focus. Thus, this annotated list is not designed for scholars and theologians whose academic interest in the Heidelberg Catechism is not first of all driven by the needs of teaching and preaching this document to catechumens in the classroom, or to new converts in one's living room, or to congregants in a worship service. Having taught this document with such practical, spiritual aims, and having preached through the catechism in five or six series of sermons, I am well aware of the need for quality resources on the catechism and of the practical focus this need often requires. Consequently, readers should keep in mind my particular purpose in composing this select bibliography and the nature of the annotations.

#### PART ONE:

#### Works in English on the Heidelberg Catechism

Ames, William. *A Sketch of the Christian's Catechism*. Translated by Todd M. Rester. Introduced by Joel R. Beeke and Todd M. Rester. Classic Reformed Theology. Gen. ed., R. Scott Clark. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2008. Pp. 229.

This work, by the renowned William Ames, was first published in 1635 and treats each Lord's Day under a series of lessons. It is a bit scholastic in character and its exposition is served up rather unevenly, with some aspects of the catechism's answers being more fully examined and others topics given a truncated discussion. It was first translated into English under the title *The Substance of*

*Christian Religion; Or a plain and easie Draught of the Christian Catechisme in LII Lectures.* London: T. Mabb for T. Davies, 1659, with all direct references to the catechism expunged. In some respects this work is more valuable for an examination of Ames' theology than for its practical pay-off for pastors.

Apperloo-Boersma and Herman Selderhuis, eds. *Power of Faith: 450 Years of the Heidelberg Catechism.* Edited on behalf of Refo500. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013. Pp. 454.

This volume, which is basically a coffee-table book in design, is elegantly produced and brilliantly presents the history of the Heidelberg Catechism. Produced by a team of scholars, it is packed with beautiful black & white and color photographs of places, things, and people, as well as many other objects of interest. This is a difficult book to describe. It is not an exposition of the catechism itself. Rather, it has four distinct aims, reflected in the title given to each part: Part 1 is "Papers" which treat the history and theology of the catechism, the Palatinate, Heidelberg, and the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Heidelberg Catechism in the Netherlands. Part 2 is entitled "Power of Faith, 450 Years of the Heidelberg Catechism." Part 3: "The House of Orange and religion Exhibition within the context of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism, 1563-2013." Lastly, part 4 consists of "Appendices." This handsome volume is one to study and peruse repeatedly. The bibliography is not to be missed.

Barnes, M. Craig. *Body & Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism.* Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012; co-published with Congregation Ministries Publishing, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville, Ky. Pp. 238.

M. Craig Barnes is President of Princeton Theological Seminary. Following a short introduction, wherein the author explains his love for the catechism, even though he did not discover it until his college years, the book reveals the contents of the catechism under six headings: "The Only Comfort" (Q/A 1); "Our Misery and Our Mediator" (Q/As 2-25); "Our Thorough Salvation" (Q/As 26-52); "The Spirit and the Sacraments" (Q/As 53-85); "The Grateful Life" (Q/As 86-115); and "Teach Us to Pray" (Q/As 116-129). The book includes a translation of the Heidelberg Catechism itself. "This 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the Heidelberg Catechism (completed in 2011) is a fresh and accurate translation from the original German and Latin, using the 1988 translation of the Christian Reformed Church in North America as an English language base" (p. 163). Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. This book, about 150 pages of which are an exposition of the catechism, is surprisingly insightful and pastorally intelligent, as well as being homiletically helpful.

Barth, Karl. *Learning Jesus Christ through the Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by Shirley C. Guthrie, Jr. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964. Pp. 141.

This work was first published in Switzerland, in German—part one in 1948 and part two in 1960. In English translation it was first published by John Knox Press under the title *The Heidelberg Catechism for Today*. The book is written as a primer for the faith. The exposition follows the questions and answers of the catechism in sequence. Not surprisingly, Barth's distinctive theological traits reveal themselves in his exposition, as well as his theological genius.

Bastingius, Jeremias. *An Exposition or Commentarie upon the Catechisme of Christian Religion which is taught in the Schooles and churches both of the Lowe Countryes and of the dominions of the Countie Palatine*. Cambridge: John Legatt, 1589.

This work was reprinted in English translation many times. I have the printing from 1614. Pp. 604. Bastingius (1551-1595) was a Dutch Reformed theologian who, in fact, is best known for his exposition of the Heidelberg Catechism. He was trained by several prominent second-generation Reformers. This is a significant work that first appeared in Latin. It is also translated into Dutch. As recently as 1893 a Dutch edition of this work was printed (in fact, there may be a modern version of this work in Dutch). This work, available on Early English Books online, is a fine resource on the catechism by a sixteenth-century Reformed writer.

Beeke, Joel R. *Heidelberg Catechism Sermons*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Puritan Reformed Seminary, n.d.

These are sermons from the well-known Reformed Heritage minister and scholar. The copy I have examined is bundled in plastic binders. The sermons are pastorally sensitive and sprinkled with illustrative materials. They are strong on the nature and struggles of the Christian life, and will inspire ministers who feel bogged down in their own labors in preaching the catechism. In short, this collection of sermons is very worthwhile.

Beets, Henry. *The Compendium Explained. Fourth revised and enlarged edition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1941. Pp. 320.

A commentary on the compendium, not the catechism, yet useful for teaching and preaching from the Heidelberg Catechism as well. Beets was an insightful theologian and an important leader in the Christian Reformed Church during the period in which this book was published.

Bierma, Lyle D. *The Theology of the Heidelberg Catechism: A Reformation Synthesis*. Columbia Series in Reformed Theology. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013. Pp. ix + 249.

This newly published volume consists of an introductory chapter, followed by eight more. Chapter two treats Q/As 1-2, examining the theme and structure of the catechism. This is followed by successive chapters that exposit all the Q/As of the catechism. This book is theologically meatier than many of the volumes considered here. Bierma brings his expertise in historical theology in general and the Heidelberg Catechism in particular to address topics like the covenant in the Heidelberg Catechism. This volume includes a chapter devoted to the controversial Q/A 80 and how this plays out in ecumenical relations within Christendom. It also includes an appendix with the new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism that the Christian Reformed Church recently adopted. This is a well-executed scholarly work that nicely complements many of the other volumes on this list.

Bierma, Lyle D., with Charles D. Gunnow Jr., Karin Y. Maag, and Paul W. Fields. *An Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism: Sources, History, and Theology*. Texts and Studies in Reformation and Post-Reformation Thought, ed. Richard A. Muller. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. Pp. 223.

This is a volume to be prized for being exactly what its title and subtitle indicate, for it is a wonderful book treating the origins, purpose and authorship, sources and orientations to, editions and translations of the Heidelberg Catechism. The book also contains a significant bibliography, as well as translations of Ursinus's Smaller Catechism and Larger Catechism. This altogether fine book should not be ignored.

Bethune, George W. *Expository Lectures on the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 vols. New York: Sheldon and Company, 1864. Pp. 491 + 535.

I have this set but have seldom used it, mostly because I have a wealth of books on the catechism. This is definitely a weighty set, though a bit dusty. Its nineteenth-century feel is in full evidence—but I leave to readers to decide that for themselves. Recently the Banner of Truth Trust republished this set under a revised title *Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude: Lectures on the Heidelberg Catechism*, 2 vols. (2001). Pp. 495 + 509. Given the abundance of resources, why republish Bethune's work? Probably because it is among the meatier works on the catechism in English. Personally, I wish the Banner of Truth Trust had printed Jeremias Bastingius's work on the catechism (in a handsome and updated format). Be that as it may, Buthune's work is a serviceable set of books. It should be noted, however, that the second volume ends after an exposition of the first four of the Ten Commandments. The remaining commandments and the Lord's Prayer are not treated. It appears that the author died before he was able to complete this work. In fact, these volumes were published posthumously.

Busch, Eberhard. *Drawn to Freedom: Christian Faith Today in Conversation with the Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by William H. Rader. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010. Pp. 363.

This substantial source, from one whose theology broadly speaking fits under the perspective of Barth's thought, offers an examination of the Heidelberger through a different lens, with a practical and theoretical focus that intrigues and deepens one's own reflections on the catechism. This book nicely complements sources like Veldkamp, Kuyvenhoven, and other typical sources in English that ministers manage to place on their shelves. (For a fuller review, see *MAJT* 23 [2012]: 156-157.)

Bruggink, Donald J., ed. *Guilt, Grace and Gratitude: A Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism commemorating its 400th Anniversary*. New York: Half Moon Press, 1963. Pp. 226.

This is a volume composed by authors in the Reformed Church in America, commemorating the Heidelberger's 400 years. Readers are urged to see Howard G. Hageman's opening chapter on guilt, grace, and gratitude and I. John Hesselink's chapter on the law of God.

De Graaf, S. G. *The True Faith: A Commentary on Lord's Days 1-22 of the Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by Richard Stienstra. Neerlandia, Alberda: Inheritance Publications, 2011. Pp. 495.

S. G. De Graaf is best known to English readers for his four-volume work *Promise and Deliverance*. However, De Graaf also produced others books, including a multi-volume set of sermons. This work, on the catechism, covers only the first twenty-two Lord's Days of the catechism, but it is a competent work and will be of great help to pastors and teachers.

De Jong, P. Y., and Nelson D. Kloosterman, eds. *That Christ May Dwell In Your Hearts: Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Days I-XX*. Orange City, IA: Mid-America Reformed Seminary, 1988. Pp. 189.

These sermons represent a project that unfortunately stalled along the way, for the intention of the plan (as I understand) was eventually to cover the entire catechism. These sermons vary in quality and insight, but readers are here offered, for the most part, solid material. Indeed, some of the sermons are very fine specimens of catechetical homily.

Ernst-Habib, Margit. *But Why Are You Called a Christian? An Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013. Pp. 154.

The author is a former faculty member of Columbia Theological Seminary. This is a complete, if abbreviated, commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism. This book, another recent publication, is a prac-

tical exposition of the catechism. It can be used as a book for youths or adults, and given its straightforward presentation of material, along with its concern to apply the catechism to the Christian life in today's cultural situation, it is a serviceable resource among more recent works on the Heidelberg. The book offers three valuable introductory chapters to the catechism, before proceeding to treat the contents of the catechism in its successive Lord's days.

DeRonde, Lambertus. *A System Containing the Principles of the Christian Religion, Suitable to the Heidelberg Catechism*. New York, 1763.

DeWitte, Petrus. *Catechizing upon the Heidelbergh Catechisme of the Reformed Christian Religion*. Translated for the English Reformed Congregation in Amsterdam. Amsterdam: Gillis Joosten Saeghman, 1662.

DeYoung, Kevin. *The Good News We Almost Forgot: Rediscovering the Gospel in a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Catechism*. Foreword by Jerry Bridges. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2010. Pp. 252.

This is a helpful, homiletical source for preaching on the catechism. There are deeper and fuller expositions of the catechism than what is offered here, but this book excels in the winsome manner in which materials are presented and in the pastoral scrutiny in which the contents of the catechism are applied. This is a book to welcome onto the pastor's bookshelf next to its many predecessors. (For a fuller review, see *MAJT* 23 [2012]: 162-164.)

Fisher, Samuel Reed. *Exercises on the Heidelberg Catechism adapted to the use of Sabbath Schools and Catechetical Classes*. Chambersburg, PA: Publication office of the German Reformed Church, 1844.

This is an older work, designed for catechetical instruction, for use in the German Reformed churches.

Good, James I. *The Heidelberg Catechism in its Newest Light*. Philadelphia: Publication and Sunday School Board of the Reformed Church in the United States, 1914.

Harbaugh, H., Translator, *Reformed Church in the United States. Tercenary Monument. In Commemoration of the Three Hundredth Anninversay of the Heidelberg Catechism*. Chambersburg, PA: M. Kieffer & Co.; Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston; New York: A. D. F. Randolph, 1863. Pp. 574.

This volume contains essays by theologians from Germany, the Netherlands, and America. It was produced by the German Reformed Church in celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the Heidelberg. This is an invaluable book for background and history of the catechism, including essays on the catechism's function as a



creed, its relation to other creeds, its organic structure, its authority, and its theological accents. There are also chapters on its life within the churches and on catechetics and catechetical instruction, and more. This makes for fascinating reading.

Heerschap, Martin. *Zion's Comfort in Life and Death: Fifty-two Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 vols. Lethbridge, Alberta: Netherlands Reformed Congregation, 1992-94.

As the name of the publisher indicates, these are sermons from a Netherlands Reformed perspective.

Hoeksema, Herman. *The Triple Knowledge*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 1955. Pp. 698 + 729 + 652.

This set of volumes was originally published in a ten volume format, with separate titles. The ten volume set can be found from time to time through used book sites. Hoeksema was at heart a preacher, which becomes evident in these volumes. Readers will discover that these books are often useful, but at various points the distinctive theology characteristic of the Protestant Reformed churches comes to expression.

Hoezee, Scott. *Speaking of Comfort: A Look at the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1998. Pp. 66.

This small volume is designed to introduce the catechism to persons who are new to the faith. This book is very brief, but has some nifty insights; and it is beautifully written. It treats the major themes of the catechism in fine style. It is crafted for group study, with points for reflection and discussion attached at the end of each of the six units.

Jones, Norman L. *Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism*. Eureka, SD: Publication Committee of the Eureka Classis, Reformed Church in the United States, 1981. Pp. 290.

This is fundamentally a resource for catechism instruction rather than sermon construction. The quality of the commentary is quite uneven. It includes an appended glossary of theological terms.

Josse, James, ed. *Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids: Board of Publication of the Christian Reformed Church, 1970.

Kersten, Gerrit Hendrik. *The Heidelberg Catechism in 52 Sermons*. Translated by Mrs. A. DeBruyn and Cornelius Quist. Grand Rapids: Netherlands Reformed Congregations, 1968; reprinted in an upgraded translation, 1992. Pp. 730.

These are translated sermons from a Netherlands Reformed minister.

Klooster, Fred H. *A Mighty Comfort: The Christian Faith According to the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1990. Pp. 138.

This book excels at pointing out themes in the catechism and helps students of this document to see the catechism in its overall structure. It is also helpful in its examination of key German words used in the catechism. Thus, it is not really useful as a commentary on the distinct Lord's Days, but it is a very fine resource for seeing the crafted nature and thematic character of the catechism. Readers will appreciate the appendices, no less than sixteen in number. Some of these prove quite worthwhile as aids for catechetical instruction.

Klooster, Fred H. *Our Only Comfort: A Comprehensive Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2001. Pp. 1272.

This two-volume work is very uneven in quality—moving from rich insight and thorough discussion of certain theological topics elicited by the catechism to pedantic commentary that does little to open up the text of catechism, sometimes marked by unwanted proximity. It seems strange to me how little use Klooster makes of the vast array of Dutch sources on the catechism inasmuch as he could work with that language. However, it should be noted that an important feature of these volumes is that the author includes the German text of the catechism alongside the English translation in a parallel format. Also to be noted are the valuable appendices to the second volume which take up a variety of theological and historical issues pertaining to the catechism.

Klooster, Fred H. *The Heidelberg Catechism: Origin and History*. Grand Rapids: Calvin Theological Seminary, 1985. Pp. 468.

This work is a comprehensive exploration of the background to and the events leading up to the composition of the Heidelberg Catechism, and its subsequent publication history and influence. In telling this story, Klooster offers a rather detailed history of the Reformation in the Palatinate. While this source has minimal value as an exposition of the catechism, which is not its purpose, it is very helpful for enlightening readers regarding all the theological players in the writing of the catechism and the struggle for reform in the German Palatinate. The volume also excels at tracking the publication history of the catechism.

Kuiper, Henry J., ed. *Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1936-1956.

This set of volumes comes under a series of distinct titles, that is, *Sermons on Sin and Grace*, *Sermons on the Apostles' Creed*, *Sermons on Baptism and the Lord's Supper*, *Sermons on the Ten Commandments*, and *Sermons on the Lord's Prayer*. The volumes are edited by

Henry J. Kuiper, who once served as editor to *The Banner* and was a significant churchman in the history of the Christian Reformed Church. These sermons are by Reformed and Christian Reformed ministers who labored during the time in which these volumes were published. Pastors will discover ideas for their own sermons in these volumes, as they will also be benefitted in exploring the Scripture texts that are used in conjunction with the content of a specific Lord's Day being expounded.

Kuyvenhoven, Andrew. *Comfort and Joy: A Study of the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1988. Pp. 317.

Kuyvenhoven feels free to disagree with the catechism where he thinks it is necessary, but readers should not let that put them off. Engage the author at these points and test his comments, for there is much good material to be gleaned from this book. If you are among those who do not read Dutch, Kuyvenhoven's book becomes quite handy since many of his insights are harvested from Dutch sources. This is easily one of the best books on the Heidelberg Catechism in English for pastors and catechism teachers.

Masselink, Edward J. *The Heidelberg Story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964.

Nevin, John Williamson. *History and Genius of the Heidelberg Catechism*. Chambersburg, Pa: Publication Office of the German Reformed Church, 1847. Pp. 162.

Nevin, the famed Mercersburg theologian, writes a book that tells the history of the catechism, as well as providing an analysis of its theology.

Olevian, Caspar. *An Exposition of the Symbol of the Apostles, or rather of the articles of faith. In which the chiefe points of the everlasting and free covenant between God and the faithful are briefly and plainly handled. Gathered out of the catechizing sermons of Caspar Olevian*. Translated by John Fielde. London: H. Middleton, 1581.

Olevianus, Caspar. *A Firm Foundation: An Aid to Interpreting the Heidelberg Catechism*. Texts & Studies in Reformation and Post-Reformation Protestant Thought, edited by Richard A. Muller. Translated by and edited by Lyle D. Bierma. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995. Pp. xlii + 132.

Here readers will discover Olevianus's comments on the first twenty-four Lord's Days.

Payne, Jon D., and Sebastian Heck. *A Faith Worth Teaching: The Heidelberg Catechism's Enduring Heritage*. 2013. Pp. 272.

This is a newly produced collection of essays, some practical,

some scholarly, treating the history and theology of the Heidelberg Catechism.

Péry, André. *The Heidelberg Catechism with Commentary*. 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition 1563-1963. Philadelphia: United Church Press, 1963. Pp. 224.

This 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Heidelberg Catechism is a translation from the original German and Latin texts by Allen O. Miller and M. Eugene Osterhaven. The commentary is by André Péry of Geneva. The book has nineteen chapters, treating the major themes of the catechism.

Praamsma, Louis. *Before the Face of God: A Study of the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 vols. Jordan Station: Paideia Press, 1987. Pp 100 + 117.

Praamsma's book is geared more toward group study, but is also suitable for an analysis of the catechism, whether one is preparing sermons or leading a catechism class. Praamsma also has a set of volumes in the Dutch language, entitled *Lerende hen Onderhouden*.

Richards, George. *Studies on the Heidelberg Catechism*. Philadelphia: Publication and Sunday School Board of the Reformed Church in the United States, 1913.

Schenck, Ferdinand S. *Expository Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*. New York: Board of Publication and Bible School Work of the Reformed Church in America, 1920. Pp. 213.

Given its length, this book obviously does not cover the whole catechism in fifty-two sermons. Rather, this volume contains sixteen sermons on select Lord's Days, specifically Lord's Days 1-6, 23-25 (in fact, there are two sermons on Lord's Day 25, as well as a sermon that treats Lord's Days 25-31 in one full sweep), and then sermons on Lord's Days 28, 31-34.

Stam, Clarence. *Living in the Joy of Faith: The Christian Faith as outlined in the Heidelberg Catechism*. Neerlandia, Alberta: Inheritance Publications, 1991. Pp. 353.

This book is a collection of catechism sermons. The author is a Canadian Reformed minister. The presentation is straightforward but a bit flat. The author exhibits a grasp of the catechism but shows modest ability to present materials in an interesting fashion.

Thelemann, Otto. *An Aid to the Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by M. Peters. Grand Rapids: Douma Publications, 1959. Pp. 509.

This is a German work translated into English. This book points to a lot of Scripture that proves helpful.

Ursinus, Zacharias. *The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the*

*Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by G. W. Williard. Phillipsburg: P & R, [c. 1852]. Pp. 659.

This is a rather technical and meaty book by one of the principal authors of the catechism. Though weighty, this volume will prove useful to pastors in alerting them to the depth of issues that lay in back of the pastoral language of the document. In this book readers will discover Ursinus the theologian, for in commenting on the catechism he examines, rather comprehensively, deeper theological issues and concerns which, though not addressed by the catechism itself are, nonetheless, part of the import of the teaching of the catechism itself. This volume looks at the questions and answers in their academic and theological complexity, and here we see the more professorial and scholastic Ursinus.

Van Alphen, Jerome. *The History and Literature of the Heidelberg Catechism: And of Its Introduction into the Netherlands*. Translated by Joseph F. Berg. Philadelphia: William S. & Alfred Martien, 1863. Pp. 166.

The title of this book well explains its contents.

Van Baalen, Jan Karel. *The Heritage of the Fathers: A Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948. Pp. 633.

There is nothing exceptional about this work, but it stands among other English resources to be consulted, and contains a thorough examination of each Lord's Day.

Van Bruggen, J. *Annotations to the Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by A. H. Oosterhoff. Neerlandia, Alberta: Inheritance Publications, 1991. Pp. 299.

Van Bruggen's book is a helpful resource since it focuses upon straightforward exposition of the contents of the catechism, with directness and brevity. Persons who use this book will discover that it assists them to carefully expound the catechism itself. The author, where relevant, offers cross references to other confessional materials, and he also alerts readers to the sorts of erroneous doctrines being combatted in a particular Lord's Day. This is a Dutch work that has been translated into English. It should be noted that the author, J. Van Bruggen, is not the son of Jakob Van Bruggen who was a professor of New Testament at the Theological College in Kampen (Liberated).

Van Delden, Arthur. *Only by True Faith: An explanation of the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 vols. Second edition. Kelmscott, WA: 1991; Australia: Pro Ecclesia Printers, 2000. Pp. 147 + 177.

This work is written by a minister of the Free Reformed Church of Rockingham, Western Australia. It is a catechetical resource that can also assist in writing sermons on the catechism.

Van Halsema, Thea B. *Three Men Came to Heidelberg*. Grand Rapids: Christian Reformed Publishing House, 1963.

VanderKemp, John. *The Christian Entirely the Property of Christ, in Life and Death. 53 sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism wherein the doctrine of faith, received in the Reformed Church, is defended against the principal opponents, and the practical improvement and direction of it to evangelical piety, enforced*. 2 vols. Translated by John M. Van Harlingen. New Brunswick, NJ: Abraham Blauvelt, 1810; reprint, Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 1997. Pp. 508 + 517.

This a work that dates back to 1717. By 1779 it had been reprinted nineteen times. It is of both historical and practical interest.

VanReenen, G. *The Heidelberg Catechism: Explained for the Humble and Sincere in 52 sermons*. Paterson, NJ: Lont & Overkamp, 1955.

Van 't Spijker, Willem, ed. *The Church's Book of Comfort*. Translated by Gerrit Bilkes. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2009. Pp. 291.

This book consist of seven chapters, which in turn explore the history of the reformation in Germany which brought about the Heidelberg Catechism, the writing of the catechism, and its authors, the theology of the catechism, the catechism's importance among the Reformed in the Netherlands, the pedagogical and homiletical significance of the catechism, and last its continuing relevance of the catechism. This book is a fine contribution to literature that covers similar turf. (For a fuller review, see *MAJT* 23 [2012]: 156-157.)

Van Wyk, William P. *My Sermons Notes on the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 vols. Holland, Michigan, 1942. Pages aren't numbered.

Readers might be able to find an old set of these volumes in an elderly minister's library or a used book store, or through the internet. These are not "must have" volumes, but worth a glimpse especially if you are short on other English language sources.

Veldkamp, Herman. *Children of the Lord's Day: Notes on the Heidelberg Catechism*. 2 volumes in one. Translated by Harry Kwantes, with "translation slightly edited for us by P.R. readers." (1996). Pp. 479.

P.R. here refers to *Protestant Reformed* readers. In other words, the translator took the liberty to alter or excise another author's words. This reckless practice is unconscionable. At the very least, the translator should have accurately translated the author's words and, if he must, add a footnote indicating where and how he disagrees. However, the editing of an author's words in order to make them suitable or acceptable to a specific readership smacks of sectarianism. Imagine a person translating, say, Herman Hoeksema's *Triple Knowledge* into Spanish and then editing Hoeksema's words so that his distinctively

Protestant Reformed commentary is obscured or lost altogether. To treat any author's words in this manner is quite unacceptable. That being said, the author of this book, Herman Veldkamp, was a Dutch Reformed pastor who wrote an assortment of helpful books, mostly treating specific books of the Bible, many of which were translated into English. It should be noted that Dr. Richard De Ridder† (formerly a professor at Calvin Seminary) prepared a fine translation of Veldkamp's work on the catechism, of which I once owned a photocopy but subsequently lost through a series of moves from one residence to another. That translation was never published unfortunately, and one can only hope that someday it will be recovered (someone must have a copy of it) and put it into print. This volume, as edited by the translator Harry Kwantes, will have to do for now. Veldkamp's book is, in my judgment, a superb work—highly practical and full of insight, and will greatly help the minister who is preparing catechism sermons.

Verhey, Allen. *Living the Heidelberg: The Heidelberg Catechism and the Moral Life*. Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1986. Pp. 153.

Verhey, an ethicist, has written a short book comprising ten chapters. The intention of this little book is to understand the Heidelberg Catechism in the light of contemporary social responsibilities and to try to understand contemporary social responsibilities in the light of the catechism. After an introductory chapter, chapter two treats Q/A 1 of the catechism; chapter three examines Q/As 4-5; chapter four sweeps through Q/As 6-19; chapter five handles Q/As 26-28; chapter six studies Jesus Christ as Lord in Q/As 29-34; chapter seven bundles Q/As 32-90, which has to do with membership in Christ's church; chapters eight and nine are straightforward in commenting on Q/As 91-114, i.e., the Ten Commandments; finally, chapter ten takes up the catechism's treatment of the Lord's Prayer (Q/As 115-129). This is a unique source inasmuch as it attempts to explain how the Heidelberg Catechism impacts issues in social ethics today—moving from *credenda* to *agenda*.

Vis, Jean. *We Are the Lord's*. Grand Rapids: Society for Reformed Publications, 1955. Pp. 175.

This is more of a catechetical resource but I include it here since the author seeks to pay close attention to the words and phrases of the catechism, as well as offering some applicatory thoughts.

Walker, Frank H. *Theological Sources of the Heidelberg Catechism* (2013). Pp. 232.

This is a self-published work. Its author is a minister of the Reformed Church of the United States. The book explores the authorship of the catechism, the influence particularly of Ursinus, Melancthon, and Calvin on the catechism, and then treats various theologi-

cal themes, such as law and gospel, the covenant, election, faith, and assurance, the Lord's Supper, and good works. This volume is peculiar in that it seeks to be a serious historical study of the catechism's theological sources, but inserts and interjects all sorts of modern issues and debates into the discussion. This results in a work that is disappointing for its lack of historical depth on the one hand and an unevenness in its engagement with contemporary debates on the other—neither the historical analysis nor the modern discussion is adequately handled. Insofar as the book introduces a set of issues, it is to be commended; nonetheless, I was disappointed in the final result.

Whitmer, Adam Carl. *Notes on the Heidelberg Catechism: for Parents, Teachers and Catechumens*. Philadelphia: Grant, Faires & Rodgers, 1878. Pp. 323.

Whitmer's work is marked by its brevity of commentary. While I don't agree with some of its analysis, this book has the advantage of focusing on the phrases and words of the catechism itself.

Wieske, G. *The Glorious Gospel of Grace: Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*. Neerlandia, Alberda: Inheritance Publications, 2010. Pp. 377.

This is a welcome set of sermons by a Canadian Reformed minister that will aid young ministers who are new to writing sermons on the catechism or for veteran ministers who wish to see how another minister has approached and expounded a given Lord's Day. Rev. Wieske's sermons on the catechism include, like traditional published Dutch sermons, one or more Scripture readings, as well as psalms to be sung in corporate worship. Wieske's sermon outlines are straightforward and uncluttered.

Williamson, G. I. *The Heidelberg Catechism: A Study Guide*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 1993.

This book is basically what its subtitle says it is. Rev. Williamson's books on the Shorter Catechism and Westminster Confession of Faith exhibit a better grasp of the confessional materials than this volume on the Heidelberg Catechism. One wishes that the sort of presentation that mark Williamson's work on the Shorter Catechism would have found its way into this volume as well.

## PART TWO:

### Works in Dutch on the Heidelberg Catechism

Aalders, C.; Barthold Van Ginkel; and P. Ten Have. *Altijd Zondag: Handboek voor het Catechismus-onderricht*, 2 vols. Nijkerk: G. F. Callenbach, 1948, 1949. Pp. 243 + 255.



These two volumes contain sound commentary on the catechism. The three authors divide the Lord's Days between them, with Aalders and van Ginkel contributing the bulk of material to volume one, and with Dr. J. van Dorp and Ds. A. A. Koolhaas, both Reformed pastors, also contributing material to volume two, along with the two above mentioned authors. P. ten Have contributes no material in volume two. It should be noted that these volumes helpfully treat each question and answer; and the set is designed to assist catechists in teaching catechumens. These books, however, are also beneficial for sermon construction on the catechism.

Barger, H. H. *De Heidelbergsche catechismus als catechetisch leerboek verklaard en toegelicht door H. H. Barger, bewerkt naar O. Thelemann's Handreichung zum Heidelberger Katechismus*. Utrecht: Kemink, 1914. Pp. 844.

This work, in part a translation of Thelemann's volume on the catechism, evolved into a book that became Barger's own, adapting Thelemann's basic work. The book is more theological in nature than many other sources examined in this list and copiously quotes the Church Fathers and classical Reformed theologians. As such, this is a unique book in treating the Heidelberg Catechism.

Bavinck, J. *De Heidelbergsche Catechismus: In 60 Leerredenen Verklaard*. 2 vols. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1913. Pp. 967.

Here readers will discover sixty sermons on the Heidelberg—a useful set.

Boersma, Tj. & Franke, Joh. *De Hoofdsom van het Evangelie: Catechismus-preken*. 2 vols. Enschede: J. Boersma, 1970. Pp. 552.

This is a fine collection of catechism sermons by Liberated Reformed ministers, particularly the ones by J. Franke are worthy of notice.

Comrie, Alexander. *Stellige en praktikale verklaring van den Heidelbergschen Katechismus, volgens de leer en gronden der Hervorming: waarin de waarheden van onzen godsdienst op eene klare en bevindeelijke wijze voorgesteld en betoogd worden; de natuurlingen ontdekt; de zoekenden bestuurd; de zwakken vertroost en de sterken tot hunnen pligt, volgens eene evangelische leiding, opgewekt worden*. Ed. Theodorus Avinck. Nijkerk: Malga, 1856. Pp. 470.

This book examines only the first seven Lord's Days.

Deddens, K. *Midden in het Leven*. Prekenseries "Tot opbouw" No. 65, 68, 72, 78, 79. Barendrecht: Forma Wesdijk en Liebeek, n.d.

This is a fine set of catechism sermons that covers Lord's Days 1-27, but to my knowledge it does not extend to cover the whole catechism.

*De Enige troost: catechismusverklaring.* Gereformeerde Gemeenten in Nederland en Noord-Amerika. Texel: Stark, 1980.

De Graaf, S. G. *Het Ware Geloof: Beschouwingen over Zondag 1-22 van de Heidelbergse Catechismus.* Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1954.

See comments under the English title.

De Moor, Johannes C., et al. *De Heidelbergsche catechismus in predikatiën.* Kampen: Kok, 1900.

De Ruijter, C.J.; H.J. Boiten; and P. Schelling. *Weerwoord: preken over de Heidelbergse Catechismus.* Barneveld: BDU Boeken, 2010.

These are sermons by professors of the Liberated Reformed churches.

Dijk, K. *De Catechismuspreek in haar Verscheidenheid.* Franeker: T. Wever, nd. Pp. 386.

K. Dijk was professor of homiletics at the Theologische Hoogeschool in Kampen from 1937-1955 and the author of multiple books. This is a tremendous source for learning to construct catechism sermons. Each Lord's Day contains one long sermon sketch, followed by six additional sermon outlines. This means that Dijk offers seven distinct approaches for any given Lord's Day, and demonstrates how the catechism may be expounded in a fresh way. This is especially a help to preachers who have already preached on the catechism two or three times. From my perspective, Dijk's book is a "must have" for those who can handle the Dutch language. Along with a number of other fine Dutch resources, it also provides a good reason for pastors of this heritage to learn this tongue for themselves.

Dalton, Hermann. *Immanuel: de Heidelbergsche Catechismus als belijdenisschrift en stichtelijk boek voor de Hervormde Gemeente verklaard en aangeprezen.* Utrecht: Kemink, 1875.

Elzenga, G. *Verklaring van den Heidelbergschen Catechismus ten Dienste der Catechisanten.* Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1911. Pp. 282.

This is a handy book designed to assist teachers of catechumens.

Entingh, A. S. *De Heidelbergsche Catechismus in twee en vijftig Leerredenen.* Amsterdam: P. Groenendijk, 1868. Pp. 635. This volume is bundled as one volume with Molenaar, D. *De Heidelbergsche Catechismus in Leerredenen.* Arnhem: J. W. Swaan, 1852. Two volumes in one. Pp. 535 + 531.

Entingh's volume handles Lord's Days 26-52, whereas Molenaar's book takes up the first twenty-five Lord's Days. These are competent volumes.

Feenstra, J. G. *Het Eigendom des Heren: Korte Verklaring van de Heidelbergsche Catechismus*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1952. Pp. 244.

Feenstra provides readers a handy, brief commentary on the catechism which proves itself as a valuable book on the pastor's shelf. Its concise format does not mean it is superficial. On the contrary, the author focuses on expounding the words and phrases and ideas of the catechism. Some longer sources virtually ignore the catechism while chasing rabbit trails. Feenstra's work forces the pastor or teacher to pay attention to the text of the catechism. It is also Trinitarian in its basic orientation.

Feringa, J. H. *God Is Liefde: De Heidelbergsche Catechismus Behandeld in Zijn Twee en Vijftig Deelen*. Amsterdam: Hoveker & Wormser, 1904. Pp. 900.

The reader will find in this volume a complete set of sermons with Scripture and sermon outlines, treating the whole catechism. There is much sound material in this single volume.

Ferré, Hermannus, and Cornelis Brinkman. *Verhandeling van den Heidelbergschen Catechismus*. Utrecht: G. van den Brink, Jansz. en d'wed. S. de Waal en zoon, 1786.

Grand-Pierre, Ebrard, and Hengstenberg. *De enige troost in leven en sterven: 57 leerredenen over den Heidelbergschen Katechismus, benevens 1 Hervormingspreek, door verschillende professoren en leeraren der Hervormde Kerk, waaronder zijn Grand-Pierre, Ebrard, Hengstenberg, [et al.]*. Utrecht: [s.n.], 1868.

Hoekstra, Hendrik. *De Heidelbergsche catechismus in twee en vijftig leerredenen*. Utrecht: A. Fisscher, 1890. Pp. 798.

This is sound material by a Dutch Reformed pastor.

Hofman, A. *Welgebaande wegen: een meditatieve beschouwing over de Heidelbergsche Catechismus*. Utrecht: De Banier, 1988.

Holwerda, B. *De Dingen Die Ons van God Geschonken Zijn*. 4 vols. Goes: Oosterbaan & Le Cointre, 1953. Pp. 192 + 207 + 213 + 220.

Holwerda was a Liberated minister in the Netherlands and also professor of Old Testament at the Theologische Hoogeschool in Kampen (Liberated). Although Holwerda has the propensity to rush through the last point of many sermons, this set proves itself to be a quite valuable collection of catechism sermons; indeed, some of Holwerda's sermons are quite insightful. These volumes have been translated into English but, for some reason, have not been formally published and are difficult to obtain. As far as I can tell, they are shared by pastors via the internet.

Huijgen, Arnold; J. V. Fesko; and A. Baars. *Handboek Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Utrecht: Kok, 2013.

Kersten, G. K. *De Heidelbergsche Catechismus: In 52 Predikaties*. 2 vols. Utrecht: De Banier, 1948. Pp. 435 + 415.

See remarks under the English title.

Knap, J. J. *De Heidelbergsche Catechismus: Toepasselijk verklaard voor de Gemeente des Heeren*. Groningen: J. B. Wolters' U.M., 1915. Pp. 547.

This is solid material by a Netherlands Reformed minister.

Knibbe, David. *De Leere der Gereformeerde Kerk, Volgens de order van de Heydelbergse Katechismus*. Leyden: Samuel Suchtmans, 1718.

Kohlbrügge, Hermann Friedrich. *De eenvoudige Heidelberger: de catechismuspreken die nog aanwezig zijn*. Nijkerk: G.F. Callenbach, 1941.

Kok, J. *Schetsen over den Heidelbergischen Catechismus: Een Handboek voor Predikanten*. 3 vols. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1903. Pp. 1,412.

Each Lord's Day contains approximately ten sermonic sketches. The outlines, with comment, are very helpful in the early years of the ministry as young pastors learn to write catechism sermons. For ministers who have run out of ideas on how to approach the catechism in a fresh manner, these volumes offer much food for thought. This set, at the beginning of each sermonic sketch, presents a Scripture reading, along with theme and points to the sermon. For example, Kok's second outline handling Lord's Day 40 on the sixth commandment, "You shall not murder," presents Leviticus 24:19 as the Scripture reading, and simply makes the theme the commandment itself; the points are (1) God's care in this commandment; (2) God's wisdom in this commandment; and (3) God's love in this commandment.

Kuyper, Abraham. *E Voto Dordraceno: Toelichting op den Heidelbergischen Catechismus*. 4 vols. Amsterdam: Hoveker & Wormser, 1904. Pp. 493 + 566 + 631 + 586 and 76 pages of indices.

These volumes are more helpful for a general theological education *a la* Kuyper than for help to convey the contents of the catechism to laypersons. Interestingly, readers will find here Kuyper's more mature ideas and his specific polemics directed against opponents within his context in the Netherlands, dealing with the modernists, the Ethicals, and other theological currents during this period. Some of Kuyper's distinctive doctrines are articulated with force in these four books.

Lekkerkerker, A. F. N. *Gesprekken over De Heidelberger*. Wageningen: Gebr. Zomer & Keunings, 1964. Pp. 175.

Lekkerkerker's book doesn't attempt an exposition of the catechism. Instead, the approach is topical—some chapters are theological and others are historical. The title is indicative of the book's contents, "conversations" (*gesprekken*) about the Heidelberger.

Mallan, F. *Het troostboek voor de christen: verklaring van de Heidelbergse catechismus in 52 predikaties*. Zwijndrecht: Van den Berg, 1985.

Meeuse, C. J. *De Heidelbergse Catechismus: met vragen en opdrachten bestemd voor de catechisaties*. 4 vols. Rotterdam: Stichting Lectori Salutem, 2007.

Meinders, E. L. *Verklaring van den Heidelbergischen Catechismus*. 2 vols. Holland, MI: De Grondwet Printing House, n.d. Pp. 480 + 450.

These sermons are broken into three general parts: introduction, exposition, and application. They appear to have been printed in the early 1900s.

*Menigerlei Genade, De Heidelberger Catechismus in 52 leerredenen*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1914. Pp. 832. *Menigerlei Genade, wekelijksche leerredenen over den Heidelberger Catechismus*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1915. Pp. 832. *Menigerlei Genade, Predikatien over den Heidelbergischen Catechismus*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1925, 1926. Pp. 832; 834. *Menigerlei Genade Catechismus – Reeks*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1950.

These volumes, being part of the massive *Menigerlei Genade* series, are devoted exclusively to the catechism and each contains a collection of sermons covering the Lord's Days from a variety of Reformed pastors in the Netherlands. For readers of the Dutch language, these volumes should not be missed. It is beneficial to examine the Scripture passages that are woven into the exposition of the Lord's Days, even as these four volumes assist pastors in structuring catechism sermons.

Miskotte, K.H., et al. *De blijde wetenschap: toelichting op de Heidelbergse catechismus, Zondag I-XII: toelichting Op De Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Franeker: Wever, 1947.

This is the first volume in a five volume series. Each volume shares the same subtitle, *toelichting op de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. The authors and titles vary but I will list them all here: volume 2: Noordmans, Oepke, et al. *Het koninkrijk der hemelen: toelichting op de Heidelbergse catechismus zondag VII-XXII*. Franeker: T. Wever, 1949; volume 3: Oorthuys, G., et al. *De sacramenten: toelichting op de Heidelbergse catechismus, Zondag XXIII-XXXIII*. Franeker: Wever, 1948; volume 4: Koopmans, J., et al. *De tien geboden: toelichting op de Hei-*

*delbergse catechismus, Zondag XXXIV-XLIV*. Franeker: Wever, 1946; and volume 5: van der Berkelbach, S. F. H. J. Sprenkel. *Het gebed: toelichting op de zondagen XLV-LII van de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Nijkerk: Callenbach, 1948.

This is a competent set.

Moerkerken, A. *Ons troostboek: verklaring van de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Houten: Den Hertog, 2004.

Molenaar, D. *De Heidelbergse Catechismus in Leerredenen*. Arnhem: J. W. Swaan, 1852. Two volumes in one. Pp. 535 + 531. Pp. 680. This volume is bundled as one volume with A. S. Entingh. *De Heidelbergse Catechismus in twee en vijftig Leerredenen*. Amsterdam: P. Groenendijk, 1868. Pp. 635.

Molenaar's volume handles Lord's Days 1-25, whereas Entingh's book takes up Lord's Days 26-52. These are competent volumes.

Momma, Wilhelmus, and Abraham van Poot. *Bedenkingen over de Heidelbergse catechismus*. Leiden: Jordaan Luchtmans, 1685.

Oorthuys, G. *De Eeuwige Jeugd van Heidelberg: De Heidelbergse Catechismus een Leerboek voor Onzen Tijd*. Amsterdam: Uitgevers – Maatschappij Holland, 1948.

Ouboter, Bartholomeus. *Aaneengeschakelde verklaring van den Heidelbergse Catechismus; met eenige tusscheningevoegde aanmerkingen, tot nuttige stichting, die in het geloof is*. Amsterdam: M. de Bruijn, 1790.

Palier, Johan Carel. *Leerredenen over de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Ermelo: Snoek, 2010.

Popma, K. J. *Levensbeschouwing: Opmerkingen naar aanleiding van de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. 7 vols. Amsterdam: Buijten & Schipperheijn, 1958-1965. Pp. 338 + 414 + 389 + 421 + 320 + 328 + 424.

Thorough, deep, speculative, and sometimes very insightful! Indeed, these seven volumes are quite meaty and therefore Popma's work is a bit difficult to slog through, especially given the practical concerns of the pastorate and the desire to bring the catechism to the pulpit or the classroom. For busy pastors, these will not be the first source they turn to for help in expositing the catechism.

Praamsma, L. *Lerende hen Onderhouden...Hulpboek voor de Catecheet*. 2 vols. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1959, 1960. Pp. 149 + 176.

Praamsma also published in English a two-volume set on the catechism. This set offers numerous insights into the contents of the catechism which in turn provide the pastor with fresh ideas which

can be incorporated into his own crafting of sermons. Praamsma's work, by means of plentiful sub-headings, negotiates a path through the questions and answers of a given Lord's Day and in this way provides a guide for readers in exploring the catechism.

Rietdijk, D., and C. G. Vreugenhil. *De Heidelbergse Catechismus: 52 preken*. Heerenveen: J.J. Groen, 1998.

Rothuizen, G. Theodoor. *Allemaal zondagen; beschouwingen over de Heidelbergse catechismus*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1959. Pp. 190.

This book contains short, meditative expositions of each Lord's Day.

Schilder, Klaas. *Heidelbergsche Catechismus*. 4 vols. Goes: Oosterbaan & Le Cointre, 1947-51.

These four volumes cover Lord's Days 1-10. Like Kuyper's *E Voto*, these volumes are not designed to benefit the pastor directly for sermon preparation or catechism instruction. Rather, they constitute Schilder's attempt to construct a comprehensive theology using the Heidelberg Catechism as the framework in which to address classic theological doctrines and to engage contemporary (that is, contemporary to Schilder) theological discussion. For those wishing to examine Schilder's work as a theologian, these volumes are invaluable. For the basic needs of the pastor and catechism teacher, they are far less suitable.

Schilder, Klaas. *Preken*. Volume 3. Goes: Oosterbaan & Le Cointre, 1955.

This third volume of Schilder's collected sermons contains many catechism sermons. Schilder excelled as a preacher and as an expositor of Scripture for a homiletical purpose. Although he is given to speculation at times, these sermons will give preachers who are familiar with the catechism new insights into it, along with fresh angles of vision into specific Lord's days as they prepare their own sermons on the catechism.

Schrader, Egbertus. *Eene Gemakkelijke Handleiding, om over de Catechismus-Predikation te Catechizeren—Eerste Deel*. Groningen: P. Beijer, 1773.

Sikkel, J. C. *Preeken. 3e bundel*. Haar J.C. Sikkelfonds, 1923. Pp. 112.

This volume contains eighteen sermons on assorted Lord's Days. Sikkelfonds was an insightful writer and preacher. Though only a small portion of the Lord's Days are explored in this volume, the material is quite helpful to the pastor preaching through the catechism multiple times. Inasmuch as these are sermons, the approach to the catechet-

ical material is helpful to the preacher making his own sermons based upon the catechism.

Smytegelt Bern. *Des Christens Eenige Troost in Leven en Sterven, of Verklaringe over den Heidelbergschen Catechismus in LII Predikatiën; benevens V Belijdenis-Predikatiën*. Leiden: D. Donner, 1747. Pp. 846.

Tazelaar, J. P. *De Heidelbergsche Catechismus, beschouwd als het Leerboek onzer Vaderen*. Leiden: D. Donner, 1899. Pp. 191.

This book is divided into three parts. Part one is introductory and takes up the name and nature of the catechism, followed by chapters treating the origin of the Heidelberg Catechism, its introduction into Holland, the symbolic (confessional) authenticity of the catechism, and the relation between the catechism and the Belgic Confession, as well as a chapter that examines the early Dutch editions of the catechism. Part two, in a series of chapters, considers the preaching of the catechism, including the history of catechism preaching, what was understood by catechism preaching, its importance for ministers and for the congregation. Part three explores the catechism and Christian instruction. This last part is treated in twelve brief chapters.

Tunderman, J. W. *'T Beginsel der Eeuwige Vreugde*. 2 vols. Goes: Oosterbaan & Le Cointre, 1949. Pp. 239 + 288.

These two volumes consist of a collection of rather insightful sermons by a Reformed pastor martyred by the Nazis. This is solid material that the pastor can use to build lessons or sermons, especially after having worked through the catechism homiletically a time or two before.

*Uit het schatboek: preken over de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. 2 vols. Sneek: Weissenbach, 1900. Pp. 856.

These volumes are a collection of sermons by ministers in the Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland.

Van der Galiën-Hoolwerf, Maria, and Jasper van den Bovenkamp. *Eenheid: 450 jaar Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Heerenveen: Groen, 2013.

Van der Groe, Theodorus. *Des Christens Eenige Troost in Leven en Sterven, of Verklaring over den Heidlebergschen Catechismus*. 3 vols. Rotterdam: Gebr. Huge., 1890, 1891. Pp. 528 + 498 + 622.

These volumes offer insights that will help pastors writing sermons. The Scripture texts that head each chapter provide food for thought as well. Van der Groe lived from 1705 to 1784.



Van der Vlies, J. *Het troostboek: de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Het Troostboek. 5 vols. Nieuwpoort: Bassa, 1994-1999.

Van Dijk, D., and B. Jongeling. *Wederkeer Catechismus Preken*. Groningen: Hendrik de Cockstichting, 1947. Pp. 703.

This is a worthwhile collection of sermons by Reformed ministers (Liberated). As was typical of printed sermons in that era, not only does each sermon contain a Scripture reading, but also listed are selected Psalms with stanzas for singing before and after the sermon. The sermons include thematic statements and points as well. For example, in Lord's Day 9, which explains what it is to confess God the Father, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Scripture reading is Job 38:1-38; the Psalms for the liturgy are Ps. 95:3 before the Scripture reading; and Ps. 135:3, 4, 12 and Ps. 102:16 after. The theme is *By Faith You Accept the Promise that God Your Creator Is Your Father for Christ's Sake—by which you want to say: (1) that you are a creature of the Father of Christ; (2) that you are a child of the Father because of Christ; and (3) that you are a ward of the Father through Christ*. This is a fine resource.

Van Gilst, H. *De Heidelbergse catechismus: toegelicht in 55 predikaties*. Houten: Den Hertog, 1990.

Van Oosterzee, J. J. *De Heidelbergse Catechismus in Twee en Vijftig Leerredenen*. Utrecht: Kemink & Zoon, 1882. Pp. 803.

Van Oosterzee, professor at Utrecht, was neither a modernist nor a confessionalist or Ethical. He labored in the State Reformed Church in the Netherlands and was a prolific author, writing authoritative books in dogmatics, practical theology, and New Testament. This work on the catechism consists of sermons covering each Lord's Day.

van't Spijker, W. ed. *Het troostboek van de kerk: over de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. Houten: Den Hertog, 2005.

See comments under the English title.

Verhagen, A. *Sion's Troostboek: 52 Preken over de Heidlebergse Catechismus*, Eerste Deel. Uitgave: Drukkerij Fa. C. Van Velzen, 1962.

Vermeer, Justus. *De Leere Der Waarheid, Die Naar de Godzaligheid is, Voorgesteld, Bevestigd en Toegepast in LXXXV Oefeningen over den Heidelbergischen Katechismus—Tweede Deel*. Nijkerk: I.J. Malga, 1857.

Veldkamp, H. *Zondags Kinderen: Kanttekeningen bij de Heidelbergse Catechismus*. 2 vols. Franeker: T. Wever, n.d. Pp. 320 + 351.

See the comments under the English translation of this title above.

Vogelaar, S.J. *Beknopte verklaring van den Heidelbergschen Catechismus, ten dienste van het catechetisch onderwijs*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Groningen: G. J. Reits, 1913. Pp. 200.

This is actually a catechetical resource. It analyzes the questions and answers closely and succinctly.

Vonk, C. *De voorzeide leer*. Schiedam: Hasekamp, 1950. Pp. 713.

Vonk was a writer who, for some odd reason, felt compelled to name every book he wrote with the title *De voorzeide Leer* ("The Aforesaid Doctrine"). Thus whether one is looking for this book on the catechism or Vonk's writings on the Belgic Confession (multiple volumes) or his redemptive-historical march through the Bible (multiple volumes), each has the same main title, *De voorzeide leer*; only the subtitles distinguish one book from another. The work on the catechism has no subtitle. As for the book itself, it is catechetical in format, with fifty-five lessons, and numerous questions attached to each lesson, along with Scripture readings. This is an insightful resource.

Vreugdenhil, C.G. *De Heidelbergse catechismus: 52 preken*. Tholen: Boekhout, 2008.

Wielenga, B. *Onze Catechismus*. 2 vols. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1947. Pp. 1088.

This work is marked by a careful exposition of each question and answer. The discussion is copious and detailed. This is a valuable set.