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## The theology of Hendrikus Berkhof

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2010

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### **citation for published version (APA)**

Gavera, J. (2010). *The theology of Hendrikus Berkhof: A critical analysis of aspects of a contemporary design of Mediation Theology*. [PhD-Thesis – Research external, graduation internal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam].

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## FOREWORD

I first became acquainted with the work of Hendrikus Berkhof through the revised edition of his *Geschiedenis der Kerk* with Otto J. de Jong as co-author. My interest in his theology was further stimulated, when I discovered that in many theological monographs reference was continually made to his work on the subjects at hand. I was intrigued. I realized that this contemporary, well-known, and influential Dutch theologian's thought offered a profitable field for research, especially since it has thus far remained relatively unexplored.

Besides E.P. Meijering's book: *Hendrikus Berkhof 1914 – 1995 Een theologische biografie* (1996) and a few M.Th. theses in which Berkhof's theology figures, for instance: J. Horne, *Jesus Christ in Eschatological Thought – The Christological Content of some Contemporary Eschatologies* (1983), and H. Russell Botman, *Jesus – nòg God nòg Mens* (1984), I am unaware of any other comprehensive exposition of Berkhof's theology. Indeed, Meijering expressed the hope that a dissertation on Berkhof may be written within the foreseeable future.

My intention with this dissertation is not in the first place to realize Meijering's hope, that too, but rather to contribute to the legacy of Berkhof and thus to the ongoing research in the field of theology. May it inspire others to explore Berkhof's theology even further.

I wish to express my deep-felt gratitude to Prof. A. van de Beek and the late Prof. P.F. Theron for their continued support, wise guidance, and valued encouragement.

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July 2010