

These manifestations of modern interest have occasioned the rise of a considerable body of literature, some of which is both relevant and interesting (in relation to our subject), and some of which is not particularly relevant. However although much has been written in this area in recent years, it does not appear the the great classic works have thereby been superceded, displaced, or even equalled.

John Owen's Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit (1674), Thomas Goodwin's The Work of the Holy Ghos~~e~~ in Our Salvation (1681), James Buchanan's The Office and Work of the Holy Spirit (1843), George Smeaton's The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (1882), and Abraham Kuyper's The Work of the Holy Spirit (1888) have towered, and continue to tower, above all lesser works on this doctrine, as works of classic stature and enduring value.

This is not to suggest that there have not been other writings of value in this field. The number of such lesser works is actually large. But these works, particularly that of John Owen and that of Abraham Kuyper, remain unsurpassed in their value and comprehensiveness.

In recent years, in the writings on this doctrine, there has been at least one area which has been somewhat neglected. This area of the doctrine is the question of the regenerating ministry of the Holy Spirit during the Old Testament period. Various writers on the subject have taken differing positions on the question. It is to this question that the present thesis is addressed.

The plan which the author proposes to follow is fairly simple. First of all, differing views on this question, from the time of John Calvin to the present, will be surveyed. Secondly, the exegetical data which appear to be relevant to this question will be carefully examined. Thirdly, a systematic correlation of the theological components of the question will