

Abstract

In 1534 Heinrich Bullinger articulated a new hermeneutical system in his treatise *De Testamento Seu Foedere Dei Unico et Aeterno*. This system was based on covenant of grace as published between God and Abraham in Genesis 17 and was quickly adopted in Reformed circles across Europe, particularly in England. This dissertation seeks to understand how this covenant theology impacted the development of sacramentology in the first century of English Protestantism. Nine representative figures are briefly examined in their historical context: William Tyndale, Thomas Cranmer, and John Hooper in the Henrician and Edwardian church; John Jewel, William Perkins, and Richard Sibbes in the Elizabethan and Jacobean church; and finally, James Ussher, John Owen, and the Westminster Assembly in the Caroline and Interregnum church. Moving from the fresh thought of Tyndale to the established codification of the Westminster Assembly, this dissertation traces the understanding of the sacraments as seals of God's covenant which produce assurance and good works in faithful believers.