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W88-0068. Kuyper, Lester J. (1904-1986).
Papers, 1908-1981. 3.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Hope College class of 1928; Western Theological Seminary class of 1932; Princeton Theological Seminary class of 1937; Union Theological Seminary class of 1939; Doctor of Divinity honorary degree by Hope College in 1944; Minister of the Reformed Church in American (RCA); pastorates included: Ninth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan (1932-1936) and Clover Hill Reformed Church in New Jersey (1936-1939); professor of the Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary (1939-1974); president of the General Synod in 1970; interim president of New Brunswick Theological/Western Theological Seminary (1971-1973). Collection contains class notes and coursework from Hope College, Western Theological, Princeton Theological, and Union Theological seminaries, and his master's and doctorate theses regarding the Old Testament, correspondence, sermons and Sunday school lessons, lecture notes and files (also Dutch lectures), papers on the Reformed Church in America, information on the Bible Land travel seminar, materials on an exchange professorship with the Netherlands Reformed Churches (1959), the merger discussions between the RCA and the United Presbyterian Church (1945-1949), Theological Commission of the RCA (1962-1964) and the committee on Theological Education (1963-1966); information related to Kuyper's time as president of the General Synod (1970); and Kuyper family genealogy. Correspondents include John W. Beardslee III, Raymond Beckering, Julius Brewer, Arie Brouwer, Donald Buteyn, Donald Bruggink, Bernard Brunsting, Jerome De Jong, Harold de Roo, Marion de Velder, Lowell Ditzen, Harold Englund, Henry Gehman, Herman Harmelink III, I. John Hesselink, Eugene Heideman, Peter Hsieh, Joachim Jermias, Vernon Kooy, League for Christian Laymen, Beth Marcus, John Mulder, Russell Norden, M. Eugene Osterhaven, F. Marmaduke Potter, Ervin Roorda, Isaac Rottenberg, Abraham Rynbrandt, Calvin Schnucker, Harold Schut, Lewis Scudder, Elco Stapert, Theophilus Taylor, John Ter Louw, Norman Thomas, William Thompson, Raymond Van Heukelom, Arnold Veenschoten, Dennis Voskuil, Christian Walvoord, Luther Weigle, and Harry Wieskamp.

Accession No.: W88-0068
Provenance: Lester J. Kuyper
Donor: Lester J. Kuyper Estate
Photographs: 12 images (Box 3)
Processed by: John Maassen, September 1998
Ena Brooks, September 1998

Biography

Dr. Lester Jacob Kuyper was born on February 25, 1904, in Rock Valley, Iowa, to Jacob R. and Jennie Meylink Kuyper. He attended grade school in a one-room rural school in Iowa. Kuyper went away to high school at Northwestern Classical Academy in Orange City, Iowa. In 1928, he graduated from Hope College with a Bachelor of Arts in education. He then received

his Bachelor of Divinity at Western Theological Seminary in 1932. From 1932 to 1936, he was the pastor at Ninth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. For three years, starting in 1936, he was pastor of Clover Hill Reformed Church in New Jersey. In 1937, Kuiper received his Master's in Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. Two years later, he obtained his Doctorate in Theology at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. His doctorate dissertation was on "The Old Testament Doctrine of Sin." After receiving his doctorate, Kuiper moved back to Michigan, where he was a professor of the Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary (WTS) from 1939 to 1974. In 1944, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity honorary degree by Hope College. While at WTS, Kuiper was the president of the General Synod in 1970, and interim president of NBTS/WTS from 1971 to 1973. In 1975, he became emeritus faculty, teaching only specialty courses at WTS. Dr. Lester Jacob Kuiper died on February 11, 1986, in Holland, Michigan.

Scope and Content

Papers center mostly around his lectures and pastoral sermons. This collection contains class notes and coursework from Hope College, Western Theological, Princeton Theological, and Union Theological seminaries. His master's and doctorate theses regarding the Old Testament are also included in his coursework. Correspondence from 1939 to 1975 is also encompassed in this collection. Also included are sermons and Sunday school lessons during Kuiper's pastoral period from 1932 to 1939. Lecture notes and files (also Dutch lectures), papers on the Reformed Church in America, information on the Bible Land travel seminar, materials on an exchange professorship with the Netherlands Reformed Churches (1959), and information related to Kuiper's time as president of the General Synod (1970) are also included. Family materials are also included; of major significance may be the Kuiper family genealogy.

Container List

Box 1

Addresses

- Addresses and Sermons, ca. 1957
- Book of Addresses, n.d., 1957-1959, 1962
- President, Holland Board of Education, 1955
- Convocation Inaugural, Western Theological Seminary, 1943

Articles

- "Hardness of Heart according to Biblical Perspective," 1974
- "Holy One and the Holy Spirit," 1958
- Published, n.d., 1941-1971

Bibliography for Old Testament (O.T.) Study, 1963

Biblical Studies, n.d.

Biographical Material, 1944-1986

Certificates and Diplomas, 1928

Chapel Worship Talks, 1967-1977

Class Notes

- Princeton Theological Seminary, 1936-1937

Union Theological Seminary, 1938
Western Theological Seminary, 1931-1932
Church History, Junior Year, n.d.
Clippings, n.d., 1958, 1971-1973, 1975
Correspondence
Calls and Appointments, 1936-1959
Dissertation, Union Theological Seminary, 1947
General, 1935-1975 (6 folders)
Genealogy, Kuyper, 1694-1971 (with supplement)
Lectures
Bible Lands Travel Seminar, 1968
Dutch, n.d.
Hervormde Kerk, Netherlands, 1959
Lessons, Sunday School, 1960
Manuscripts, n.d.
Notes
Apocrypha, The, n.d.
Attributes of God, n.d.
Basic Bibliography for Old Testament Study, 1963
Chronicler and the Pagan Powers, The, 1957
Church and Eschatology, The, 1968
Comparison of NIV and RSV, n.d.
Covenant and History, n.d.
Deuteronomy, n.d.
Deuteronomy, Psalms, n.d.
The Development of Writing, n.d.

Box 2

Notes (cont.)
Epistle to the Romans, n.d.
Eschatology, n.d.
Highlights of the O.T., 1975
Holiness of God, n.d.
Hosea, Jeremiah, n.d.
Introduction to the O.T., n.d.
Introduction to the Prophets, n.d.
Intertestamental History, 1959
Isaiah, n.d.
Isaiah 40, n.d.
Judaism, Institutions and Parties, n.d.
Jeremiah, n.d.
Messianic Doctrines, n.d.
New Testament Usage of Old Testament, 1979
Old Testament
Archaeology, n.d.

Canon, n.d.
History, n.d.
In the Church, n.d.
Petra, n.d.
Religious, Social Institutions, n.d.
Theology, n.d.
Parables, n.d.
Patrologiae Graeca, n.d.
Pentateuchal Criticism, n.d.
Problem of Suffering, The, n.d.
Psalms, n.d. (2 folders)
Repentance of Job, n.d.
Revelation, n.d.
Righteousness of God in Old Testament, 1943 (See Address, Convocation
Inaugural)
Sacrifice, Circumcision, and Sacraments, n.d.
Servant Passages in Isaiah, n.d.
Sin in the Old Testament, n.d.
Spirit of God in the Old Testament, The, n.d.
Sumerian Code, The, n.d.
Summer Course-Leiden, 1974
Qumran, n.d.
Text of the Old Testament, n.d.
Use of Heseb in the Old Testament, The, n.d.
Wisdom Literature, 1972
Oral History (Kuypers), 1981 (cf. Oral History Box)
Papers
Antioch in Syria and Its Place in Early Christian History, 1926
Christmas at the Mandelbaum Gate, 1958-1959
Suffering and the Repentance of God, n.d.
Controversy "Genesis 2-3," 1960
Papers and Correspondence, ca. 1953

Box 3

Papers (cont.)
Covenant and History in the Bible, n.d.
The Hardness of Heart, ca. 1975
Photographs, n.d. (12 images)
Photographs and Travel Guides, Israel Trip, 1956
Record of Sermons Preached (Lifetime), 1932-1978
Report on Sabbatical and Lecture Exchange, 1958-1959
Resolutions of Appreciation, 1974-1976
Sermons
General (4 folders), n.d.
Funerals, n.d.

Studies, *The Essentials of Hebrew Grammar* by John H. Raven, 1908 (book)
Studies, "The Making of the Bible," 1977-1979
Studies in Syria, n.d.
Thesis, Th.D. "Doctrine of Sin in the Old Testament," Union Theological Seminary,
1939
Th.M. "Shamra Tablets," Princeton Theological Seminary, 1937
Tributes and Honors, 1973-1979