Title: The concept of the "Seal of God" in the history of the Christian thought

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Date completed: October 2010

Granting Institution: Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS)

Description: Unpublished Thesis (PhD): 200 pages

Abstract:

The theology of the “seal of God” is one of the distinctive beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This distinctive belief plays a very significant theological role in understanding Adventism in relation to the eschatological events. There are various concepts that were developed from the inception of the Adventist Church up to the present. There are a number of major views as well as less popular views regarding the seal of God. From 1844 to 1888, there were two mainstream concepts that emerged. The first view or the traditional view holds that the Sabbath or its observance constitutes the seal of God. This was followed by another view that holds that personal knowledge of God and sanctification constitutes the seal of God. The name of the Father and of the Lamb or God’s name or character has also been considered as the seal of God. These two views continued to be the dominant interpretations of the seal of God in Adventism up until 1957.

However, in 1957 and up to the present, the major views have been expanded as an indication of the progressive understanding of this biblical truth. Then, another new concept appeared, the two-seal concept. This view holds that there are two kinds of God’s seal: the gospel seal and the apocalyptic seal. Both seals differ in its nature, function, timing, and agents.
There are also other views of the seal of God but less notable. Other views of the seal of God points to justification or righteousness by faith. Moreover, the idea of the image of God, the “pure gospel,” and the “seal of life” have been pointed out as the seal of the living God.

The Adventist concept of the seal of God, more or less, are borne with common similarities and with distinct differences compared with the general thought in the history of Christianity. In spite of the common interpretative understanding of the seal of God, Adventism stands a unique concept. It is biblically based, and theologically relevant, and hermeneutically commendable.