

JESUS EMPTIED HIMSELF

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Philippians 2:6-8 states "who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross." (ASV)

Before He emptied Himself, he was in the form of God. After He emptied Himself, he was in the form of a servant, which is further explained as being in the likeness and fashion of mankind.

Before He emptied Himself, He was equal with God in form or appearance. After He emptied Himself, He was no longer equal with God in form, but was equal with man in form. Now, that of which He emptied Himself in this passage was being in the form and likeness of God. That which he took upon Himself in this passage was the form and likeness of man. If one wants to affirm that Jesus emptied Himself of more than this, he must learn it from some other passage.

In this passage, he emptied Himself from being equal with God in form. However, He did not empty Himself from being equal with God in every area. I know from John 5:18 that when He said God was His Father, He made Himself equal with God. I know from John 10:29-33 that Jesus being a man made himself God. True, he emptied Himself of some glory that He had with the Father (John 17:5) and by taking on the son to father relationship, he became subject to the Father. (John 6:38; Mt. 26:39) But I learn these things from other passages, not from Philippians 2:6-8.

Jesus did not empty Himself of omniscience because of such passages as John 2:25 and John 3:13. He did not empty Himself of power to forgive sins. (Mark 2:5,10 and Luke 23:43) Too, He gave power to his disciples. (Luke 10:19; Mt. 10:1) He did not empty Himself of being worship-worthy. (Matthew 2:2,11; 9:18; 14:33; 20:20) he did not empty Himself of being eternal because an eternal spirit cannot be divested. Jesus was a man while on earth, but He was not just an ordinary man like you and me.