

# Paul, His Life and Teachings



Paul's Theology  
The Pre-Existent Christ

## Lesson 42

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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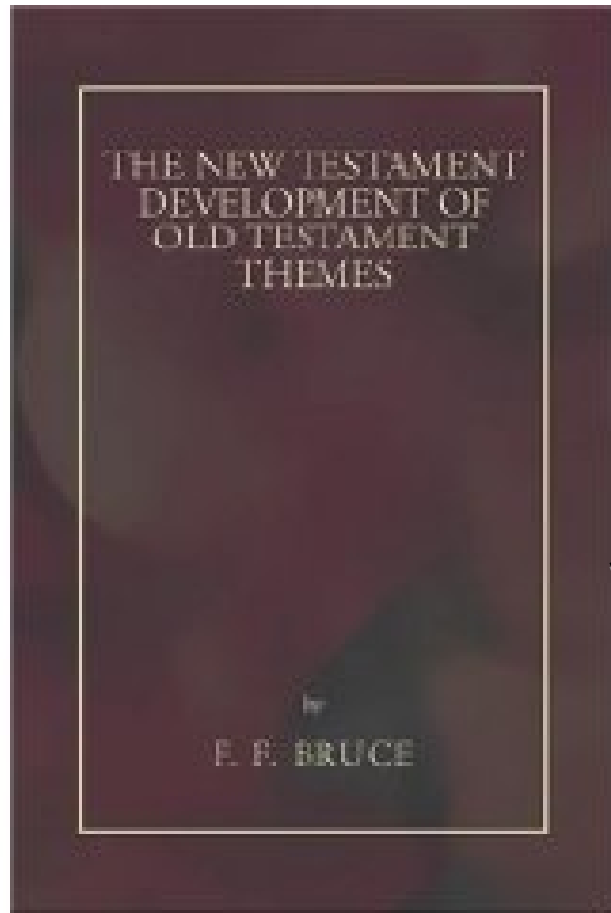
# The Question: What about Jesus before the incarnation?



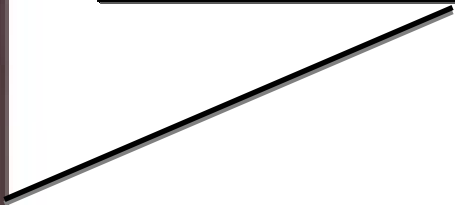


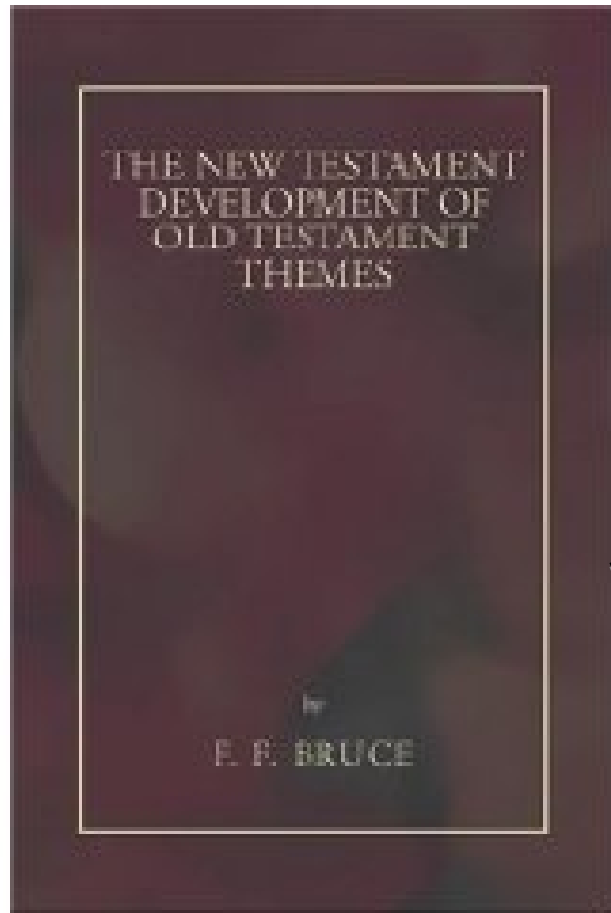
THE NEW TESTAMENT  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
OLD TESTAMENT  
THEMES

by  
E. F. BRUCE

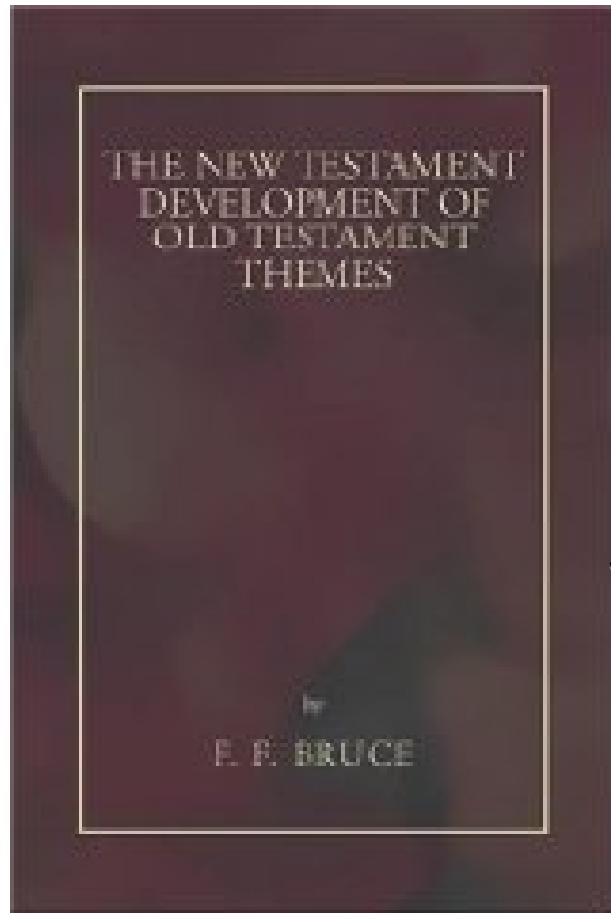


**“Theophany”**



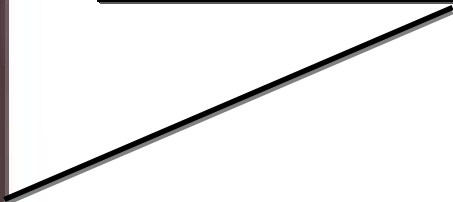


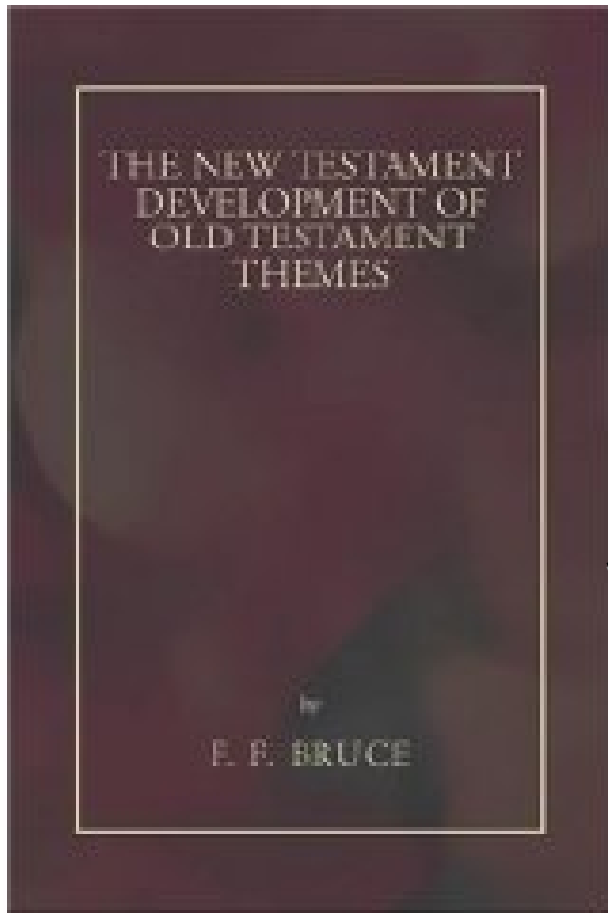
**“Theo phany”**



**“God”**

**“Theo phany”**





**“God”**

**“appears”**

**“Theophany”**



The background of the book cover is a classical-style painting depicting a public execution scene in an amphitheater. In the foreground, a group of people, including men and women in simple robes, are gathered around a central figure who appears to be a martyr. Some are kneeling in prayer or grief, while others stand. In the middle ground, three figures are being executed on tall, dark wooden crosses. The background shows the tiered seating of the amphitheater, filled with a large crowd of spectators. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones and a dark, overcast sky.

**EUSEBIUS**  
THE CHURCH HISTORY

*Translation and commentary by*  
**PAUL L. MAIER**



- Philipians 2

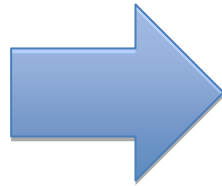


- Philipians 2
- Colossians 1





- Philipians 2
- Colossians 1
- 1 Corinthians 8:6



- **Philippians 2**
- **Colossians 1**
- **1 Corinthians 8:6**





Have this mind in yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (2:5-8).

# TIMELINE





Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



Jesus  
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humility  
over self  
interest

2 KINGS 16:11

...saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriaah the priest a search of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. Uriaah built all the plans that King Ahaz had sent him from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. He offered up his burnt offerings and grain offerings, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. The bronze altar that stood before the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the Lord—was put on the north side of the new altar.

King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriaah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the offering of all the people of the land, and their drink offering and their drink offering of all the blood. Sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking God."

King Ahaz had ordered the bronze altars to be removed from the temple and removed the basins from the side stands. He removed the Sabbath bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. He took away the temple canopy that had been built at the entrance and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the Lord, in deference to the king of Assyria.

As for the other events of the reign of Ahaz and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

Hoshea Last King of Israel

17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Israel's vassal and had paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So, king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria as he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.

Israel Exiled Because of Sin

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods and followed the practices of the nations that the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places, stones and Asherah poles on every high place and under every spreading tree. In every high place they burned incense, as before them had done. They did the wicked things that provoked the Lord to anger. They worshipped idols, though the Lord had said, "You shall not do that."

The Lord warned Israel and said, "Turn from all his prophets and seers. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets."

But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lord their God. They rebelled against his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless idols.

They imitated the nations around them, although the Lord had ordered them not to do as they do," and they did all the things the Lord had forbidden them to do.

They took all the commands of the Lord and made for themselves altars, like the altars of calves, and they bowed down to all these idols cast in the shape of calves, and silver calves, poles, and they worshipped Baal, their Asherah poles, and they worshipped their sons and daughters in shrines. They practiced divination and sorcery, and they sacrificed to do evil in the fire. They provoked the anger of the Lord, and he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them away from his presence.

When he saw Israel away from the land, he sent Jeroboam son of Nebat their king, following the Lord and away from following the Lord, and he had warned through all the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland and exile in Assyria, and they are still there.

Samaria Restituted

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim to replace the Israelites. When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord, so he sent lions against them and they were killed. When the king of Assyria was reported to the king of Israel, he was repented and returned to the Lord. The people of Samaria do not know what he requires.

They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire.

2 KINGS 17:41

Then the king of Assyria gave this order: "Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the gods of the land require." So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lord.

Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cuthah made Nergal, and the men from Hamath made Ashima. The Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvaim burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. They sacrificed to their own gods, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to worship the Lord, but they also served their own gods at the high places. They worshipped the officials for them as priests in the shrines in accordance with the customs of the nations, but they also served their own gods.

To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the Lord nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances that the Lord made for the descendants of Jacob, whom he gave the law and commands. When he covenanted with the Israelites, he commanded them, "Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them." But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. You must always be careful to keep the decrees and commands, the laws and commandments I have written for you. Do not worship other gods. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. "If they do not worship the Lord, their gods, it will deliver you from their hands." It is the will of your enemies, but the Lord is with you, and he will deliver you from their hands. They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

17 Or and word of  
18 Or to Sam, i.e., he is possibly an abbreviation for Oshroch.  
19 Traditionally great altars  
20 Or the date of his throne (see Septuagint)  
21 Exodus 20:4, 5

Have this mind in yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (2:5-8).

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Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



Jesus  
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over self  
interest

**Though he was in the form of God (ESV)**



Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest

Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



**Though he was in the form of God (ESV)**



Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest

Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



**Though he was in the form of God (ESV)**  
**Being in the very nature God (NIV)**

Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest

Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



**Though he was in the form of God (ESV)**

**Being in the very nature God (NIV)**

**Being in the form of God (NKJV)**

*morphe*

(μορφη)

*morphe*  
(μορφη)

“form”  
“nature”

*morphe*  
(μορφη)

“form”  
“nature”  
“essence”

*morphe*  
(μορφη)

“form”  
“nature”  
“essence”



*morphe*  
(μορφη)

“form”  
“nature”  
“essence”



The change in their body does  
not change their “*morphe*”

2 KINGS 16:11

... saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriaiah the priest a search of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. Uriaiah with all the plans that King Ahaz had sent him from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. The bronze altar that stood before the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the Lord—was put on the north side of the new altar.

King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriaiah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the offering of all the people of the land, and their drink offering and their grain offering and their burnt offering and their sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking God."

King Ahaz removed the side panels and removed the basins from the sea stands. He removed the Sabbath bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. He took away the temple canopy that had been built at the entrance and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the Lord, in deference to the king of Assyria.

As for the other events of the reign of Ahaz and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

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Israel Exiled Because of Sin

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They followed the practices of the nations that the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places, stones and Asherah poles on every high place, and under every spreading tree. In every high place they burned incense, as did the nations whom the Lord had driven out before them, had done. They did the wicked things that provoked the Lord to anger. They worshiped idols, though the Lord had said, "You shall not do that."

The Lord warned Israel and said: "Turn from all his prophets and seers. Observe my commandments and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets. But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless idols."

They imitated the nations around them, although the Lord had ordered them not to do as they do," and they did not do as the Lord had forbidden them to do.

They took all the commands of the Lord that they tookook all and made for themselves altars, like the altars of calves, and they bowed down to all these idols cast in the shape of calves, and silver calves, poles, and they worshipped Baal, their silver hosts, and their sons and daughters they sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery, and they themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.

The Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel, he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

Samaria Restituted

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the ruins of Samaria to replace the Israelites. When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord, so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people. When the king of Assyria heard this, he was reported to the king of Assyria. The people of Samaria do not worship the Lord, so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people. When the king of Assyria heard this, he was reported to the king of Assyria. The people of Samaria do not worship the Lord, so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people.

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Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cush made Nergal, and the men from Hamath made Ashima. The Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvaim burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. They sacrificed to their own gods, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to worship the Lord, but they also served their own gods at the high places. They worshipped the officials for them as priests in the shrines in accordance with the customs of the nations, but they also served their own gods.

To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the Lord nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the Lord gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel. When the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them, "Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them." But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. You must always be careful to keep the decrees and commandments that I have written for you. Do not worship other gods. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. "I will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies, but you must not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

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Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



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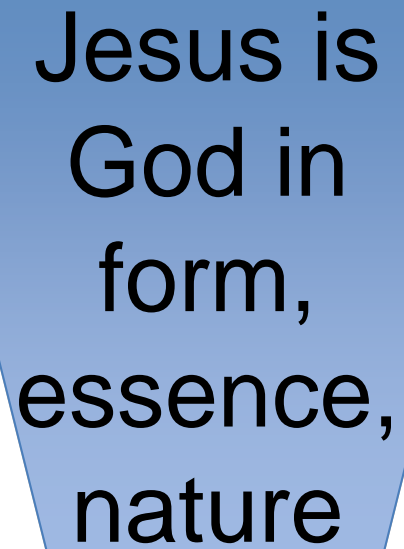
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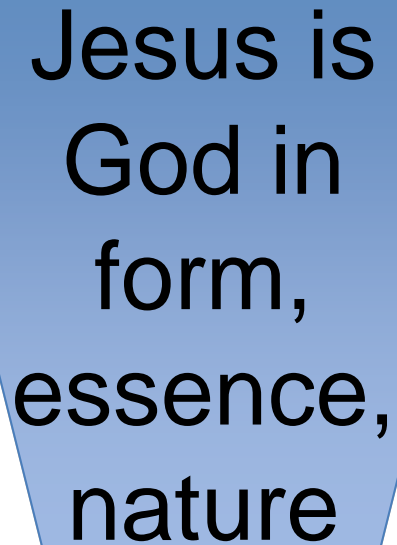
Jesus  
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interest



**Did not count equality with God a thing  
to be grasped**

A blue trapezoidal shape with a thin white border, containing the text "Jesus is God in form, essence, nature".

Jesus is  
God in  
form,  
essence,  
nature



Jesus is  
God in  
form,  
essence,  
nature

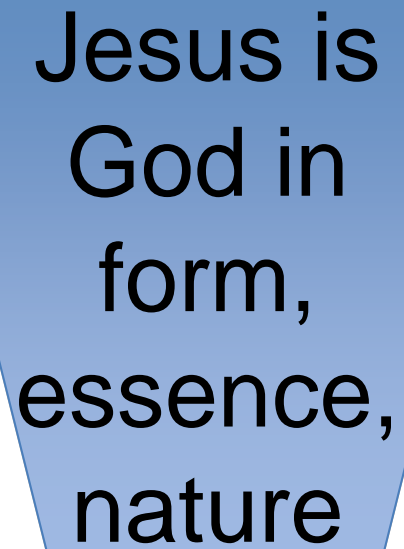
“did not consider  
equality with God  
a thing to be  
grasped”

Jesus is  
God in  
form,  
essence,  
nature



“did not consider  
equality with God  
a thing to be  
grasped”



A blue trapezoidal shape, wider at the top and narrower at the bottom, containing the text "Jesus is God in form, essence, nature".

Jesus is  
God in  
form,  
essence,  
nature

Jesus is  
God in  
form,  
essence,  
nature



Jesus is  
God in  
form,  
essence,  
nature



“did not consider  
it robbery to be  
equal with God”  
(NKJV)

2 KINGS 16:11

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The Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel, he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them away from his presence.

When he saw Israel away from the land, he sent Jeroboam son of Nebat their king, following the Lord and away from following the Lord, to commit a great sin. Jeroboam persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them. The Lord removed them through all the kingdoms of the world, because they had provoked the Lord their God, who had warned them through his prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland and were scattered in Assyria, and they are still there.

Samaria Restituted

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its cities. When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord, so he sent lions against them and they were killed. When they were killed, some of the people of Assyria were reported to the king of Assyria. "The people you deported and resettled in the towns of Samaria do not know what the God of that country requires. They have sent lions among them, because they are killing them off, because they do not know what he requires."

18 Or the king of his throne (see Septuagint)

2 KINGS 17:41

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They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshiping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

112 Or and word of  
113 Traditionally years although  
114 Or in Sam, the, he is possibly an abbreviation for Oubrah.  
115 Or the king of his throne (see Septuagint)  
116 Exodus 20:4, 5

Have this mind in yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped**, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (2:5-8).

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Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



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Jesus  
chooses  
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over self  
interest

**“made himself nothing” (ESV)**

Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest

Jesus  
chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest



**“made himself nothing” (ESV)**

**“emptied himself” (NASV)**

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chooses  
humility  
over self  
interest

Jesus  
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over self  
interest



**“made himself nothing” (ESV)**

**“emptied himself” (NASV)**

**“made himself of no reputation” (NKJV)**

Jesus  
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humility  
over self  
interest



Did God  
become  
less than  
God?

**“made himself nothing” (ESV)**

**“emptied himself” (NASV)**

**“made himself of no reputation” (NKJV)**



Jesus  
cross  
Hallelujah  
over  
in  
Did God  
become  
less than  
God?

**“made himself nothing” (ESV)**

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Jesus  
cross  
man  
God?  
**Did God  
become  
less than**

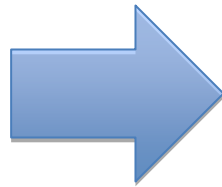
Jesus willingly “emptied himself” of the attributes of His deity, placing those attributes on reserve. It was always at His disposal, but He chose to limit/empty Himself to fulfill all righteousness as a man

**“made himself nothing” (ESV)**

**“emptied himself” (NASV)**

**“made himself of no reputation” (NKJV)**





- Philippians 2
- Colossians 1
- 1 Corinthians 8:6

2 KINGS 16:11

...saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a search of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. Uriah built all the plans that King Ahaz had sent him from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. The bronze altar that stood before the Lord—he brought from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the Lord—and put it on the north side of the new altar.

King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the offering of all the people of the land, evening offering and their drink offering, morning offering and their drink offering, sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking God."

King Ahaz had ordered the removal of the basins from the side panels and removed the basins from the stands. He removed the Sabbath bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. He took away the temple canopy that had been built at the entrance and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the Lord, in deference to the king of Assyria.

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Hoshea Last King of Israel

17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Israel's vassal and had paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So, king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to him by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Habor, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.

Israel Exiled Because of Sin

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods and followed the practices of the nations that the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places, stones and Asherah poles on every high place and under every spreading tree. In every high place they burned incense, as before them had done. They did the wicked things that provoked the Lord to anger. They worshipped idols, though the Lord had said, "You shall not do that."

The Lord warned Israel and Jews through all his prophets and seers. "Turn from your evil ways," they said, "Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets."

But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lord their God. They rebelled against his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless idols and themselves became wor-

They imitated the nations around them, although the Lord had ordered them not to do as they do," and they did all the things the Lord had forbidden them to do.

They took all the commands of the Lord that they tookook all and made for themselves altars, like the altars of calves, and they bowed down to all these idols cast in the shape of calves, and silver calves, poles, and they worshipped Baal, their Asherah poles, and their sons and daughters they sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery, and they themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.

The Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel, he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them away from his presence.

When he saw Israel away from the land, from the time that Jeroboam son of Nebat their king, following the Lord and did not turn away from him, he had warned through all his prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland and exiled in Assyria, and they are still there.

Samarita Restituted

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the ruins of Samaria to replace the Israelites. When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord, so he sent lions against them and they were killed. When they were killed, some of the people of Assyria was reported to the king of Assyria. "The people you deported and resettled in the towns of Samaria do not know what the god of that country requires. They have sent lions among them, because they are killing them off, because they do not know what he requires."

18 Or the date of his throne (see Septuagint). 19 Or he is possibly an abbreviation for Ouzai. 20 Or he is possibly an abbreviation for Ouzai.

2 KINGS 17:41

Then the king of Assyria gave this order: "Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the god of the land requires." So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lord.

Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cush made Nergal, and the men from Hamath made Ashima. The Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvaim burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. They sacrificed to their own gods, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to worship the Lord, but they also served their own gods at the high places. They worshipped the officials for them as priests in the shrines in accordance with the customs of the nations, but they also served their own gods in accordance with their former practices. They neither worshiped the Lord nor adhered to the decrees and ordinances that the Lord made for the descendants of Jacob, whom he gave the law and commands that the Lord commanded Israel. Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them. But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. You must always be careful to keep the decrees and commands, the laws and commandments I have written for you. Do not worship other gods. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. If they worship the Lord, rest your hearts, and if they deliver you from the hand of all your enemies, but they would not listen, however, but they persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

21 Or they made their sons and daughters pass through the fire. 22 Or he is possibly an abbreviation for Ouzai.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross (Col. 1:15-20)

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Remember the Nike ad:  
“Image is Everything”?



Remember the Nike ad:  
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In this case, they are right!

*eikon*  
(ΕΙΚΩΝ)

“image”



*eikon*  
(ΕΙΚΩΝ)

“image”



*eikon*  
(ΕΙΚΩΝ)

“image”



The “*eikon*” bridges the gulf between the transcendent God and creation

2 KINGS 16:11

...saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriaah the priest a search of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. 11So Uriaah built an altar in accordance with all the plans that King Ahaz had sent him from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. 12When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. 13He offered up his burnt offerings and grain offerings, poured out his drink offerings, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. 14The bronze altar that stood before the Lord—he brought from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the Lord—and put it on the north side of the new altar.

15King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriaah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering, sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking God."

16And Ahaz had ordered King Ahaz to break away the side panels and removed the basins from the Sea, and removed the altars that supported it and set it on a stone base. 17He took away the temple canopy that had been built at the outside and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the Lord, in deference to the king of Assyria.

18As for the other events of the reign of Ahaz and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? 19Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

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Israel Exiled Because of Sin

22All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods and followed the practices of the nations that the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. 23The Israelites secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right. 24From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places, stones and Asherah poles on every high place and under every spreading tree. 25In every high place they burned incense, as before them had done. They did the wicked things that provoked the Lord to anger. 26They worshipped idols, though the Lord had said, "You shall not do that."

27The Lord warned Israel and Jews through all his prophets and seers. 28But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless idols.

22 Or and send it 23 Traditionally read although 24 Or the sins of his fathers (see Septuagint) 25 Exh 204, 5

305 18They irritated the nations around them, although the Lord had ordered them not to do as they do," and they did all the things the Lord had forbidden them to do. 19When they took all the commands of the Lord, they took God and made for themselves images in the shape of calves, and silver calves cast in the shape of molten idols, and they bowed down to all these idols, and they worshipped Baal, their silver hosts, and their sons and daughters who sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. 20They practiced divination and sorcery, and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.

21The Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. 22Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. 23Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel, he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them away from his presence.

24When he saw Israel away from the land of David, his king Jeroboam enticed Israel to worship other gods. 25When he saw that Israel was about to commit a great sin, Jeroboam persuaded them to follow him, and he made golden calves, and did not turn away from them. 26The Lord removed them from his land and did not return them, because they had forsaken the Lord their God, who had warned them through all his prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland and exiled to Assyria, and they are still there.

Samaria Restituted

27The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim to replace the Israelites. 28They took over Samaria and lived in its cities. 29When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord, so he sent lions against them and they were killed. 30When the king of Assyria saw that the land was desolate, he was repented and returned to the king of Israel. 31He said, "The people of Samaria do not know what the Lord has done to them, and he has sent lions among them, because they have killed them off, because they do not know what he requires."

27 Or They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire 28 Or the sins of his fathers (see Septuagint)

2 KINGS 17:41

41Then the king of Assyria gave this order: "Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the god of the land requires." 42So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lord.

43Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. 44The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cush made Nergal, and the men from Hamath made Ashima. 45The Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvaim burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 46They sacrificed to their own gods, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to worship the Lord, but they also served their own gods at the high places. 47They worshipped the officials for them as priests in the shrines in accordance with the customs of the nations, but they also served their own gods in accordance with their former practices. 48To this day they neither worship the Lord nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances that the Lord made for the descendants of Jacob, whom he gave the law and commands that the Lord named Israel. 49When the king of Assyria gave the law to the Israelites, he commanded them, "Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them." 50But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. 51To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. 52You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that I have written for you. 53Do not worship other gods. 54Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. 55If you worship the Lord, your gods, "I will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

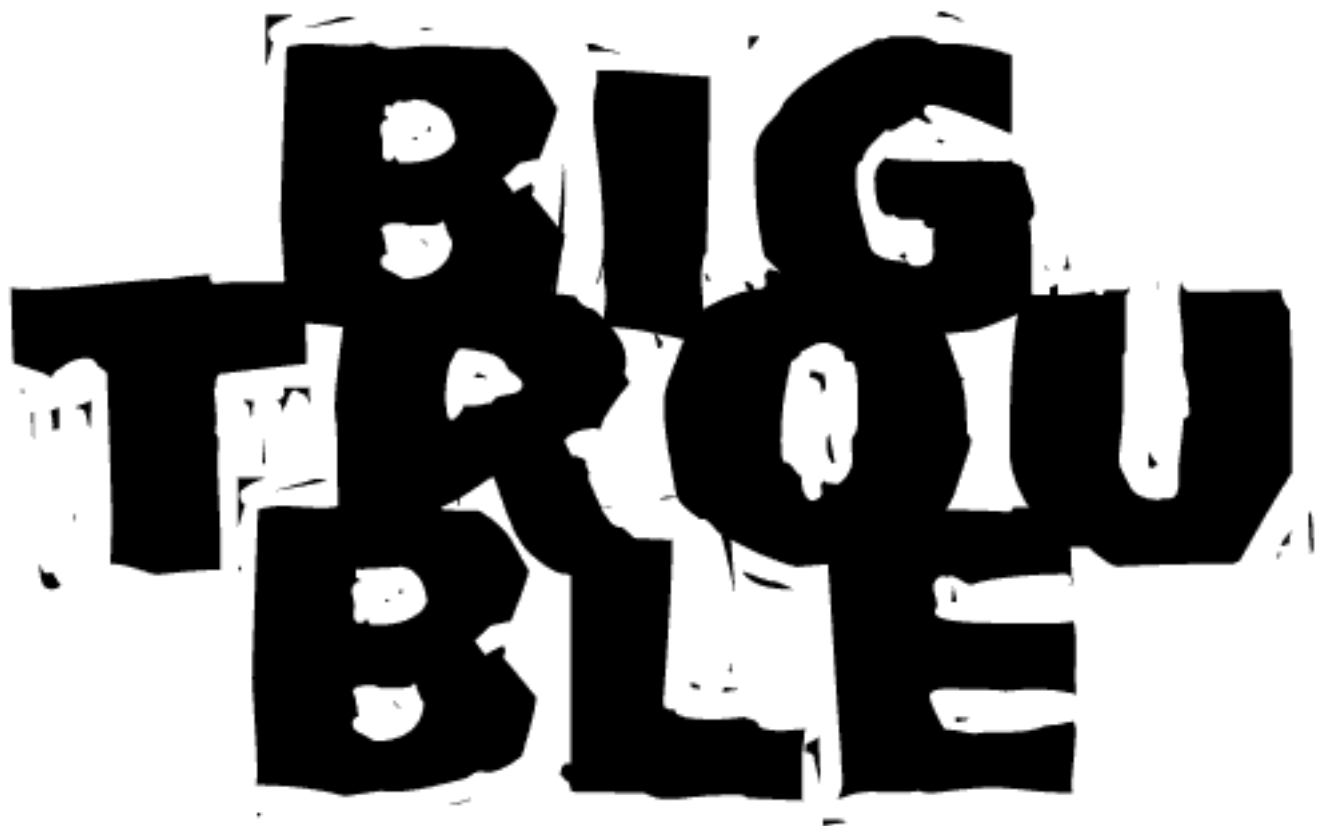
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*Prototokos*  
(ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ)

**of creation**

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First

**of creation**

*Prototokos*

(ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ)

First | born

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*Prototokos*  
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Scores | Teams | Conferences | Players | Rankings | Schedules | Standings

of creation

# Prototokos (ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ) First | born

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## The Associated Press Top 25 Poll

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| Rank     | Team              | Record |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Jesus</b>      | 11-0   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Texas Tech</b> | 10-0   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Florida</b>    | 9-1    |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Texas</b>      | 10-1   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Oklahoma</b>   | 9-1    |

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Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cuthah made Nergal, and the men from Hamath made Ashima. The Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvaim burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. They sacrificed to their own gods, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to worship the Lord, but they also served their own gods at the high places. They worshipped the officials for them as priests in the shrines in accordance with the customs of the nations, but they also served their own gods.

To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the Lord nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the Lord gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel. When the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them, "Serve them no gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them." But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands I have written for you. Do not worship other gods. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. "Father, if I deliver you from the hand of all your enemies, but they would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

112 Or and word of  
113 Or to Sam, i.e., he is possibly an abbreviation for Oshea.  
114 Or the date of his throne (see Septuagint).  
115 Eusebius 204, 5.



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **For by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things**, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross (Col. 1:15-20)

Things were created  
“By” “through” and “for” him

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2 KINGS 16:11

...saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriaiah the priest a search of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. Uriaiah with all the plans that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. The bronze altar that stood before the Lord—he brought from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the Lord—and put it on the north side of the new altar.

King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriaiah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the offering of all the people of the land, evening offering and their drink offering, morning offering and their drink offering, sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking God."

King Ahaz had ordered the bronze altars to be removed from the temple and removed the basins from the side stands. He removed the Sabbath bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. He took away the temple canopy that had been built at the entrance and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the Lord, in deference to the king of Assyria.

As for the other events of the reign of Ahaz and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

Hoshea Last King of Israel

17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Israel's vassal and had paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So, king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to him by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.

Israel Exiled Because of Sin

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods and followed the practices of the nations that the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places, stones and Asherah poles on every high place and under every spreading tree. In every high place they burned incense, as before them had done. They did the wicked things that provoked the Lord to anger. They worshipped idols, though the Lord had said, "You shall not do that."

The Lord warned Israel and Jews through all his prophets and seers. "Turn from your evil ways," they said, "Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets."

But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lord their God. They repented his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless idols and themselves became wor-

They imitated the nations around them, although the Lord had ordered them not to do as they do," and they did all the things the Lord had forbidden them to do.

They took all the commands of the Lord that they tookook all and made for themselves altars, like the altars of calves, and set up pillars cast in the shape of calves, and silver poles. They bowed down to all these silver poles, and they worshipped Baal, their Syrian hosts, and their sons and daughters. They sacrificed their sons and daughters to Molech. They practiced divination and sorcery, and they consulted mediums and spiritists. They sacrificed themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.

The Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel, he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust Israel away from his presence.

When he saw Israel away from the land of David, king Jeroboam enticed Israel to worship other gods. When he saw that Israel was about to commit a great sin, he made Jeroboam king over Israel, and he removed them from following the Lord and did not turn away from him. Jeroboam persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not remove them through all his reign. The Lord removed them through all Israel, as he had warned through all the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland and were exiled to Assyria, and they are still there.

Samaria Restituted

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its cities. When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord, so he sent lions against them and they were killed. When the king of Assyria was reported to the king of Israel, he was reported to the king of Assyria. The people of Samaria do not know what the Lord has done to them. The king of Assyria has sent lions among them, and they are killing them off, because the people do not know what he requires.

18 Or the sons of his shrine (see Septuagint)

2 KINGS 17:41

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To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the Lord nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances that the Lord made for Israel. The descendants of Jacob, whom he gave the law and commands, whom he named Israel, when the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them: "Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them." But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. You must always be careful to keep the decrees and commands, the laws and commandments I have written for you. Do not worship other gods. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. Rather, if it delivers you from the hand of your enemies, but they would not listen, however, but they persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

17 Traditionally read although 18 Or the sons of his shrine (see Septuagint) 19 Or in Sam, i.e., he is possibly an abbreviation for Oubab.

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# Prototokos (πρωτοτοκος)

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Texas Tech</b> | 10-0   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Florida</b>    | 9-1    |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Texas</b>      | 10-1   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Oklahoma</b>   | 9-1    |



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First

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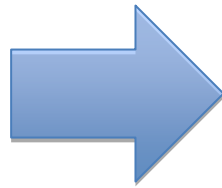
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- Philippians 2

- Colossians 1



- 1 Corinthians 8:6



Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Cor. 8:6)



# Come back next week!

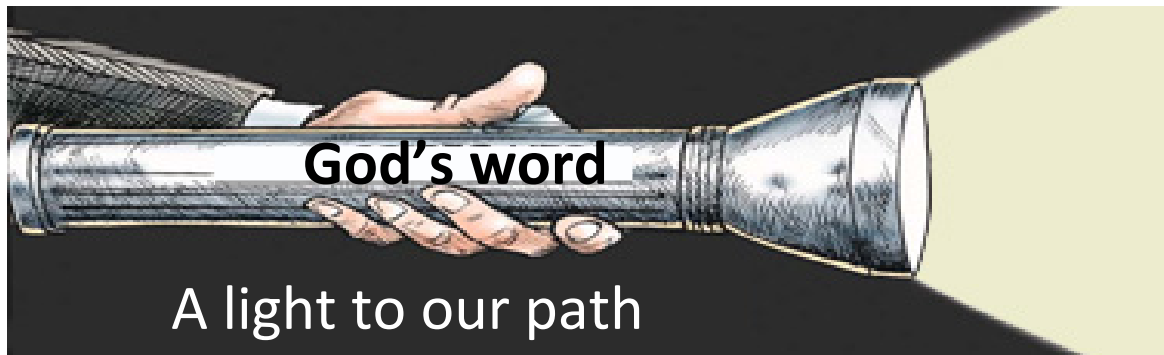
## Jesus – Fully God!



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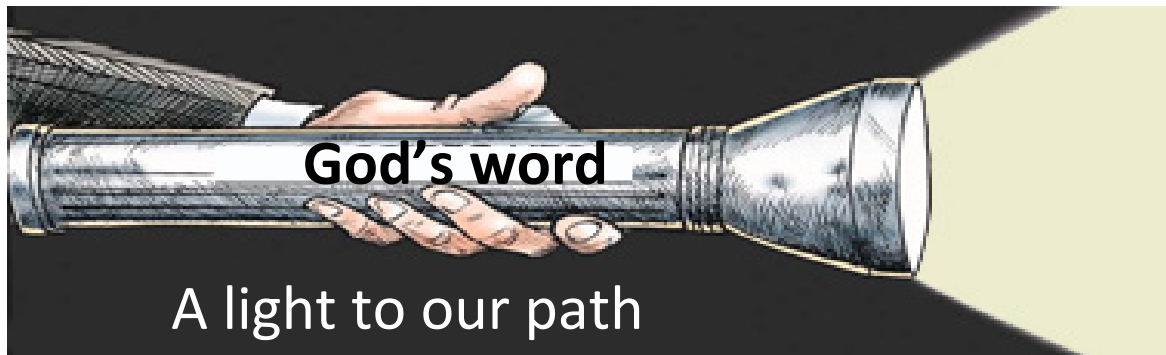


## Points for Home

“He humbled himself” (Phil. 2:8)

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9)





# Points for Home

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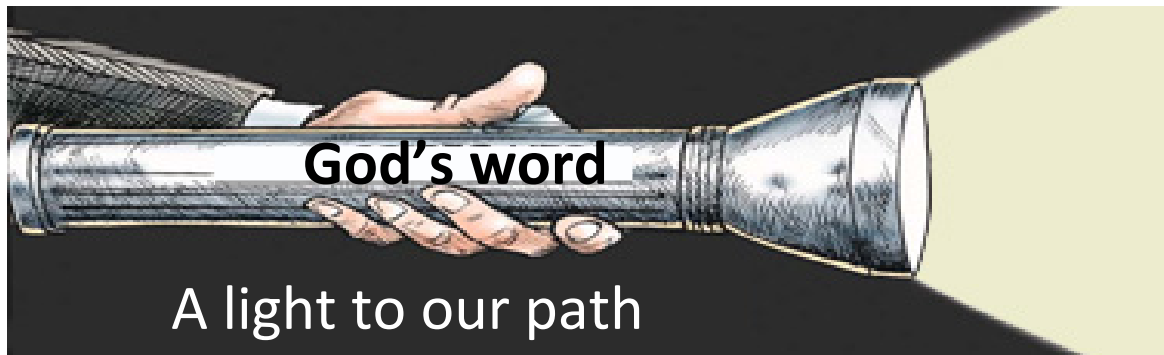
“He is the image of the invisible God”  
(Col. 1:15)



Behold Jesus and behold God







## Points for Home

“He is the firstborn of all creation ... the firstborn from the dead” (Col. 1:15, 18)

**The Associated Press Top 25 Poll from dead**

What can touch you?