

Phil. 2:5-11 -- "Have the attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Heb. 2:9 -- "But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for every one."

c. Specific development of the doctrine

(1) Background: The Preincarnate State of Glory

(a) Nature of this state

- [1] The Son of God, from all eternity, possessed all of the attributes and prerogatives of deity.
- [2] The Son of God was, from all eternity, the unique Son, the second Person of the Trinity. This eternal relationship of the Son to the Father is expressed in the technical term "eternal generation".
- [3] The Son of God, from all eternity, was equal to the Father and to the Spirit in the unrestrained manifestation of His glory.

(b) Stages in this state

- [1] Preincarnate intrapersonal relationships of the Son to the Father and the Spirit
- [2] Involvement of the Son in the Decrees
- [3] Creation by the Son
- [4] Preservation by the Son
- [5] Special Revelations of the Son during the Old Testament period

(2) The Incarnate State of Humiliation

(a) Nature of this state

- [1] The Son of God laid aside the unrestrained manifestation of His divine glory, and became a servant "of no reputation".
- [2] The Son of God entered into the experience of finiteness and limitation.
- [3] The Son of God subjected himself to the experience of subordination to the Father and the Spirit.
- [4] The Son of God subjected himself to the demands and to the curse of the Law, to the point of death.