

## **He emptied Himself for us**

Jesus used the cultural idioms of His day to make his points, including the use of concepts like Satan and Gehenna/Sheol. He was a revolutionary, but at the same time He was a product of His culture. When God "incarnated" as the Christ, it appears to me that He, for reasons known only to Him, put on cultural blinders and limited the scope of His awareness. That did not make Him any less God, but it did narrow His perspective while dwelling among us. I believe this was part of the "emptying" referred to in Philippians 2:7. Christ may have mistakenly believed that the Hebrew Bible was literal truth. He may have believed that the heavens and the earth were created in seven literal 24-hour days. Did He have to be right about these things in order to be God incarnate? I don't think so. He freely admitted that some things were known only by God the Father. What He did know and preach is absolutely stunning and revolutionary. The seeds of His teachings may be found in the Hebrew Bible, but they were mixed in with a lot of other stuff which He repudiated. He may have been mistaken about some of the unimportant particulars, but He got the important things right. He gave us a standard by which to correctly sort things out, which is "the rule of love." When we get bogged down with the "literal" and try to include in our theology all the particulars that we find in the Scriptures, regardless of the context or source, then we become just like the Pharisees of Jesus' day who developed a theology of exclusivity and exclusion and entirely missed the main point of it all. Just sayin'.