

The Great Act of the Creator in New Creation - Gary Henecke DD

Galatians 4:4-6 *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem (rescue) those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Now because you are children (sons), God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

Galatians 4:4 ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν (aorist indicative - ἔρχομαι) **τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου** (Fullness of time), ἐξαπέστειλεν (aorist indicative - sent out) ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικὸς γενόμενον **ὑπὸ νόμον**, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἐξαγοράσῃ, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν. Ὅτι δὲ ἐστε υἱοί, **ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ** εἰς τὰς καρδίας ἡμῶν κρᾶζον· ἀββα ὁ πατήρ.

Paul writes in his first known letter about God acting in history and uniting us in Christ as offspring of God. This mission of God: a rescuing of the bondage of those who are held in the Law - to free them for a new life as sons - children of God - accomplished by the sending out of the Spirit of his Son into us - uniting us to the life of God - or his life in us. This is the core of his mind in all his teaching. At the end of his life, Paul continues this great theme.

Philippians 2:5-11 NRS *If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but **emptied himself** by taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

I appeal to you in Christ: if there is anything that will stimulate you, any persuasion of love, any warmth or affection, or compassion, by all of your participation in the Spirit - make my joy full by having one understanding, united in love, in heart and opinion. Never act out of envy or self-promotion! In humility give preference to others before yourself. Heed others' interests before your own.

*Have that mindset in yourselves as in Christ Jesus: though existing originally in the nature of God, he did not consider clinging to oneness with God a goal, but **he poured himself out** by taking the nature of a slave and sharing in humanity, in every aspect as a man. He also humbled himself to the extent of death - even death on a cross. At this God exalted him on high and endowed him with that name above all names; so that at the name of*

“Jesus” every knee will bow, in the heaven, on earth, and beneath - and every tongue proclaim: “Jesus Christ is Lord!”, to the glory of God the Father.

1. The Greek word: “morphē” – occurs only in this text in all of the New Testament
 - a. Traditional translations use “form” as the English. From usage in Plato or Aristotle
 - b. Recent discoveries show its meaning closer to essence or glory
2. The word: “kenosis” – is very rare –
 - a. Romans 4:14; I Corinthians 1:17, 9:15; 2 Corinthians 9:3; and our text
 - b. ΚΕΝΩΪ make empty; (1) literally *remove the content of* something; (2) figuratively; (a) as taking away the effectiveness of something *deprive of ... to make invalid*, taking away of status or position *empty, he took an unimportant position*
 - c. **I am convinced this word is not translated accurately – He did not empty himself – he poured himself out – it is his act of total giving – not of what he emptied – but that he humbled.**

Now let’s summarize or focus - since Jesus is

- Highly exalted exactly like Yahweh and sits on the throne in heaven.
- Exists in the very nature of God and is the exact expression of God’s eternal, uncreated Being (*The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.* (Joh 5:21-23 NRS)
- Shares the same actual “morphē” – nature - and glory of Yahweh.
- Rescues and delivers in the same way as the Yahweh of Exodus.
- And receives the very worship due to Yahweh.

Philippians 2:10 ἵνα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ πᾶν γόνυ κάμψῃ ἐπουρανίων καὶ ἐπιγείων καὶ καταχθονίων καὶ πᾶσα γλῶσσα ἐξομολογήσῃται ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ πατρὸς. *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Isaiah 45:22-23 *Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."*

⁵⁶ **tn** Heb "I swear by myself"; KJV, NASB "have sworn."

⁵⁷ **tn** Heb "a word goes out from my mouth [in] truth and will not return."

⁵⁸ **tn** Heb "swear" (so KJV, NAB, NIV, NRSV); NLT "confess allegiance."