

incarnated, He emptied Himself, and therefore in this regard He was just like any other man. He only knew about great spiritual things, and when it came to history, geography, and science He knew no more than anyone else, because He emptied Himself."

The theory of Kenosis is not a theory advanced by unbelievers to disparage the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it is a theory advanced by godly Christian believers, trying to make it possible for them to retain belief in the deity of Christ, and at the same time to accept what they considered to be proven truths of science, such as that Moses did not write the Pentateuch. This attitude was also taken by many in great Britain, where some fine Christian scholars also adopted the Kenosis theory. Today you find that it has largely disappeared. We will not take time in this class to discuss it at length; properly, the Kenosis theory is a matter for New Testament study rather than for Old Testament study. Today there are not so many people who are in that position of trying to find a way out, therefore the theory of Kenosis has largely disappeared. Of course the theory was strongly attacked. During those years there was much discussion of it back and forth. One reason it has disappeared is that there are few people seeking that kind of loophole today. Another reason is that it did not stand up under investigation. If Jesus emptied Himself, what did He empty Himself of? The King James Version assumes he emptied Himself of His standing as God, of His appearance as God. He was made in the likeness of man. People who saw Him saw a Galilean peasant; they did not see the Lord of glory. "He made Himself of no reputation" is perhaps too weak, but it does put the stress on the fact that what was involved was the appearance, that He did not empty Himself of Himself, He did not give up His personality, He