

The Shape of Joy: The V-Shaped Life of Suffering Servants

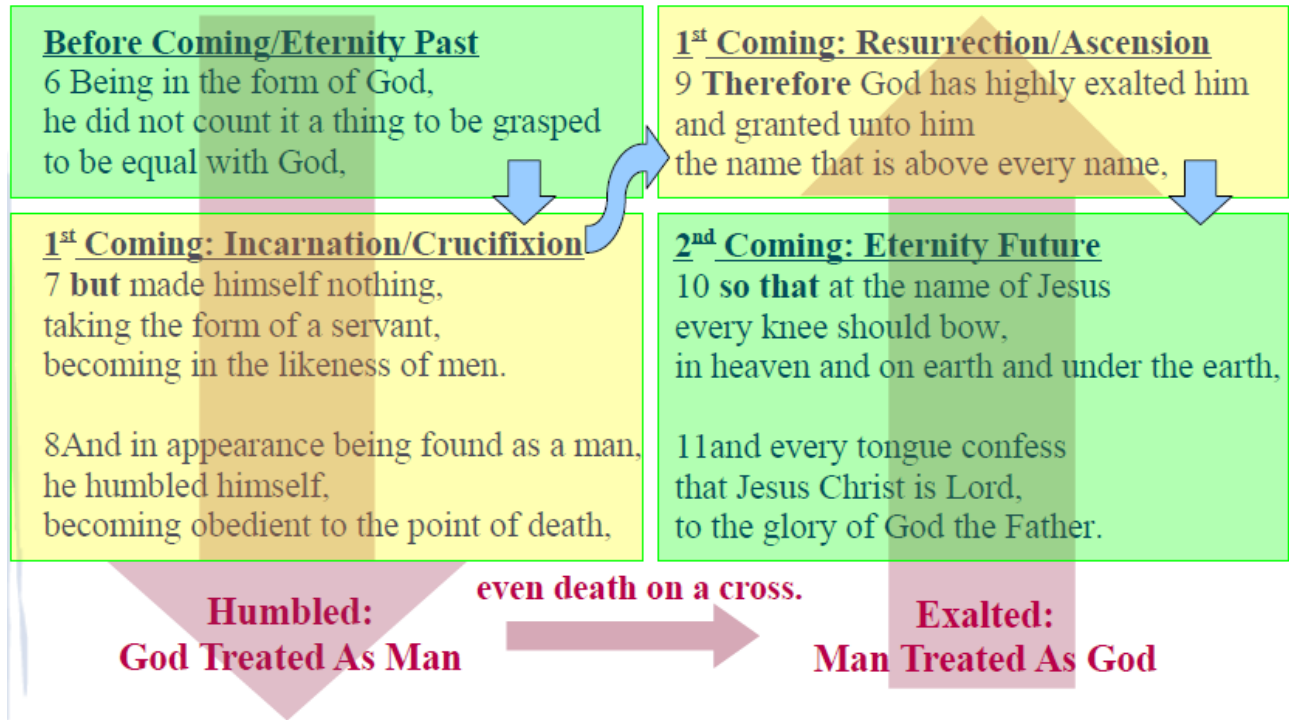
I will rejoice... For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:18b, 21)

Christ's V-Shaped Life (Philippians 2:5-11)

5 Have this mindset among yourselves which also in Christ Jesus:

What Jesus Christ Did

What God the Father Did



Paul's V-Shaped Life (Philippians 3:7-14)

(Compare this passage with the Christ Hymn above.)

7 But whatever gain I had, I **counted** [2:3, 6] as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I **count** everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and **count** them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings,

Becoming like the **form** [2:7] of him in his death [2:8] → 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. [2:9]

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call** [2:9] of God in Christ Jesus.

Devotional study suggestion: Read the whole book of Philippians. See how many places you can see this same theme at work—the theme of the V-shaped life of suffering servants who imitate Jesus, rejoice in him, and wait for God to exalt them.

Note on Bible translations used: Philippians 3:7-14 is mostly from the ESV. The other passages reflect a mix of translations.