

Die Metamorphose des Gottessohns. Zum epiphanialen Motivfeld in Phil 2,6-8

in: Horizonte neutestamentlicher Christologie, 2002 (WUNT 144), 285–306, = revid. Abdruck von: U. MELL / U.B. MÜLLER (Hg.), Das Urchristentum in seiner literarischen Geschichte, FS J. BECKER, 1999 (BZNW 100), 107–131.

The metamorphosis of Christ in Phil 2:6f is characterized by typical epiphanic motives, testimony of which can be found primarily in Greek and Roman mythology (hidden epiphany). Looking at the strong OT/Jewish background of verse 9–11 with its connotations of heavenly kingdom concepts, the author shows that there is indeed more reason to interpret the metamorphosis of verse 6f in terms of Hellenistic Jewish epiphanies of angels. Thus Phil 2:6–11 points to an early Greek-speaking Jewish-Christian scene with a strong emphasis on an angelomorphic Christology. The epiphanic notion has been radically transformed into a conception of kenotic incarnation.