

# CHRIST'S COMPOUND HYPOSTASIS IN THE WRITINGS OF THE SCYTHIAN MONKS

Prof. Univ. PhD. Vasile Cristescu  
Faculty of Orthodox Theology "Dumitru Stăniloae"  
"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University from Iassy

<https://doi.org/10.47433/tv.xcviiin5-8.38>

## Abstract

*The expression "compound hypostasis" (synthesis, compositio) has been used in Christological dogma. It refers to the union of the hypostasis of the Son of God and human nature in the person of Christ. Its use occurs before the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon as we see in Origen, the Greek priest Malchion, and St. Cyril of Alexandria. The expression was also used by heretics: the Arian bishop Eudoxius of Antioch, Paul of Samosata, and Severus of Antioch and was rejected by many Eastern Fathers and theologians. They were joined by Scythian monks. The contribution of the Scythian monks to the deepening and elucidation of this expression in Christology is remarkable. Based on the doctrinal authority of the Fourth Ecumenical Council and the theology of St. Cyril of Alexandria, the Scythian monks also linked it to their Christological formula "One of the Trinity suffered", thus affirming its profound meaning concerning the structure of the person of Christ and His saving action. In doing so they also gave a decisive response to the Monophysite and Nestorian heresies.*

**Keywords:** hypostasis of the Word, assumed human nature, compound hypostasis, person, nature, natural composite, subsistence.

The term "composition" (*synthesis, compositio*) used in the Christological dogma regarding the union between the hypostasis of the Son of God and the human nature in the person of Christ, was first used before the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. In addition to the noun "synthesis" which is a central term, throughout history there were used verbs and verbal adjectives related to this expression. Origen was the first to use *synthetos* in a Christological sense: the union between the Christian and Christ has as a result the fact that the one united this way (*synthetos*) becomes "one spirit"