

(2) Discussion of John 1:3

In this verse John says that Jesus created all things, and that there is not one thing that has been created that was not created by Jesus, for in the latter part of this verse John says, "without him (i.e., apart from or independent of Jesus) was not any thing made that was made (i.e., was not one thing made which has been made)." This means that if we take all the things that have been created and put them together, there will not be a single thing to which we can point our finger and say, "This was not created by Jesus." However, if Jesus was the first object God created, this would not be true. This verse very clearly teaches then that Jesus is not a created being as the Jehovah's Witnesses say. But the Jehovah's Witnesses counter by citing the following three passages which they say very clearly teaches Jesus is a created being:

(a) Rev. 3:14

The Jehovah's Witnesses say that the Greek word translated "beginning" in this verse denotes the first person or thing in a series. Thus they say that the phrase "the beginning of the creation of God" means that Jesus was the first thing God created. He was "the beginning of the creation of God," i.e., the first part of God's creation. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses then, Jesus is a created being and as such he cannot be God, for God is eternal (cf. Psa. 90:2). It is true that the Greek word translated "beginning" in this verse can mean "the first person or thing in a series." But this Greek word can also mean "that by which anything begins to be," "the origin," "active cause." This Greek word has had this meaning ever since the eighth century B.C., when it was first used by a philosopher by the name of Anaximander. If this is the meaning of this Greek word in this passage, the phrase "the beginning of the creation of God" would mean that Jesus is the one by whom the creation of God took place. Jesus then is "the origin" or "active cause" of the creation of God.