

Furthermore, if the phrase "the first-born of all creation" means that Jesus was first-created of all creation, then Jesus is a created being and he could not be God.

(c) Prov. 8:22

(S) The Jehovah's Witnesses say that wisdom is personified, i.e., represented as a person who speaks and acts in Proverbs 8, and that Christian writers in the early centuries A.D. took this as a reference to Jesus Christ in His prehuman form. Therefore, they say that wisdom in this chapter is Jesus Christ and since it is wisdom that speaks in verse 22, Jesus Christ Himself is the speaker in this verse. They claim that the Hebrew word (יָדָעָה) translated "possessed" in this verse means "created" (cf. Gen. 14:19,22; Deut. 32:6; and Psa. 139:13), and that this is the way it should be translated in this verse, especially since this is the way it is translated in the Septuagint. On the basis therefore that Jesus Christ is the speaker in Prov. 8, they say this verse means that the LORD created Jesus as the beginning of His creation before He created anything else.

It is true that wisdom in Proverbs 8 is personified, and that many Christian writers in the early centuries A.D. say that this is a reference to Jesus in His prehuman form. But it is a mistake to identify wisdom in this chapter with Jesus Christ because there is no evidence to prove it. Furthermore, the content of this chapter makes it clear that wisdom in this chapter is not Jesus Christ, but that wisdom is personified just as love is personified in I Cor. 13:4-7. Further, the Hebrew word יָדָעָה has two different meanings. The first is "to create." This meaning is assigned to it by the Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew & English Lexicon of the O.T. But this cannot be the meaning here because the next verse says that wisdom is everlasting^{וְעוֹלָמִית}, and since wisdom is everlasting, there is no way it could have been created. The second meaning is "to possess." This meaning suggests that the LORD possessed wisdom in the beginning of His creation before anything else was created. This agrees with the following verses which say that wisdom is everlasting and that it existed before the creation of the world. This also agrees with verses 24 & 25, which say that wisdom was "brought forth," i.e.,