

there would have been no house. But he did not do the work. Somebody else did the work. And, since I bought the house before it was completed, it was ultimately being built for me. So you have one person in this case responsible for the house being built. It would not have been built apart from him. You have other people who actually did the building. And it was built for me. In the case of creation, Jesus was all three. He was the One who was responsible for the creation being produced; He is the One who actually did the creating; and He is the One for whom it was created. He produced the creation in the fullest sense of the word. It is because He produced the creation in the fullest sense of the word--being the responsible cause, the agent and the goal of the creation, that He is the firstborn of God in relation to it, that He is sovereign over it. Don't you think He has the right to be sovereign over it? He made it, in the fullest sense of the word. And Paul says that is the reason why He is the firstborn of all creation; that is the reason why He is sovereign over all creation.

But then, look at the very next verse. Paul goes on to say: "And He is before all things." Not only did Jesus produce all the creation, but He preceded the creation. "He is before all things." Before anything ever existed, there was Jesus. Then, not only did He precede all of creation, but He preserves all of creation. Look at the last part of verse 17: "And by Him all things," or, more literally, "the all things consist." The word consist means cohere, hold together. Jesus is the [~]One who preserves the creation, who causes it to hold together, who causes it to cohere so it will not fall apart. Jesus produced the creation in the fullest sense of the word, He preceded the creation that He produced, and He preserves the creation that He produced. He did not just produce it and say, I am through with it. You just go on by yourself now. No, no. He preserves the creation that He produced.