

relationship to creation is concerned, He is the firstborn of God. He is sovereign over it. Why? Because He produced it in the fullest sense of the word. He is the responsible cause, the agent, and the goal of the creation. Because He produced it in the fullest sense of the word, He is sovereign over it. Not only did He produce that creation over which He is sovereign, being sovereign because He produced it, but He preceded it and preserves that same creation. Paul makes that difference between Jesus and the creation, showing that Jesus is in no sense part of that creation.

As I indicated earlier, if Paul had wanted to say that Jesus was the first created being, he would have used the word that means first created. He did not use that word; he used the word "firstborn" because he wanted to say that Jesus was sovereign over it, not that He was the first created being.

Now let us look at another passage that is used. This also is used to try to show that Jesus is a created being. Turn over to Proverbs 8:22 and let me read: "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before His works of old." Let me set up for you the way this is approached. As you read chapter 8 of Proverbs it is talking about the wisdom of God. It is very obvious in this particular passage that the wisdom of God is presented as a person. So, you have proverbs 8 talking about the wisdom of God, and the wisdom of God is presented as a person. "Does not wisdom cry," and "Understanding put forth her voice." "She standeth in the top of high places, by the way, in the places of the paths." It is taking the wisdom of God and presenting the wisdom of God as a person.

Now, if you turn over to I Cor. 1:24, Christ, who is a Person, is called the wisdom of God. So here you have two facts: the wisdom of God in Proverbs 8 is presented as a person. In I Cor. 1:24, Christ, who is a Person, is called the