

of these two meanings is intended in this verse?

Well, if this is talking about the attributes of God; namely, His wisdom, and I were to translate it, "the Lord created me in the beginning of His way," what does that tell you about the wisdom of the Lord? It tells you that there was a time when the Lord did not have that attribute. It tells you there was a time when the Lord was without wisdom. And suddenly He created wisdom. Is that true of any of the attributes of God? No. The Lord is eternal in all of His attributes. He has always had wisdom. So, when you read this verse, while the word that is translated "possess" can mean "create," it can just as easily mean "possess," and the context would demand the meaning "possess." So you would have the Lord's wisdom being personified and it would read, "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His way." That is, in the beginning of His way of creation, "before His works of old." Before the Lord created anything, wisdom was there. It is one of God's attributes.

Now, look at the very next verse. "I was set up from" when? "From everlasting." It says that the wisdom was everlasting. "I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was." Before the earth was ever created, wisdom was in existence. Why? Because it is one of God's attributes. And, as one of God's attributes, it is just as eternal as God Himself. He has always had wisdom. There never was a time when He did not have wisdom.

Look at the next verse. It says, "When there were no depths, I was brought forth." It simply means, when there were no depths I was there. Before anything was created I was there. This is poetic language; it is a way of expressing the presence of wisdom at this time. You have poetry here, and you have this kind of language used in poetry. I was reading a summary of a book written by some