

The first passage I want to examine is Revelation 3:14. This passage says, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."

The Jehovah's Witnesses interpret this passage to mean that Jesus was the first thing God created. They say that the Greek word translated "beginning" means "the first person or thing in a series."³ Therefore, they say that the phrase "the beginning of the creation of God" means that Jesus was the first thing God created. Thus they say that Jesus says in this passage that He was "the beginning of the creation of God," i.e., He was the first part of God's creation.

According to this interpretation, Jesus is a created being, and if Jesus is a created being, He can't be God, for God is eternal (cf. Psalm 90:2). This interpretation then contradicts the doctrine that Jesus is God.

Now it is true that the Greek word translated "beginning" in this passage can mean "the first person or thing in a series."⁴ This meaning is assigned to this Greek word by the Greek lexicons, and in the Arndt and Gingrich Greek lexicon it states that linguistically this Greek word can have this meaning in this passage.⁵

However, this Greek word can also mean "that by which anything begins to be, the origin, " or "active cause."⁶ This Greek word has had this meaning ever since the eighth century B.C. when it was first used by a heathen philosopher

³Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 77.

⁴Ibid., p. 77.

⁵A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, pp. 111, 112.

⁶Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 77.