

Jesus is a created being, and if Jesus is a created being, He can't be God, for God is eternal. Therefore, the phrase "the first-born of all creation" can't mean that Jesus was the first-created of all creation, and since it can't have this meaning, the insertion of the word "other" in verses 16 and 17 is a serious violation of the context.

We see then that the phrase "the first-born of all creation" in Colossians 1:15 means that Jesus is sovereign over all creation, and that in verse 16 Paul assigns the reason why Jesus is sovereign over all creation which is that He created it, and that in verse 17 Paul says that Jesus preceded and preserves that same creation. This passage then harmonizes perfectly with the doctrine that Jesus is God, and in no way contradicts it.

The third passage I want to examine is Proverbs 8:22. This passage says, "The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old."

Like Revelation 3:14 and Colossians 1:15, this passage is also interpreted by the Jehovah's Witnesses to mean that Jesus was the first-created of all creation. They say that wisdom in this eighth chapter of Proverbs is personified, and that many professed Christian writers of the early centuries A.D. say that this is 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 say that the Hebrew word translated "possessed" in this verse should be translated "created,"<sup>10</sup> for this is what this Hebrew word means in this verse, and this is the way it is translated in the Septuagint which is a translation of the

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<sup>10</sup>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, pp. 888, 889.