

before He created anything else. This contradicts the following verse which says that wisdom is everlasting, for that verse says, "I," referring to wisdom, "was set up from everlasting." Therefore, this can't be the meaning of this Hebrew word in this verse.

The second meaning which this Hebrew word can have in this verse is "to possess."<sup>13</sup> If this is the meaning of this Hebrew word, this verse says that the LORD possessed wisdom in the beginning of His creation before anything was created. This agrees with the following verses which say that wisdom is everlasting and that it existed before the creation of the world. This also agrees with verses 24 and 25 which say that wisdom was "brought forth," i.e. was in existence<sup>14</sup> before the created things mentioned in these verses. Therefore, this must be the meaning of this Hebrew word in this verse.

In Proverbs 8:22 then wisdom is the speaker and not Jesus Christ, and wisdom says that the LORD possessed it in the beginning of His creation before anything was created.

Thus we see that there is no contradiction between this passage and the doctrine that Jesus is God.

A fourth passage I want to examine is John 14:28. This passage says "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 888.

<sup>14</sup> When Solomon says that wisdom was "brought forth" in these verses, he uses poetic language to express the idea that wisdom was in existence. He doesn't mean that wisdom came into existence at this time.