

who unfortunately occasionally lets his prejudices lead him to make statements that he wouldn't if he took a little time to think about it. Because if he'd simply turned to the book of Hebrews he would have found the KJV says Abraham gave his only-begotten son. We know that in the physical sense Isaac was not Abraham's only-begotten son. There was Ishmael; there were also the sons of Keturah. It means the only son of a particular class.

It is not taken from gennao, the verb, but from genus,--the one class something, the unique something. We are all sons of God if we believe in Christ. But Jesus Christ is the one son of the type of son which he is He has a unique relationship to God. He is the unique son. Only-begotten is a very unfortunate misinterpretation originated very early in the history of the Christian church, though some centuries after the time of Christ. Jesus is God from all eternity. His relation to the father can be expressed by the term father and son, but it does not mean that in any sense God the Father is His originator. He existed from all eternity.

Some try to get around this v. in dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses in saying, After all this ch. isn't talking about Christ; it's talking about wisdom. So on the face of it that's what it is. It is talking about wisdom. But Jesus Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. That is true. But that does not mean that anything that is said about wisdom necessarily applies to Christ.

So I think for two reasons the JW's interpretation of this v. is completely wrong. It is very vital that we recognize the full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. God from all eternity. "The Lord possessed me"--I just don't know how to translate kanah there. It is true the verb is used by Eve when she named her son Cain, because she said kanithi, I have kanah a son. It is often translated "I have acquired a son." But to take it as expressing the physical facts of sonship is certainly reading something into the v. for which we have no proof.

We are apt to think of it as referring to Christ because of the tremendous things said about it. V.23, "I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning before the world began. When there were no oceans I was given birth." That surely is wisdom, not Christ. Christ was never given birth except at Bethlehem. "When there were no springs abounding with water, before the mountains were set in place, before the hills I was given birth before he made earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep. He established the clouds above and fixed securely the foundations of the deep. When he gave the sea its boundaries so the water would not overstep its command. When he marked out the foundations of the earth then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence. Rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind."

How wonderful that God made mankind so that he might delight in us. God desires to be able to delight in us through all eternity. He made us for himself. But we fell into sin and turned away from him. As a result he cannot delight in us. So he sent His Son, Jesus Christ to save us from our sins and to begin a long process into making us over into those in whom he truly can delight. Delighting in mankind.