

Proverbs 8:22-30

Ellen White writes that the verses below are statements directly about Jesus, where He speaks of Himself:

- “Through Solomon **Christ declared**: “**The Lord possessed Me** in the beginning of His way, **before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was**. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, **before the hills was I brought forth....** When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment; when He appointed the foundations of the earth; then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” Ellen White: Signs of the Times, August 29, **1900**, par. 14
- “And the **Son** of God declares **concerning Himself**: ‘The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.’ Proverbs 8:22-30.” Ellen White: Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 34.1
- “Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name (God the Father), **and what is his son’s name (Jesus), if thou canst tell?**” Proverbs 30:4

Despite such clear words from the Bible, which should be humbly accepted, theologians instead make various claims about how the verses “don’t say that.” One of those claims is that the word “brought forth” (in all the Bibles in the world!) was “malevolently translated,” because in Hebrew it also has a parallel meaning of “to wait anxiously.”

In Proverbs there are more than one word which are used for birth, and when we compare them all the only conclusion is that they mean born.

- “The Lord possessed (qā-nā-nî קָנָה) me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up (nis-sak-tî נִסְכַּתִּי) from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was **brought forth (ḥō-w-lā-lə-tî; הוֹלַלְתִּי)**; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I **brought forth (ḥō-w-lā-lə-tî; הוֹלַלְתִּי)**.” Proverbs 8:22-25

Qā-nā-nî קָנָה (Strong’s H7069) comes from the word *qanah*, which means to get, create, acquire, buy.

- “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten (qā-nî-tî קָנִיתִי) a man from the Lord.” Genesis 4:1

Ḥō-w-lā-lə-tî הוֹלַלְתִּי (Strong’s H2342) comes from the word *chul*, which means to twist, whirl, dance, writhe, fear, tremble, travail, be in anguish, be pained.

- “Behold, I **was shapen (ḥō-w-lā-lə-tî הוֹלַלְתִּי)** in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5

In Proverbs 8:22-30 it’s completely clear that Jesus says several times concerning Himself that He was **born before everything!** The Old Testament, more precisely than the New Testament, accentuates the fact that Jesus from the very beginning is a literal Son. It says clearly that Jesus, a Son since forever, was born before anything existed. This passage is not talking about His birth on earth!

On the other hand God also didn't bring forth His wisdom, for it has no beginning just as He Himself does not! This verse cannot be talking about wisdom! The expression "from everlasting" confirms that the expression "eternity and time" are attributes of a created universe.

God transcends everything, even time, which came into existence at the creation of the universe.

The inspired statements that describe Jesus' life using the word "eternity" touch upon the very depth and breadth of His existence, which we cannot fully understand. Whether or not Jesus had a beginning, we can see in other quotes, as well as in this verse, which completely clearly says that Jesus was begotten before the beginning of time, before the beginning of creation, which was all created through Him:

- "Christ **was** the Son of God; He had been one with Him **before the angels were called into existence**. He had ever stood at the right hand of the Father;" Ellen White: Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 38.3
- "The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the **First-born of heaven** to save the sinner." Ellen White: Desire of Ages, p. 51.1
- "As Christ was twice born,— once in eternity, the only begotten of the Father, and again here in the flesh, thus uniting the divine with the human in that second birth..." W.W. Prescott, Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Vol. 73, No. 15, April 14, 1896, p. 232

Jesus is the First-born of heaven!