

## **A Chronological Examination of Christ's Origin: "Brought Forth" Versus "Created" Introduction**

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The nature of Christ's origin has been a subject of theological discussion for centuries. While many Christian traditions uphold the belief in Christ's eternal existence alongside YHVH, others argue that scripture points to Christ having a definitive beginning. This study explores scriptural evidence that suggests Christ was either "brought forth" or "created," examining key passages in a chronological sequence to build a coherent understanding of his origin.

### **Christ's Beginnings in Scripture Colossians 1:15 – "Firstborn Over All Creation"**

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

This verse is pivotal for those who argue that Christ had a beginning. The term "firstborn" (Greek: *prōtotokos*) can imply a preeminent status, but it is also interpreted as indicating that Christ was the first among God's created beings. Rather than asserting eternal coexistence with the Father, this passage suggests a chronological order where Christ was the first to be brought into existence.

### **Revelation 3:14 – "The Beginning of God's Creation"**

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation."

The term "beginning" (Greek: *archē*) is often understood as denoting the first in a sequence. Some scholars argue that this supports the idea that Christ had an origin, making him the first of God's created works. This interpretation aligns with the idea that Christ was not eternal in the same way as YHVH but rather the first act of His creation.

### **John 14:28 – The Father's Superiority**

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

This statement by Jesus reinforces a hierarchical relationship between himself and the Father. If Christ were co-equal and co-eternal with the Father, this distinction in greatness would be difficult to reconcile. Instead, this suggests a dependent relationship where the Father is the source, and Christ derives his existence from Him.

### **Hebrews 1:5 – "Today I Have Begotten You"**

"For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you,' or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son?'"

The term "begotten" (*gennaō*) in scripture often denotes an event or a bringing forth in time. Some interpret this passage as emphasizing a specific moment when Christ came into being, reinforcing the argument that Christ had a definitive beginning rather than an eternal existence.

### **Christ as "Brought Forth" or "Created" Proverbs 8:22 – Wisdom and the Act of Possession**

"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old."

Proverbs 8 personifies Wisdom as being "possessed" or "brought forth" by YHVH before the creation of the world. Some interpret this as a reference to Christ, suggesting that he was formed or brought into being before the rest of creation. The term used in some translations ("created me") supports the idea that Wisdom—and by extension Christ—had a specific point of origin.

### **Theological Distinction: "Brought Forth" vs. "Created"**

1. **"Brought Forth"**
  - Suggests an emergence from an existing source.
  - Implies an intentional, sequential process.
    - Seen as a divine act of bringing Christ into existence from YHVH.
2. **"Created"**
  - Often associated with creation ex nihilo (out of nothing).
    - Implies a fundamental distinction between the Creator and the created.
      - Some use this term to argue that Christ, as a created being, had a distinct starting point separate from YHVH.

### **Chronological Narrative of Christ's Origin**

When examined in sequence, the following passages present a timeline supporting the idea that Christ had a beginning:

1. **Proverbs 8:22** – Wisdom is brought forth before the world is created.

2. **Colossians 1:15** – Christ is declared the "firstborn" of all creation, implying an order of origin.
3. **Revelation 3:14** – Christ is called "the beginning" of God's creation.
4. **John 14:28** – Christ declares that the Father is greater than he, suggesting a hierarchy in existence.
5. **Hebrews 1:5** – The concept of "begetting" suggests a point in time when Christ was brought forth.

### **Conclusion**

The evidence presented through scripture suggests that Christ was not co-eternal with YHVH but had a definitive beginning. The use of terms such as "firstborn," "the beginning," and "brought forth" indicates a sequential ordering in which Christ was created or begotten before the rest of creation. This interpretation aligns with a non-trinitarian understanding that sees Christ as the first and highest of YHVH's creative acts, distinct from the Father in nature and origin. **References**

- **Colossians 1:15** • **Revelation 3:14** • **John 14:28** • **Hebrews 1:5** • **Proverbs 8:22**