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Steven Fitchie · Nov 15, 2016 · 12 min read

Christ is Wisdom Personified, Proverbs 8:22-36



The omnipresent God can think, speak, and act as the God whose Spirit fills heaven and earth without having to dwell in a physical location like finite men. For God as God, does not have a physical brain inside of a physical skull that is bound to one specific location at a time. Hence, God can think and speak without the confines of our human limitations such as having a human spirit and brain that is confined to a physical body. Therefore the Word and Wisdom of God can be said to be with God rather than inside of Him.

John chapter one and Proverbs chapter eight describe the word (logos) of God as the wisdom and understanding of God that came forth from the Father's mouth at the beginning of recorded time. Hence, the beginning of our recorded time first commenced when God the Father preconceived the Son of God within His mind, reason, and expressed thought as "the beginning of the creation of God" (Rev. 3:14), "the beginning, the firstborn from the dead" (*Colossians 1:18*), "and the firstborn of all creation" (*Colossians 1:15*). For the Son of God was conceived in the mind and plan of God the Father as His own expressed thought (logos in John 1:1) as "that which was from the beginning (*John 1:1 records an impersonal "that" rather than a personal he*)" which later became flesh to form a personal human Son (*John 1:14; Hebrews 2:17*).

Proverb 8:22-23 personifies the Wisdom of God as being "made", "installed" and "born" at the beginning of the creation in the mind and plan of God the Father via His expressed thought.

Proverbs 8:22-26 says, "The LORD MADE (*"acquired"*) ME AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS CREATION, **before His works of long ago. I WAS INSTALLED** (nacak: [naw-sak'] "set up" or "installed") **before ancient times**, FROM THE BEGINNING (olam: [o-lawm'] "antiquity"), **before the earth began**. I WAS BORN (chuw: [khool] "bear", "born") **when there were no watery depths** and no springs filled with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I WAS BORN (chuw: (khool) "bear", "born"); WHILE HE HAD NOT YET MADE THE EARTH ..."

Proverbs 8:23 says, "I was INSTALLED (nacak: [naw-sak'] = "set up" or "installed") before ancient times". But Psalm 2:6-7, "I have INSTALLED (nacak: [naw-sak'] = "set up" or "installed") My King upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You ..."

How could the Son have been "made" or "acquired" at the beginning of the Father's creation while remaining timeless? And how could an alleged timeless God the Son have been timelessly "installed" or "set up" from "antiquity" while remaining timeless? If the words of inspired scripture mean what they say, then the Son as the Son could not have timelessly existed without a beginning.

The Hebrew word "nacak" proves that the Son was "installed before ancient times" in God's prophetic plan just like the Son was already "installed" as "King upon Zion" in the prophetic mind and planning of the Father "before the creation of the world" actually took place (1 Peter 1:20). Hence, the power of the miraculous nature of God enables Him to be able to call "the things which be not as though they were" (*Romans 4:17*).

1 Peter 1:20 states that the Son as the Son was "FOREKNOWN before THE CREATION OF THE WORLD."

Colossians 1:15 states that THE SON as a Son is the "FIRST BORN OF ALL CREATION."

Revelation 3:14 states that the Son as a Son is "the beginning of the creation OF God."

The Anchor Bible Dictionary, page 111 states, "IN THE TALMUD [tractate Pesachim 54a; cf. Nedarim 39b], seven things, i.e. the law, repentance, paradise, Gehinnom, the throne of glory, the heavenly sanctuary, and **THE MESSIAH** are not called pre-created, but pre-conceived in (God's) thoughts."

According to ancient Jewish literature, the Messiah was "the beginning of His creation" (*Proverbs 8:22*) in the sense of being "pre-conceived in God's thoughts". Revelation 3:14 says that the Messiah was "the beginning of the creation of God" who was already "born (*Proverbs 8:24*)" in God's preconception as "the firstborn of all creation" (*Col. 1:15*) in the "pre-conceived ... thoughts" of God (*Anchor Bible Dictionary, pg. 111*). Thus it is ludicrous to say that the Messiah as a child born and son given always timelessly existed without a beginning.

The Targum and the Septuagint translated "Qanah (kaw-naw)" as "created me" in *Proverbs 8:22*. Qanah (kaw-naw') in the NAS Exhaustive Concordance is defined as "to get" or "acquire". Brown-Driver-Briggs also states that qanah means to "get" or "acquire". For someone to "get" or "acquire" something means that he has to create it, obtain it, or buy it. Since God cannot obtain or buy anything that is not already His, it is sensible to believe that God first pre-created "the firstborn of all creation" within His Mind as His wise master plan for the ages before He created His physical creation later on in time. Hence, it is nonsensical to believe that the omniscient God lacked any wisdom or understanding before He acquired it. Therefore we know that God first created His wise plan for creation via His spoken word before the creation actually took place.

In a similar way that an architect designs a detailed blueprint before he actually builds anything, so God used His spoken wisdom which He uttered from the beginning of time to later create all visible and invisible things. This was that word (*John 1:1*) and wisdom of God (*Proverbs 8:22-26*) which was first "made" or "acquired" by God from which He created all visible and invisible things. Thus we know that God's spoken word was first impersonal before that word became a human person as "God with us" as a man via virgin conception.

Ephesians 1:4-5, "He chose us in him (Christ) before the creation of the world... He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself..."

Jesus Christ was "the firstborn of all creation" and "the beginning of the creation of God" because God first chose Christ in His Mind and plan and then His elect were chosen and predestined "through" him. To be predestined as sons through Jesus Christ could not be a literal creation because none of us literally existed "before the creation of the world". Hence, God had to have spoken His word by calling forth Christ, His elect, and all human generations before they literally existed later on in time.

Isaiah 41:4 says that God first called "forth the generations from the beginning (*Isaiah 41:4*)" before the human generations actually existed. That is why God's word says that Yahweh "acquired me (wisdom) at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth (*Proverbs 8:22-23*)". For this reason, Revelation 3:14 states that Jesus was "the beginning of the creation of God" because Jesus was that impersonal word and wisdom which was the Father's expressed thought before that word was later made flesh to become the living Messiah.

Sirach 1:4 (NRSV), "Wisdom was created before all other things."

Sirach 24:3, "I (Wisdom) came forth from the MOUTH OF THE MOST HIGH..."

Sirach 24:9, "Before the ages, in the beginning, He CREATED ME..."

Solomon wrote that Wisdom is "... a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty (*Wisdom 7:25*)."

How could wisdom ever be created if wisdom was an uncreated timeless God the Son? In like manner, how could God the Father have been without His wisdom before wisdom was created? The only viable explanation which brings harmony to all of the scriptures is that wisdom was the Father's master plan for His creation which He uttered before the literal creation took place. Thus, God first created His wise detailed blueprint for the ages, including Christ as the reason and purpose for all of the Father's creation. It is in this sense that wisdom is described as the impersonal word (logos) of God that came from the mouth of God as the Father's own expressed mind and thought at the beginning of creation.

There is nothing within the pages of inspired scripture to suggest that the wisdom (logos) of God has always existed as a coequal God the Son from the timeless past. The Hebrew Scriptures emphatically prove that the Father's wisdom came out of the Father's mouth at a specific point in time rather than timelessly existing as a God the word person. For how can Trinitarians believe that a timeless and coequal God the Son was uttered out of the Father's mouth while remaining coequal and timeless?

Proverb 2:6, "Yahweh gives WISDOM, FROM HIS MOUTH COMES knowledge and understanding."

The books of Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon were written by Jews before Jesus was born. Therefore the Jewish evidence proves that the Word and Wisdom of God was uttered out of the mouth of the Most High God (the Father) "before the world was (*John 17:5*)" created which is the same intent used by John when he wrote, "In the beginning was the word (logos)" in John 1:1. In this light we can understand that all things were pre-planned and prearranged in the "Logos" of God, - in the Mind of the Father before the world was actually created.

Proverbs 8:22 in The International Standard Versions says, "The LORD made me as he began his planning, before his ancient activity commenced."

It is ridiculous for Trinitarians to believe that an alleged coequal and coeternal God the Son could be "acquired", "made", "installed" or "born" "from the beginning" by God the Father "while He had not yet made the earth". For a divine God Person could not be coequal and coeternally timeless with God while being "acquired", "made" and "born" "from the beginning" or recorded time. While the scriptures identify the beginning of time to be when God first pre-planned and prearranged all things, nothing in inspired scripture records what God did and said before God uttered His word and wisdom which was His detailed plan for His future creation.

Since God the Father could not have been unwise or without His understanding before wisdom and understanding were "birthed" or "acquired" we know that God's expressed wisdom must have been His intended plan for creation along with His intended order to govern the universe through Christ. For if a God the Son Person was literally "acquired" as wisdom being birthed as a distinct divine Person before creation, then how could the Son have always existed as an alleged coeternal Person before coming out of the Father's mouth? Thus, the Oneness modalistic interpretation of the scriptures is the only one which brings perfect harmony to all of the scriptural data.

The scriptures teach that God first "called forth" or "birthed" (*John 1:1; Colossians 1:15, 18; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 3:14; John 5:26*) His predestined plan (*Ephesians 1:11; Acts 2:23; Titus 1:2; Romans 8:29-30*) for all human ages before the world was physically created (*Isaiah 41:4; Acts 17:26; Hebrews 1:2*). Since Christ was God's reason and purpose for the ages in His predestined plan (*Ephesians 3:8-11; Ephesians 1:9-10*), God created all things through His expressed thought (His Logos) which included Christ as the future head over all created things (*1 Corinthians 15:27-28; Hebrews 2:8; Colossians 1:18*).

Jesus Christ himself was God's own expressed Wisdom, Power, and Understanding (*Jeremiah 51:15-16*) before Christ actually became a living child born and son given (*Isaiah 9:6; John 5:26*). After God's wisdom and counsel had been brought forth in His predestined plan (*John 1:1; Revelation 3:14; Proverb 8:25*), He used that wisdom and counsel (*Ephesians 1:11; Proverb 8:14; Jeremiah 51:15-16*) which was prophetically expressed through the future Messiah (*1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; Revelation 5:12; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:2*) to create all material things and to govern the universe.

Proverbs 3:19, "Yahweh BY WISDOM (personified as Christ) FOUNDED THE EARTH, BY UNDERSTANDING (personified as Christ) He established the heavens."

"It is He who made the earth by HIS POWER, who established the world BY HIS WISDOM, and BY HIS UNDERSTANDING He stretched out the heavens. When HE UTTERS HIS VOICE (HIS WORD), there is a multitude of waters in the heavens." Jeremiah 51:15-16

The inspired words that God gave to the prophet Jeremiah amazingly corresponds with God's "Wisdom" and "Understanding" spoken of by Solomon in Proverbs chapter 8:1, 8:12, 8:14, 8:25, and with the scriptures that speak of God creating all things through His Word (*Psalms 33:6; John 1:1-3*). Herein we find the proof that the Son of God was birthed in God's expressed thought as His own Power, Wisdom, and Understanding before His Word and Wisdom actually became a personal Son. Therefore, just as a man first expresses his plan on a blueprint before building a house, so God the Father first expressed His plan which later became flesh as a personal Son (*John 1:14*).

If the Father's power, wisdom, and understanding is another distinct divine person beside Himself, then God the Father would have been without His own "power, wisdom, and understanding" throughout eternity past. If so, then the Trinitarian idea of the coequality of all three alleged God Persons completely collapses. For how could only one alleged divine person as an alleged timeless God the Son have always been the wisdom, power, understanding, and uttered voice of God while the other two alleged persons did not have their own wisdom, power, understanding, and ability to utter their voices? Hence, if the Father and Holy Spirit lacked their own wisdom, power, understanding, and vocal utterances then how could they be said to be coequal with God the Son?

1 Corinthians 1:24 says that "Christ is the power OF GOD and the wisdom OF GOD."

Just as the strength, power, and wisdom of a man belongs to himself, so Jesus is the Father's "power" and "wisdom" which belongs to Himself.

Job 12:13 (ISV), "With God is wisdom and strength; counsel and understanding belongs to him."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the word (logos) and the word (logos) was WITH GOD, and the word (logos) was God."

The only interpretation which harmonizes with all of the Biblical data is that the word, wisdom, and understanding of God that He uttered before creation, was God's own "power" that was expressed through His plan (*Ephesians 1:11 - like a blueprint*) which God used to physically create all things. At the forefront of God's expressed plan, God first preconceived the birth of His Son through His expressed thought (*the logos of John 1:1 as "the firstborn of all creation" - Colossians 1:15*) who would rule over all His creation after the word (logos) was later made visible in the flesh (*John 1:14; Psalm 8:5-6; Heb. 2:7*). Hence, Jesus was already "the firstborn of all creation" (*Colossians 1:15*) in God's mind and plan before the creation of the world actually took place. Therefore God the Father used His own impersonal

“wisdom” and “counsel” that He already “called forth” like a blueprint to create all material things. Paul identified that wisdom and counsel as “the firstborn of all creation” before the Son actually became a living human person (*Hebrews 1:2, Colossians 1:15-18*).

EVIDENCE THAT GOD’S WISDOM IS PERSONIFIED IN PROVERBS CHAPTER 8

Since God’s wisdom was personified rather than actually existing as a distinct person in Proverbs chapter eight, Jesus was God’s expressed wisdom personified before the expressed plan was made flesh as a living Son.

Proverbs 8:1, “Does not WISDOM CALL, and UNDERSTANDING LIFT UP HER VOICE... SHE CRIES OUT (vs. 3)” to men. Here we have WISDOM being personified as a woman shouting and crying out at the entrance of the city gates. Are we to believe that WISDOM IS LITERALLY A WOMAN WHO CRIES OUT WARNINGS TO MEN?

Proverbs 8:12 “**I WISDOM LIVE WITH PRUDENCE, and I ATTAIN KNOWLEDGE AND DISCRETION (NRSV).**” The NASB says, “**I WISDOM DWELL WITH PRUDENCE, and I FIND KNOWLEDGE AND DISCRETION.**”

Are we to believe that wisdom as a divine person lives (or dwells) with prudence as another distinct divine person? “**I WISDOM LIVE (or DWELL) WITH PRUDENCE**”. Thus, Proverbs chapter eight is speaking metaphorically about wisdom being personified because we know that “wisdom” does not actually “live (or dwell) with prudence” as another divine person. For if we are to literally interpret “wisdom” living “with prudence” as a living pre-incarnate Messiah dwelling with “prudence” as another distinct person, then we should call prudence another divine person and add a fourth member to the alleged trinity.

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