

**“THE SUPREME SON”**  
*Colossians 1:15-19*

Many see 15-20 as an early hymn because of repetition / parallelisms. It's possible, but we'll group 15-19, as vs. 20 transitions to reconciliation theme.

**JESUS' SUPREMACY OVER THE CREATION (15-17)**

*He is the image . . .* of the invisible God--Jn.14:9, Heb. 1:3; 2, Cor. 4:4,6

*He is the firstborn . . .* of **all** creation--refers to authority not temporality (Ex. 4:22, Dt. 21:17, Heb. 1:6, Ps.89: 27, Heb. 1:6)  
See *firstborn of dead* below (Heb. 2:14). JW's add "other" 5x (similar to 4<sup>th</sup> c. heresy of Arius).

*He is the creator . . .* of **all** things / **all** things for Him--Jn. 1:3, Heb. 1:2

*He is before . . .* **all** things--universe not eternal (pantheism out),

*He is the sustainer . . .* of **all** things--the cause and maintainer / bond

*IF JESUS IS SUPREME OVER THE CREATION . . . THEN WHAT?*

**JESUS' SUPREMACY OVER THE CHURCH (18-19)**

*He is the head . . .* of the body (church)--1:24, 2:19, Eph. 1:22, 23, 5:23

*He is the beginning . . .* not referring to creation as earlier but the church "beginning" = founder of a new order as firstborn

*He is the firstborn . . .* from the dead—explicitly “to have 1st place in **all**” again by His authority over death (Heb. 2:14, I Cor. 15:20-23) just as in creation.

*He is the one . . .* in whom **all** fullness dwells—2:9 “fullness of deity” or fullness of grace / truth (Jn. 1:14,16)

*IF JESUS IS SUPREME OVER THE CHURCH. . . THEN WHAT?*