

In verse 16 Paul gives the reason why Jesus is sovereign over all creation. The reason is that He created it in the fullest sense of the word. He is the cause of the creation, for Paul says that "by him" or a better translation would be "in Him," i.e., Jesus were all the things Created that are in heaven and that are in earth whether we can see them with our eyes or no and this includes "thrones," "dominions," "principalities," and "powers." These are probably four different classes of angels. Jesus is the agent of creation, for "all things were created by him," and He is the goal of creation, for "all things were created....for him."

In verse 17 Paul says that Jesus precedes the creation, for he says "he (Jesus) is before all things," and that He preserves the creation, for he says, "by him all things consist," i.e., they cohere or hold together. So in verses 16 and 17, Paul teaches clearly that Jesus is NOT part of the creation.

However, the Jehovah's Witnesses try to get around this problem by inserting the word "other" in these verses. They say that the word "other" is inserted in Luke 13:2 and 4 because it is implied by the context and if it can be inserted in those verses because it is implied by the context, the word "other" can be inserted in these verse for the same reason. Thus, they translate these verses, "because by means of him all (other) things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All (other) things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all (other) things were made to exist." (NWT)

It is true that in Luke 13:2 and 4, the word "other," though not in the Greek New Testament, is clearly implied by the context, but the only way the word "other" can be implied by the context in these verses is for the phrase "the first-born of all creation" to mean that Jesus was the first-created of all creation, but there is no evidence to prove that is what this phrase means. As we have already indicated, if this was what Paul wanted to say, he would have used the Greek word that means "first-created."