

**Lesson 04**  
**The Supremacy of Christ**  
**Colossians 1:15-20**

**Stanza 1 (Christ, the Agent of Creation)**

15 He is the image of the invisible God,  
firstborn of all creation  
16 because in Him all things were created  
in the heavens and upon the earth  
the visible and the invisible  
whether thrones or dominions  
whether rulers or authorities  
all things have been created through Him and for Him

**Transition (Christ, the Sustainer of the Universe and Head of the Church)**

17 And He is before all things (summary of what precedes ↑ )  
And the things in Him hold together/endure  
18 And He is the head of the body, the church (intro to what follows ↓ )

**Stanza 2 (Christ, the Agent of Reconciliation)**

He is the beginning,  
firstborn from the dead  
in order that He may come to have first place in all things  
19 because in His good pleasure all the fullness dwelled  
20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself  
making peace through the blood of His cross  
[through Him] whether the things on earth  
or the things in the heavens

Paul addressed the encroaching Gnostic heresy obliquely by teaching a proper Christology. He put it in a hymn structure so that it could be memorized and sung by early Christians. The first stanza is vv 15 and 16 and teaches that **Christ is the Agent of Creation**. He is the visible icon of the invisible God, the heir of all creation, because He is the sphere in which all things were created, things in the multiple heavens and the single earth, things visible and things invisible, whether the seats of authority or those who sit in the seats of authority, all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is not just an emanation of God, another link in the chain.

The transitional link is vv 17 and 18a where it teaches that **Christ is the Sustainer of the Universe and the Head of the Church**. The first phrase is a summary of what preceded. He exists before all things. There was never a time when He was not. The second phrase is the

center of the hymn. It adds a new truth, that He is the sphere in which all things are sustained and maintained. The third phrase is an introduction to what follows. He is also the head of the body, the church.

The second stanza is vv 18b-20 which teaches that **Christ is the Agent of Reconciliation**. He is the beginning of the new humanity by virtue of resurrection. He is the heir of all the believing dead. The result is He Himself will come to have the highest rank in the new order. The reason why is because the Father decreed all the fullness of deity to dwell in Him. He also decreed that it would be through Him that all things would be reconciled to Himself. The way it took place was He made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven, all will be restored to the original pristine condition. Thus, Christ is everything. We live in a Christo-centric universe. This world is passing away, and the dawning of the new order where Christ is all and in all, ruling over the cosmos is coming soon.