

**Before the Beginning of the Earth****Proverbs 8**

1. IN THE BEGINNING: The Bible begins with the beginning, not as a moment within time, but as the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

| In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

## 2. OVERVIEW OF PROVERBS 8

- a. Verses 1-11: The personification of wisdom continues, as wisdom calls for “the children of man” (v. 4) to seek \_\_\_\_\_ as more valuable than \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Verses 12-21: While wisdom is better than wealth (v. 19), \_\_\_\_\_ is often enjoyed in the way of wisdom (vv. 18, 21).
- c. Verses 22-31: Wisdom was present at creation, “before the beginning of the earth” (v. 23), as “a \_\_\_\_\_” (or “\_\_\_\_\_,” v. 30).
- d. Verses 32-36: Whoever finds wisdom finds the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and “obtains favor from the Lord” (v. 35).

## 3. SEEKING WISDOM

- a. Here is the foundation for what we have been seeing throughout these first chapters of Proverbs: wisdom is reflected in the created order because wisdom was \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The personification of wisdom is here revealed as more than mere personification. The Wisdom present at creation is the Wisdom of God, the eternal *logos*, the \_\_\_\_\_ who would be made \_\_\_\_\_, “begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.” This is the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

| In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)