

from the "Wycliffite" Bible (c. 1400)

## **CAP 1**

1 In the bigynnyng God made of nouȝt heuene and erthe.

2 Forsothe the erthe was idel and voide, and derknessis weren on the face of depthe; and the Spiryȝt of the Lord was borun on the wattris.

3 And God seide, Liȝt be maad, and liȝt was maad.

4 And God seiȝ the liȝt, that it was good, and he departide the liȝt fro derknessis; and he clepide the liȝt,

5 dai, and the derknessis, nyȝt. And the euentid and morwetid was maad, o daie.

6 And God seide, The firmament be maad in the myddis of wattris, and departe wattris fro wattris.

7 And God made the firmament, and departide the wattris that weren vndur the firmament fro these wattris that weren on the firmament; and it was don so.

8 And God clepide the firmament, heuene. And the euentid and morwetid was maad, the secounde dai.

9 Forsothe God seide, The wattris, that ben vndur heuene, be gaderid in to o place, and a drie place appere; and it was doon so.

10 And God clepide the drie place, erthe; and he clepide the gadryngis togidere of wattris, the sees. And God seiȝ that it was good;

11 and seide, The erthe brynge forth greene eerbe and makynge seed, and appil tre makynge fruyt bi his kynde, whos seed be in it silf on erthe; and it was doon so.

12 And the erthe brouȝte forth greene erbe and makynge seed bi his kynde, and a tre makynge fruyt, and ech hauynge seed by his kynde. And God seiȝ that it was good.

13 And the euentid and morwetid was maad, the thridde dai.

14 Forsothe God seide, Liȝtis be maad in the firmament of heuene, and departe tho the dai and niȝt; and be tho in to signes, and tymes, and daies, and ȝeeris;

15 and shyne tho in the firmament of heuene, and liȝtne tho the erthe; and it was doon so.

16 And God made twei grete liztis, the gretter lizt that it schulde be bifore to the dai, and the lesse lizt that it schulde be bifore to the nizt;

17 and God made sterris; and settide tho in the firmament of heuene, that tho schulden schyne on erthe,

18 and that tho schulden be bifore to the dai and nyzt, and schulden departe lizt and derknesse. And God sei3 that it was good.

19 And the euentid and the morwetid was maad, the fourthe dai.

20 Also God seide, The wattris brynge forth a `crepyng beeste of lyuyng soule, and a brid fleyng aboue erthe vndur the firmament of heuene.

21 And God made of nouzt grete whallis, and ech lyuyng soule and mouable, whiche the wattris han brouzt forth in to her kyndis; and God made of nouzt ech volatile bi his kynde. And God sei3 that it was good;

22 and blesside hem, and seide, Wexe 3e, and be 3e multiplied, and fille 3e the wattris of the see, and briddis be multiplied on erthe.

23 And the euentid and the morwetid was maad, the fyuethe dai.

24 And God seide, The erthe brynge forth a lyuyng soul in his kynde, werk beestis, and `crepyng beestis, and vnresonable beestis of erthe, bi her kyndis; and it was don so.

25 And God made vnresonable beestis of erthe bi her kyndes, and werk beestis, and ech crepyng beeste of erthe in his kynde. And God sei3 that it was good; and seide,

26 Make we man to oure ymage and liknesse, and be he souereyn to the fischis of the see, and to the volatilis of heuene, and to vnresonable beestis of erthe, and to ech creature, and to ech `crepyng beest, which is moued in erthe.

27 And God made of nouzt a man to his ymage and liknesse; God made of nouzt a man, to the ymage of God; God made of nouzt hem, male and female.

28 And God blesside hem, and seide, Encreesse 3e, and be 3e multiplied, and fille 3e the erthe, and make 3e it suget, and be 3e lordis to fischis of the see, and to volatilis of heuene, and to alle lyuyng beestis that ben moued on erthe.

29 And God seide, Lo! Y haue 3oue to you ech eerbe berynge seed on erthe, and alle trees that han in hem silf the seed of her kynde, that tho be in to mete to you;

30 and to alle lyuyng beestis of erthe, and to ech brid of heuene, and to alle thingis that ben moued in erthe, and in whiche is a lyuyng soule, that tho haue to ete; and it was doon so.

31 And God sei3 alle thingis whiche he made, and tho weren ful goode. And the euentid and morwetid was maad, the sixte day.

## **CAP 2**

1 Therfor heuenes and erthe ben maad perfit, and al the ournement of tho.

2 And God fillide in the seuenthe dai his werk which he made; and he restide in the seuenthe dai fro al his werk which he hadde maad;

3 and he blesside the seuenthe dai, and halewide it; for in that dai God ceesside of al his werk which he made of nou3t, that he schulde make.

4 These ben the generaciouns of heuene and of erthe, in the day wherynne the Lord God made heuene and erthe,

5 and ech litil tre of erthe bifore that it sprong out in erthe; and he made ech erbe of the feeld bifore that it buriownede. For the Lord God had not reyned on erthe, and no man was that wrou3te erthe;

6 but a welle stiede out of the erthe, and moistide al the hizere part of erthe.

7 Therfor the Lord God formede man of the sliym of erthe, and brethide in to his face the brething of lijf; and man was maad in to a lyuyng soule.

8 Forsothe the Lord God plauntide at the bigynnyng paradys of likyng, wherynne he settide man whom he hadde formed.

9 And the Lord God brou3te forth of the erthe ech tre fair in sigt, and swete to ete; also he brou3te forth the tre of lijf in the middis of paradys, and the tre of kunn3ng of good and of yuel.

10 And a ryuer 3ede out fro the place of likyng to moyste paradys, which ryuer is departid fro thennus in to foure heedis.

11 The name of the o ryuer is Fyson, thilke it is that cumpassith al the lond of Euilath, where gold cometh forth,

12 and the gold of that lond is the beste, and there is foundun delium, that is, a tree of spicerie, and the stoon onychyn;

13 and the name to the secounde ryuer is Gyon, thilke it is that cumpassith al the loond of Ethiopie;

14 forsothe the name of the thridde ryuer is Tigris, thilke goith azens Assiriens; sotheli the fourthe ryuer is thilke Eufrates.

15 Therfor the Lord God took man, and settide hym in paradys of likyng, that he schulde worche and kepe it.

16 And God comaundide to hym and seide, Ete thou of ech tre of paradys;

17 forsothe ete thou not of the tre of kunnyng of good and of yuel; for in what euere dai thou schalt ete therof, thou schalt die bi deeth.

18 And the Lord God seide, It is not good that a man be aloone, make we to hym an help lijk to hym silf.

19 Therfor whanne alle lyuyng beestis of erthe, and alle the volatils of heuene weren formed of erthe, the Lord God brouzte tho to Adam, that he schulde se what he schulde clepe tho; for al thing that Adam clepide of lyuyng soule, thilke is the name therof.

20 And Adam clepide bi her names alle lyuyng thingis, and alle volatils, and alle vnresonable beestis of erthe. Forsothe to Adam was not foundun an helpere lijk hym.

21 Therefore the Lord God sente sleep in to Adam, and whanne he slepte, God took oon of hise ribbis, and fillide fleisch for it.

22 And the Lord God bildide the rib which he hadde take fro Adam in to a womman, and brouzte hir to Adam.

23 And Adam seide, This is now a boon of my boonys, and fleisch of my fleisch; this schal be clepid virago, `for she is takun of man.

24 Wherfor a man schal forsake fadir and modir, and schal cleue to his wijf, and thei schulen be tweyne in o fleisch.

25 Forsothe euer eithir was nakid, that is, Adam and his wijf, and thei weren not aschamed.