

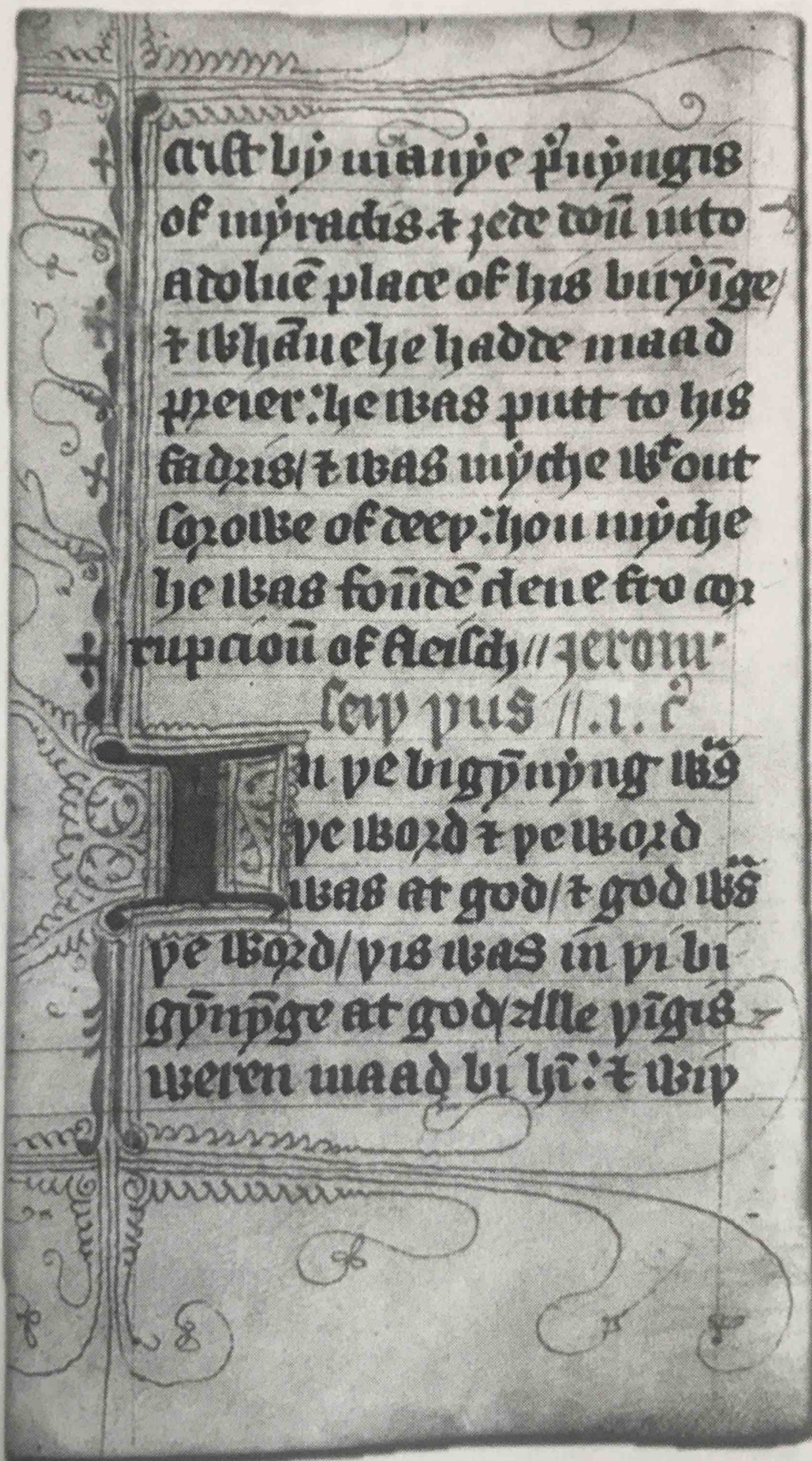


THE WYCLIFFE
BIBLE



John Wycliffe's translation
of the Holy Scriptures
from the Latin Vulgate





The famous beginning of St. John's Gospel is shown here in a late 14th century copy of John Wycliffe's translation of the Bible: 'In þe bigynnyng was | þe word & þe word | was at god, & god was | þe word.' It is preceded by a prologue to the Gospel.



Burning Wycliffe's bones, from John Foxe's Book of Martyrs (1563)

GENESIS

The Book of Genesis

CHAPTER 1

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

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

3 And God seide, Liyt be maad, and liyt was maad.

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

5 dai, and the derknessis, nyyt. 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 seiy that it was good;

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

12 And the erthe brouyte forth greene erbe and makyng seed bi his kynde, and a tre makyng fruyt, and ech hauyng seed by his kynde. And God seiy that it was good.

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

14 Forsothe God seide, Liytis be maad in the firmament of heuene, and departe tho the dai and nyt; and be tho in to signes, and tymes, and daies, and yeeris;

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

16 And God made twei grete liytis, the gretter liyt that it schulde be bifore to the dai, and the lesse liyt that it schulde be bifore to the nyt;

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 nyyt, and schulden departe liyt and derknesse. And God seiy 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 nouyt grete whallis, and ech lyuyng soule and mouable, whiche the wattris han brouyt forth in to her kyndis; and God made of nouyt ech volatile bi his kynde. And God seiy that it was good;

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

23 And the euentid and the morwetid was maad, the fyethe 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 seiy 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 nouyt a man to his ymage and liknesse; God made of nouyt a man, to the ymage of God; God made of nouyt hem, male and female.

28 And God blesside hem, and seide, Encrease ye, and be ye multiplied, and fille ye the erthe, and make ye it suget, and be ye 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 youe to you ech eerbe beryng 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 seiy alle thingis whiche he made, and tho weren ful goode. And the euentid and morwetid was maad, the sixte day.

CHAPTER 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 nouyt, 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,

27 Pore men schulen ete, and schulen be fillid, and thei schulen herie the Lord, that seken hym; the hertis of hem schulen lyue in to the world of world.

28 Alle the endis of erthe schulen bithenke; and schulen be conuertid to the Lord. And alle the meynes of hethene men; schulen worschipe in his siyt.

29 For the rewme is the Lordis; and he schal be Lord of hethene men.

30 Alle the fatte men of erthe eeten and worschipiden; alle men, that goen doun in to erthe, schulen falle doun in his siyt.

31 And my soule schal lyue to hym; and my seed schal serue him.

32 A generacioun to comyng schal be teld to the Lord; and heuenes schulen telle his riytfulnesse to the puple that schal be borun, whom the Lord made.

PSALM 22

1 The title of the two and twentithe salm. The salm, ether the song of Daud. The Lord gouerneth me, and no thing schal faile to me;

2 in the place of pasture there he hath set me. He nurschide me on the watir of refreischyng;

3 he conuertide my soule. He ledde me forth on the pathis of riytfulnesse; for his name.

4 For whi thou Y schal go in the myddis of schadewe of deeth; Y schal not drede yuels, for thou art with me. Thi yerde and thi staf; tho han coumfortid me.

5 Thou hast maad redi a boord in my siyt; ayens hem that troblen me. Thou hast maad fat myn heed with oyle; and my cuppe, fillinge greetli, is ful cleer.

6 And thi merci schal sue me; in alle the daies of my lijf. And that Y dwelle in the hows of the Lord; in to the lengthe of daies.

PSALM 23

1 The title of the thre and twentithe salm. The song of Daud. The erthe and the fulnesse therof is the Lordis; the world, and alle that dwellen thereynne is the Lordis.

2 For he foundide it on the sees; and made it redi on floodis.

3 Who schal stie in to the hil of the Lord; ethir who schal stonde in the heeli place of the Lord.

JOON

The Gospel of John

CHAPTER I

1 In the bigynnyng was the word, and the word was at God, and God was the word.

2 This was in the bigynnyng at God.

3 Alle thingis weren maad bi hym, and withouten hym was maad no thing, that thing that was maad.

4 In hym was lijf, and the lijf was the liyt of men; and the liyt schyneth in derknessis,

5 and derknessis comprehendiden not it.

6 A man was sent fro God, to whom the name was Joon.

7 This man cam in to witnessyng, that he schulde bere witnessyng of the liyt, that alle men schulden bileue bi hym.

8 He was not the liyt, but that he schulde bere witnessyng of the liyt.

9 There was a very liyt, which liytnech ech man that cometh in to this world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was maad bi hym, and the world knew hym not.

11 He cam in to his owne thingis, and hise resseyueden hym not.

12 But hou many euer resseyueden hym, he yaf to hem power to be maad the sones of God, to hem that bileueden in his name; the whiche not of bloodis,

13 nether of the wille of fleische, nether of the wille of man, but ben borun of God.

14 And the word was maad man, and dwellyde among vs, and we han seyn the glorie of hym, as the glorie of the `oon bigetun sone of the fadir, ful of grace and of treuthe.

15 Joon berith witnessyng of hym, and crieth, and seith, This is, whom Y seide, He that schal come aftir me, is maad bifore me, for he was tofor me;

16 and of the plente of hym we alle han takun, and grace for grace.

17 For the lawe was youun bi Moises; but grace and treuthe `is maad bi Jhesu Crist.

18 No man sai euer God, no but the `oon bigetun sone, that is in the bosum of the fadir, he hath told out.

19 And this is the witnessyng of Joon, whanne Jewis senten fro

22 Therfor thei seiden to hym, Who art thou? that we answer to these that senten vs. What seist thou of thi silf?

23 He seide, Y am a vois of a crier in deseert, Dresse ye the of the Lord, as Ysaie, the prophete, seide.

24 And thei that weren sent, weren of the Fariseis.

25 And thei axiden hym, and seiden to hym, What thanne sist thou, if thou art not Crist, nether Elie, nether a profete?

26 Joon answeride to hem, and seide, Y baptise in watir the myddil of you hath stonde oon, that ye knowen not;

27 he it is, that schal come aftir me, that was maad bifore whom Y am not worthi to louse the thwong of his schoole.

28 These thingis weren don in Bethanye biyende Jordon. Joon was baptisyng.

29 Anothir day Joon say Jhesu comyng to hym, and Lo! the lomb of God; lo! he that doith awei the synners world.

30 This is he, that Y seide of, Aftir me is comun a man that was maad bifore me; for he was rather than Y.

31 And Y knew hym not, but that he be schewid in Israell. Y cam baptisyng in watir.

32 And Joon bar witnessyng, and seide, That Y sai comyng down as a culuer fro heuene, and dwellide on the deserte.

33 And Y knew hym not; but he that sente me to baptise seide to me, On whom thou seest the Spirit comyng dwellynge on hym, this is he, that baptisith in the Holy Spirit.

34 And Y say, and bar witnessyng, that this is the sone of God.

35 Anothir dai Joon stood, and tweyne of hise discipulis

36 and he biheeld Jhesu walkinge, and seith, Lo! the

37 And twei discipulis herden hym spekyng, and seith to hem, What seken ye? And he seith to hem, We seken the Rabi, that is to seie, Maistir, where dwellist thou?

38 And he seith to hem, Come ye, and se. And he sayn where he dwellide; and dwelten with hym that day as the tenthe our.

39 And Andrewe, the brother of Symount Petir, that herden of Joon, and hadden sued hym, he bringe to Joon, and seith to hym, This is Crist, that was sayd of the fadir.

40 This foond first his brother Symount, and he bringe to Joon, and seith to hym, This is Crist, that was sayd of the fadir.

41 And Joon witnesseth, and seith, I saw the Spirit comyng down as a culuer, and resting on hym, and I knew not what he was, but that which I saw, and that which I heere, I witnesseth, and seith, This is the sone of God.