

Old English and Middle English versions of Genesis

Old English:

On angynne Ʒescēop God hēofon and ēorðan. Sēo eorðe sōðlice
In beginning shaped God heaven and earth. The earth soothly (=truly)

wæs idel and æmtig, and ðēostra wæron ðfer ðære nywelnyssse bradnyssse
was idle (void) and empty, and darknesses were over of the abyss broadness (surface)

and Gōdes gast wæs Ʒeferod ðfer wæteru. God cwæð þā:
and God's ghost (spirit) was carried over water. God quoth (said) then:

Gewurðe lēoht, and lēoht wearð geworht. God Ʒesēah ðā ðæt hit gōd wæs,
Become I light, and light was made. God saw then that it good was

and hē tōdæalde ðæt lēoht from ðām ðēostrum. And hēt ðæt lēoht dæƷ
and he dealt (separated) that light from the darkness. And hight that light day

and þa ðēostru niht: ðā wæs geworden æfen and morgen an dæƷ.
and the darkness night: then was made even (evening) and morning one day.

Middle English:

In the first made God of nought heuen and erth.
The erth forsothe was veyn withinne and voyde,
and darknesses weren vp on the face of the see.
And the spirite of God was yborn vp on the waters.
And God seid, "Be made light," and made is light.
And God sees light that it was good and dyuidide light from derknesses.
And clepide light day and derknesses night,
and maad is euen and moru, o day.