

<p>Good news translation</p>	<p>1 In the beginning, when God created the universe, 2 the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. 3 Then God commanded, "Let there be light" - and light appeared. 4 God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, 5 and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came - that was the first day. 6 Then God commanded, "Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places" - and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. 7 8 He named the dome "Sky."</p>
<p>King James</p>	<p>In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven</p>
<p>The Message</p>	<p>First this: God created the Heavens and Earth - all you see, all you don't see. 2 Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. 3 God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared. 4 God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. 5 God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning - Day One. 6 God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" 7 God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: 8 he named sky the Heavens;</p>
<p>Common English Bible</p>	<p>When God began to create the heavens and the earth— 2 the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters— 3 God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. 4 God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God named the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and there was morning: the first day. 6 God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other." 7 God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way. 8 God named the dome Sky.</p>
<p>Young's Literal</p>	<p>1 In the beginning of God's preparing the heavens and the earth -- 2 the earth hath existed waste and void, and darkness [is] on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God fluttering on the face of the waters, 3 and God saith, `Let light be;' and light is. 4 And God seeth the light that [it is] good, and God separateth between the light and the darkness, 5 and God calleth to the light `Day,' and to the darkness He hath called `Night;' and there is an evening, and there is a morning -- day one. 6 And God saith, `Let an expanse be in the midst of the waters, and let it be separating between waters and waters.' 7 And God maketh the expanse, and it separateth between the waters which [are] under the expanse, and the waters which [are] above the expanse: and it is so. 8 And God calleth to the expanse `Heavens.'</p>

Robert Alter	<p>When God began to create heaven and earth, and the earth then was welter and waste [<i>tohu wabohu</i>] and darkness over the deep and God's breath [<i>ruah</i>, God's 'breath-wind-spirit' is elsewhere compared to an eagle fluttering] hovering over the waters, God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. And God saw the light, that it was Good, and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And it was evening and it was morning, first day. And God said, "Let there be a vault in the midst of the waters, and let it divide water from water." And God made the vault and it divided water beneath the vault from the water above the vault, and so it was. And God called the vault Heavens.</p>
Edward Everett Fox	<p>1 At the beginning of God's creating of the heavens and the earth, 2 when the earth was wild and waste, darkness over the face of Ocean, rushing spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters— 3 God said: Let there be light! And there was light. 4 God saw the light: that it was good. God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light: Day! And the darkness he called: Night! 6 God said: Let there be a dome amid the waters, And let separate waters from waters! 7 God made the dome And separated the waters that were below the dome from the waters that were above the dome. It was so. 8 God called the dome: Heaven!</p>
Haaretz.com: Jewish World	<p>In the Canaanite myth, God cuts the sea god Yam in two and creates the oceans and the sky. In Genesis 1: "And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters" (1:6). It is the same basic idea but depersonified.</p> <p>The primordial sea god. It wasn't only the Canaanites who believed in the myth that creation began with a god vanquishing a primordial sea deity and forming the seas and the sky from its remains. The Babylonians believed in this story too, only in their case, the hero creator god was Marduk, not Baal, and the sea was not male like the Canaanite Yam, but a female goddess called Tiamat. (She may be alluded to in Genesis 1:2, where the Hebrew for what is translated as "the deep" is <i>tehom</i> - a Hebrew cognate of Tiamat's name.)</p> <p>This basic creation myth of a god slaying serpent-like sea monsters is not restricted to the Canaanites and the Babylonians. The Middle Eastern peoples apparently adopted it from Indo-European peoples from the north, since it crops up in the ancient myths of many of the Indo-European peoples: In Greek mythology, Zeus kills Typhon; in Norse mythology Thor kills Jörmungandr; in Hindu mythology, Indra kills Vrtra; in Slavic mythology, Perun kills Veles; and in Hittite mythology; Tarhunt kills Illuyanka.</p> <p>In each of these cases - and there are more - it is a weather deity that kills a monster serpent, and thus brings order to the world.</p>