

[And the waters said be light and]

1

~~And the morning God said the heaven and the earth~~

2 And ~~the~~ ~~light~~ ~~was~~ ~~formed~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~darkness~~
~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~spirit~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Lord~~ ~~hovered~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~waters~~

3 And God said Let there be light and there was light

4 And God saw the light that 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

And the waters said be light and *appeared first* in Southern Indiana Review, Fall 2023. It is an excerpt from Rebecca Gayle Howell's forthcoming book, Erase Genesis (Project Poetica / Bridewell Press, 2026).

7 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be divided from the waters which were above the heaven: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven: And the evening and the morning were the first day.

9 And God said, Let the earth bring forth green herb yielding seed, and fruit tree bearing fruit after his kind, whereof may seed may be scattered upon the earth: and it was so.

10 And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: and it was so.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth forth creeping things yielding seed after their kind, and fruit tree bearing fruit after his kind: whereof may seed may be scattered upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the green herb, and the fruit tree bearing fruit after his kind, whereof may seed may be scattered upon the earth: and it was so.

13 And God said, Let the morning and the evening be the first day.

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14 And said, Let there be light: and there was light.
heaven to divide the day from the night: and let them be
for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years

15 And let there be light: and there was light.
to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night: and let the lights be for seasons, and for days and years.

17 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made also the stars.

18 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament to divide the day from the night: and let the light and the darkness be seen.

19 And God made the firmament, and the lights therein; the sun to rule the day, and the stars to rule the night: and the firmament was divided.

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creatures that have life, and let fowl fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth which the waters bring forth, both the fowl of the air, and the beasts, and every living thing that moveth upon the earth, after their kind: and God saw that it was good.

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22 And God bless them saying Be fruitful and multiply
and fill the earth in the seas, and the land, and multiply the
earth

23 And the evening and the morning were the 6th day.

24 And God said Let us make living creature of his kind, cattle and creeping thing and
beast of the land, of his kind and like him

25 And God said Let the waters bring forth living creature of his kind and
creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and let birds fly above the earth and let the fishes be in the sea

26 And God said Let us make man in our image after our
likeness and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle
and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that
creepeth upon the earth

27 So God created man in his own image in the image of
God created he him to have dominion over the earth and over all the creatures he created by them

28 And God blessed them saying Go forth multiply and
fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea,

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night, and it was so: be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years

15 And let there be light: and it was so.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: and the stars.

17 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters, which were upon the earth, and called the name of the dry land, Earth: and the name of the other part, Sea.

18 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the living creature that moveth; and God created great sea creatures, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind: and God saw that it was good.

19 And the waters brought forth abundantly the living creature after their kind: and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind: and God saw that it was good.

20 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind: and it was so.

21 And God created great sea creatures, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind: and God saw that it was good.

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14 And said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years

15 And let them be light in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth:

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: and the stars.

17 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.

18 And God said, Let the firmament be divided to give light upon the earth, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years:

19 And God made the great lights: the sun to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night: and the stars.

20 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.

21 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly every living creature that moveth which hath life, both creeping land, and flying in the air above the earth, and let the waters bring forth abundantly every living creature that moveth which hath life, both creeping land, and flying in the air above the earth.

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22 And God bless them saying Be fruitful, and multiply,
and fill the earth to the same. And God said, Behold I give you the
earth

23 And God said, And let there be lights in the firmament of the day,
and of the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years.

24 And God said, Let them be for lights in the firmament of the sky: and let the earth bring forth living creatures after his kind, cattle, and creeping things, and beast of the earth, after his kind: and let it swarm upon the earth, and let the fowl of the air, and the fishes of the sea, and every creeping thing that crepeth upon the earth, after their kind, and let every thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every thing that flieth in the air, and every thing that swimmeth in the sea, and every thing that liveth upon the earth, after their kind, bring forth abundantly, and let them multiply upon the earth.

25 And God said, Behold I give you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree bearing seed, to you for meat.

26 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly, and let the fowl multiply upon the earth, after their kind, and let every thing that crepeth upon the earth, and every thing that flieth in the air, and every thing that swimmeth in the sea, and every thing that liveth upon the earth, after their kind, bring forth abundantly, and let them multiply upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, and in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and over every thing that liveth upon the earth, and every thing that flieth in the air, and every thing that swimmeth in the sea, and every thing that crepeth upon the earth.

and saw that the ~~face~~ of the ~~air~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~every~~ living ~~thing~~
~~and~~ ~~moveth~~ ~~upon~~ ~~the~~ ~~face~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~earth~~

29 And God said, Behold, I have ~~set~~ ~~you~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~green~~ ~~herb~~
bearing ~~seed~~, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~fruit~~ ~~of~~ ~~every~~ ~~tree~~ ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~upon~~ ~~the~~ ~~earth~~. And God ~~said~~
every tree, in ~~the~~ ~~which~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~fruit~~ ~~of~~ ~~it~~, ~~shall~~ ~~yield~~ ~~unto~~ ~~you~~
~~the~~ ~~seed~~ ~~of~~ ~~it~~. And God ~~said~~

30 And to **every** ~~beast~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~earth~~, ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~every~~ ~~creeping~~ ~~thing~~,
~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~every~~ ~~thing~~ ~~that~~ ~~walketh~~ ~~upon~~ ~~the~~ ~~earth~~,
~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~fish~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~water~~, ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~birds~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~sky~~, ~~is~~ ~~life~~, ~~I~~ ~~have~~ ~~given~~ ~~you~~ ~~green~~ ~~herb~~ ~~for~~
~~to~~ ~~you~~ ~~for~~ ~~meat~~

31 And God ~~said~~, Behold, I have ~~set~~ ~~you~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~green~~ ~~herb~~, ~~and~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~fish~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~water~~,
~~and~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~birds~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~sky~~, ~~and~~ ~~over~~ ~~every~~ ~~living~~ ~~thing~~ ~~that~~ ~~walketh~~ ~~upon~~ ~~the~~ ~~earth~~, ~~to~~ ~~you~~ ~~are~~ ~~all~~ ~~these~~ ~~things~~ ~~good~~. And they ~~were~~ ~~good~~. And the ~~light~~ ~~was~~ ~~good~~. And the ~~darkness~~ ~~was~~ ~~good~~. And the ~~waters~~ ~~were~~ ~~good~~. And the ~~earth~~ ~~were~~ ~~good~~.