



EABS Annual Conference 2024

my / your / his / her / our / their
Father in heaven

Tg vs Mt

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Targum - Gospel

my / your / his / her / our / their Father in Heaven

- Same literary context
- Same theological context

BUT

- God, Father of Israel vs God, Father of the believers
- Jesus says: “MY” Father in Heaven



Targum - key data

Targum =

- Translation of the 'Hebrew Testament' into Aramaic
- Additions

Targums of the Torah = targums of the Pentateuch

- Onqelos
- Pseudo-Jonathan
- Neofiti + margin
- Fragmentary
 - 110
 - 264
 - 440

Dating *round* 1st Century AD

Jewish literature from the **Levant area**

Non-Christian literature

= Gospel

= Gospel

≠ Gospel



my / your / his / her / our / their Father in heaven

Targums of the Torah

In total: 12 verses

- MT	0
- Onqelos	0
- Pseudo-Jonathan	2
- Neofiti	3
- Margin	+1
- 110	8

אבוהון דבשמיא

Your father, who [is] in Heaven

אב + הון + ד + ב + שמיא

אב + poss. pron. suff. + דבשמיא

Matthew

20 times (10 in Mt 5-7)

Luke 1; Mark 1 (+1); Rest of NT 0

ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς

Your father, who [is] in Heaven

ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος

Your father, the heavenly

article + πατὴρ + possess. pron. + οὐράνιος or ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς



my / your / his / her / their Father in heaven

אב- + pr.poss.suf + -ד + -ב + שמיא

Targums of the Torah

דבשמיא

דבשמייא

דשמיא

(בשמיא)

+

אבוי

אבוהא

אבוכון

אבוהון

אבוהין

Matthew

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς
ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς
ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς
ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ οὐράνιος
ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος



Gn 21,33	אבוכון דבשמיא		Tg. Neof ^{mg}	Frg. Tg.	110	264	440	Your
Ex 1,19	אבוהון דבשמיא	Tg. Ps.-J.	Tg. Neof.	Frg. Tg.	110		440	Their
Ex 1,21	אבוהון דבשמיא			Frg. Tg.	110			Their
Ex 15,12	אבוהא דשמיא			Frg. Tg.	110			Her
Ex 17,11	אבוי דבשמיא			Frg. Tg.	110			His
Nb 20,21	אבוהון דבשמיא		Tg. Neof.	Frg. Tg.		264	440	Their
Nb 21,9	אבוי דבשמיא			Frg. Tg.	110	264	440	His
Nb 23,23	אבוכון דבשמיא			Frg. Tg.	110	264	440	Your
Dt 28,32	אבוכון דבשמיא	Tg. Ps.-J.						Your
Dt 32,6	אבוכון דבשמיא			Frg. Tg.	110	264	440	Your
Dt 33,24	אבוהון דבשמיא		Tg. Neof.					Their

NA28

Οὐ πᾶς ὁ λέγων μοι· κύριε κύριε,
 εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν,
 ἀλλ' ὁ ποιῶν τὸ θέλημα
 τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

Mt NRSVCE, 1993

7,21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
 will enter the kingdom of heaven,
 but only the one who does the will
 of my Father in heaven.

MT

הֲלִיְהוּהַ תִּגְמְלוּ-זֹאת עִם נָבֵל וְלֹא חָכָם
הֲלוֹא-הוּא אָבִיךָ קִנֶּךָ הוּא עָשָׂךָ וַיְכַנְנֶךָ:

Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and senseless people?

Is not he **your father**, who created you, who made you and established you? (NRSVCE)

Frg. Tg. 110

הקודם יי אתון גמלין דא אומא טפשא ולא חכימה
הלא הוא **אבוכון דבשמיא** די קנה יתכון הוא ברא יתכו

Do you not seek this from before the Lord, you stupid and unwise nation?

Is he not **your Father in Heaven** who acquired you and who created you and perfected you?
(ArmBib)

Father – Creator

- People should convert and be grateful to him

MT

וְהָיָה אִם נִשְׁךְ הַנָּחָשׁ אֶת אִישׁ
וְהִבִּיט אֶל נָחָשׁ הַנְּחֻשֶׁת וְחָיָה:

whenever a serpent bit someone,
that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. (NRSVCE)

Frg. Tg. 440

וְהוּא כָּל מִן דְּהוּא מִינְכַת בַּחְיּוּא הוּא
תְּלִי אַפּוּי בַּצִּלּוֹ גַּב אַבּוּי דְּבִשְׁמִיא
וּמִסְתַּכַּל בַּחְיּוּא דְּנַחֲשָׁא וְחִיָּה.

whenever one would be bitten by a serpent,
he hung his face towards his Father in Heaven,
staring at the copper serpent and live.

Idolatry concern

- Be saved from the serpents (and not by a serpent)
- Convert to Heaven, to God, the caring Father
- Pray God, not an idol

Ex 17,11 Battle with the Amalecites

Tg

MT - NRSVCE

11 וְהָיָה כַּאֲשֶׁר יָרִים מֹשֶׁה יָדוֹ וְגִבֹּר יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְכַאֲשֶׁר יִנְיחַ יָדוֹ וְגִבֹּר עַמְלֶק:

Whenever Moses held up his hand,
Israel prevailed; and whenever he
lowered his hand, Amalek
prevailed.

12 וַיְדִי מֹשֶׁה כְּבִדִּים וַיִּקְחוּ אֶבֶן וַיִּשְׁימוּ תַּחְתָּיו
וַיֵּשֶׁב עָלֶיהָ וְאַהֲרֹן וְחֹר וְתָמְכוּ בְיָדָיו מִזֶּה
אֶחָד וּמִזֶּה אֶחָד וַיְהִי יָדָיו אֲמוֹנָה עַד בֹּא
הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

But Moses' hands grew weary; so they
took a stone and put it under him, and
he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his
hands, one on one side, and the other
on the other side; so his hands were
steady until the sun set.

13 וַיַּחֲלֹשׁ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת עַמְלֶק וְאֶת עַמּוֹ לְפִי חֶרֶב

And Joshua defeated Amalek and his
people with the sword.

Frg. Tg. 110

וְהוּא כַד הוּא מֹשֶׁה זָקָף יָדָיו בְּצִלּוֹ לֹות **אָבוֹי דְּבִשְׁמִיא** וְהוּן דְּבִית יִשְׂרָאֵל
מִתְגַּבְּרִין וְנִצְחִין בְּסַדְרֵי קֶרְבָּא וְכַד הוּא מִנַּע יָדָיו מִן לְמַצְלִיא הוּן דְּבִית עַמְלֶק
מִתְגַּבְּרִין וְנִפְלִין בְּחֶרְבָּא

Whenever Moses held up his hand **in prayer before his Father in
Heaven**, those of Israel prevailed **and succeeded in the battle**
and whenever he lowered his hand **praying**, those of Amalek
prevailed **and [those of Israel] fell under the sword**.

וַיְדִי דְּמֹשֶׁה הוּן זָקִיפִין בְּצִלּוֹ וְנִסִּיבוּ אֶבֶן וְשׁוּן יִתָּה תַּחְתּוּתִּיהָ וַיִּתֵּב עָלָהּ וְאַהֲרֹן וְחֹר וְתָמְכוּ אַחֲדִידִין
בִּידָיו חֵד מִן דִּין סִיטְרָא וְחֵד מִן דִּין סִיטְרָא מְדַכְּרִי הִימְנוּתָּ תִּלְתָּ אֲבֵהֲתָא צְדִיקָא דְּמִתִּילִין
בְּטוּרִיא אֲבֵרָהִם יִצְחָק וַיַּעֲקֹב וְהִימְנוּתָּ אַרְבַּעַתִּי אֲמֵהֲתָא צְדִיקָתָא דְּמִתִּילִין בְּגִלְמַתָּא שָׂרָה
רַבְקָה רַחֵל וְלֵאָה וְהוּן יָדָיו זָקִיפִין בְּצִלּוֹ עַד מִטְמַעִי שְׁמַשָּׁא.

But the arms of Moses **were lift up in prayer**; so they took a stone and put
it under him, and he sat on it. **While** Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one
on one side, and the other on the other side; **he [Moses] remembered the
faithfulness of the righteous fathers who are like the mountains -
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - and the faithfulness of the righteous mothers
who are like the hills - Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah**; so his hands were
steady **in prayer** until the sun set.

Nihil

Lift up his hands? => in prayer !

- intercession, mediation – duration – necessity - effectiveness
- connection Heaven and earth
- past, present, future

MT

וְלְאַשֶׁר אָמַר בְּרוּךְ מִבְּנֵי אֲשֶׁר יְהִי רְצוּי אָחִיו וְטָבֵל בְּשֶׁמֶן רַגְלֹו:

And of Asher he said: Most blessed of sons be Asher;
may he be the **favorite** of his brothers,
and may he dip his foot in oil. » (NRSVCE)

Tg Neof.

לשבטה דאשר ברך משה נביא דיי ואמר בריך מן בניא יהווי **מרעיה**
בשבטיה בין אחוי לבין **אבוהון דבשמייא** וארעא תיהווי [עבדא] משח במייא ומסחי במשחה
רגלוי:

And **Moses the prophet of the Lord** blessed the tribe of Asher and said:

“Blessed above all the sons.

In the tribes he shall make **reconciliation between** his brothers
and **their Father who is in heaven**,
and his land shall produce oil like water,
and he shall bathe his feet in oil. (ArBib)

Specific benediction for Asher?

- achieve reconciliation between the brothers, and with God – the Father in H.

MT

וַתֹּאמְרֵן הַמִּלְדֹּת אֶל פַּרְעֹה כִּי לֹא כַנְשִׁים הַמִּצְרִית הָעִבְרִית
כִּי חַיֹּת הֵנָּה בְּטָרֶם תָּבוֹא אֵלֶיהֶן הַמִּלְדֹּת וַיֵּלְדוּ:

The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." (NRSVCE)

Frg. Tg. 110

ואמרא חייתא לפרעה ארום לא כ(נימוסי) נשיא מצרייתא אינון נשיא עברייתא
ארום חיין אינון קדם עד דלא תיעול לזותהין
חייתא אינון תליין עייניהון בצלו לות אבוהין דשמיא והוא שמע קל צלותהין והוא עני יתהין
ואינון ילדן :

The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; because they are vigorous, before the midwives come to them, they raise their eyes in prayer towards their Father in the Heaven, he hears the voice of their pray and he answers them and they give birth".

Pray of the women in labour:

- The Father in H. helps birth: the boys (and the people of Israel) are saved

MT

וַיְהִי כִּי יֵרְאוּ הַמִּלְדֹּת אֶת הָאֱלֹהִים וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם בָּתִּים:

And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families (lit. *houses*) (NRSVCE)

Frg. Tg. 110

והוה כד דחילן חייתא מן קדם יי וקנין להון שום טב קדם אבוהין דבשמיא ועבדו להין בתין
ביתא דמלכותא וביתא דכהונתא רובתא (...).

And because the midwives feared YYY, they gained a good reputation before their Father in heaven, and they made for them houses : the house of royalty, the house of the sovereign priesthood (...).

Action of the midwives:

- Participating to their Father in H. – good reputation

MT

וַיֵּטֶע אֲשֶׁל בְּבֵאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֵל עוֹלָם

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba,
and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. (NRSVCE)

Frg. Tg. 110

וּנְצִיב אַבְרָהָם פֶּרְדִּיסָא בְּבֵאֵר שֶׁבַע

וְאִייתִי בְּגוּוִיָּה מִזּוֹן וּמִשְׁקִי לְעֶרְלִיא וְהוּא כַּד הוּזָן אֲכָלִין וְשִׁתִּין וְהוּזָן בְּעִיִּין לְמִיתָן לִיה טִימִי מֵא
דְּאֲכָלוּ וְשִׁתִּיִּין וְהוּא אֲבוּנָן אַבְרָהָם אִמֵּר לְהוּזָן צִלּוֹן קִדָּם אֲבוּכּוֹן דְּשִׁמְיָא מִן דִּידִּיה אֲכָלְתוֹן וּמִן
דִּידִּיה שִׁתִּיתוֹן וְלֹא הוּזָן זִיעִין מִן תַּמָּן עַד זְמַן דְּהוּא מַגִּיר יִתְהוּזָן וּמִלִּיף יִתְהוּזָן אֲוֹרְחִיה דְּעֵלְמָא
וּפְלַח וְצִלִּי תַמָּן אַבְרָהָם בְּשֵׁם מִימְרָא דִּיִּי אֱלֹהָא דְּעֵלְמָא

And Abraham planted a garden in Beersheba

and within it prepared food to the uncircumcised. And it came about that while eating and drinking they would seek to give him the price of what they had eaten and drunk and our father Abraham would say to them: "Praise to **your LORD in Heaven**, to whom belongs what you are eating and to whom belongs what you are drinking". And they would not move from there until he would convert them, and would teach them the way to Eternity. And Abraham worshiped and prayed there in the name of the **Memra** of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Why does Abraham pray? Why does he plant a tree / a garden?

- To live in peace with his neighbours – fight against idolatry
- Abraham welcomes, teaches, urges to pray and convert

Nb 20,21

MT Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through their territory; so Israel turned away from them.

Targ And the Edomites refused to allow Israel to pass through their territory: and Israel turned aside from them, because they had been **commanded** by **their Father who is in heaven** not to set **battle** array against them.

Nb 23,23

MT Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, 'See what God has done!

Targ For I see **none** who observe **omens** among those of the house of Jacob, and **none** who practice **divination** among the tribes of the sons of Israel. At this time the good things and the **consolations** that the *mymr*' of YYY will make to come upon them **will be announced to** the house of **Jacob and Israël**." Balaam said in his prophetic parabolic discourse: "**Blessed** are you, just ones! **What a good reward** is prepared for you before **your Father in Heaven** for the **world to come**!



Ex 15,12

MT You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them

Targ The sea and the land disputed, both of them together, and said: 'The sea said to the land: "Receive your sons." And the land said to the sea: "Receive your dead." ' The sea did not want to drown them and the land did not want to receive her dead. The feared paralysed the earth, that **her Father in Heaven** would not want them for **the world to come**.

And by the *mymr* before you, **you extended your right hand** in an oath and you swear over the earth that you would not want them to take part to the world to come. Immediately **the earth** opened its mouth and **swallowed them up**.

Dt 28,32

MT Your sons and daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall see ;
you will strain your eyes looking for them all day but your hand are be powerless.

Targ Your sons and your daughters shall be delivered up to a **foreign people**, and your eyes shall see and be consumed watching for them all day long, but there are **no good deeds** to your credit that would strengthen your hands in **prayer** before **your Father in heaven** who would **redeem** you.

Tg of 5euch – ~10 occ.

Gen 21:33	Abraham at Abimelech's
Ex 1:19	the midwives
Ex 1:21	the birth attendants
Ex 15:12	the Land to the Sea
Ex 17:11	the battle against Amalek
Num 20:21	the territory of Edom
Num 21:9	the serpent of bronze
Num 23:23	Balaam's oracle
Deut 28:32	the sons and daughters taken away
Deut 32:6	various curses
Deut 33:24	the blessing of Asher

Targum

- Pseudo Jonathan
- Neofyte + margin

Fragmentary Targums

- 110
- 440
- 264

(Targum
(- Onqelos

my / your / his / her / our / their **Father in heaven** **Mt**

Mt – 20 occ.

“The Sermon on the Mount

5,16.45.48

6,1.**9**.14.26.32 6,9: « Pray: our Father... »

7,11.21

“Teachings on humility and forgiveness

18,10.14.19.35 « Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Miscellaneous

10,32.33

Fear God Rather Than People

12,50

« Here are my mother and my brothers!

15,13

« Every plant that my heav. F. has not planted...

16,17

« For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you...

23,9

« And call no one your father on earth...



Matt 10.32 Πᾶς οὖν ὅστις ὁμολογήσῃ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, **ὁμολογήσω καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν [τοῖς] οὐρανοῖς.**

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, **I also will acknowledge** before **my Father in heaven;**

Matt 10.33 ὅστις δ’ ἂν ἀρνήσῃται με ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἀρνήσομαι καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν **τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν [τοῖς] οὐρανοῖς.**

but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before **my Father in heaven.**

Matt 7.21 Οὐ πᾶς ὁ λέγων μοι· κύριε κύριε, εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἀλλ’ ὁ ποιῶν τὸ θέλημα **τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.**

“Not everyone who says to **me, ‘Lord, Lord,’** will enter the **kingdom** in Heaven, but only the one who does the will of **my Father in heaven.**

Matt 18.14 οὕτως οὐκ ἔστιν **θέλημα** ἔμπροσθεν **τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς** ἵνα **ἀπόληται** ἐν τῶν **μικρῶν** τούτων.

So it is not the **will** of **your Father in heaven** that one of these **little** ones should be **lost.**

Matt 7.11 εἰ οὖν ὑμεῖς **πονηροὶ** ὄντες οἴδατε **δόματα** ἀγαθὰ διδόναι τοῖς **τέκνοις** ὑμῶν, πόσω **μᾶλλον ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς** δώσει ἀγαθὰ τοῖς αἰτοῦσιν αὐτόν.

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good **gifts** to your **children**, how much more will **your Father in heaven** give good things to those who ask him!



Matt 6.09

Οὕτως οὖν προσεύχεσθε ὑμεῖς·
Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς·

Matt 6:10-13

ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου·
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου·
γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, (...)
δὸς ἡμῖν (...)
καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν (...)
καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς (...)
ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, (...)
Give us (...)
forgive us (...)
And do not bring us (...)
but rescue us from the evil one.

Matt 18.19

Πάλιν [ἀμὴν] λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐὰν δύο
συμφωνήσωσιν ἐξ ὑμῶν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς περὶ
παντὸς πράγματος οὗ ἐὰν αἰτήσωνται,
γενήσεται αὐτοῖς παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ
ἐν οὐρανοῖς.

Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on
earth about anything you ask, it will be done for
you by my Father in heaven.

Matt 5.48

ἔσεσθε οὖν ὑμεῖς τέλειοι ὡς ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ
οὐράνιος τέλειός ἐστιν.

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is
perfect.



Matt 18.35

οὕτως καὶ ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ οὐράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν, ἐὰν μὴ ἀφῆτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ὑμῶν.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Matt 5.44-45

ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν· ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ τῶν διωκόντων ὑμᾶς, ὅπως γένησθε υἱοὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς,...

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven...

Matt 5.16

οὕτως λαμψάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσιν ὑμῶν τὰ καλὰ ἔργα καὶ δοξάσωσιν τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matt 6.01

Προσέχετε [δὲ] τὴν δικαιοσύνην ὑμῶν μὴ ποιεῖν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων πρὸς τὸ θεαθῆναι αὐτοῖς· εἰ δὲ μή γε, μισθὸν οὐκ ἔχετε παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matt 5.44-45

ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν· ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ τῶν διωκόντων ὑμᾶς, ὅπως γένησθε υἱοὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς, ὅτι τὸν ἥλιον αὐτοῦ ἀνατέλλει ἐπὶ πονηροὺς καὶ ἀγαθοὺς καὶ βρέχει ἐπὶ δικαίους καὶ ἀδίκους.

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.



Ccl

UCLouvain

Tg of 5-euch

1. 12 verses
2. People in danger
 - enemies, snakes
 - idolatry
3. Pray *for* the people
4. Mount
 - intercession
5. Faith in the Father
6. It lasts
7. Unity, reconciliation
8. Reward: World to come
9. Filiation: Son of Israël
10. Divine action
11. Protection of the people
12. Abm, Moïse...

Mt

1. 20 occ.
2. People in danger
 - idolatry
 - poor in Spirit, thirst of Justice
3. Liturgy *within* the people, *for* all
4. Mount
 - Teaching and exhortation
5. Faith in the Father and in Jesus
6. It lasts
7. Forgiveness and perfection
8. Reward: Kingdom of God
9. Filiation: Son of God
10. Love the enemy
11. Sacerdotal people
12. Jesus, mediator, equal to God

Thank you