

Genesis Chapter 4

Old JPS Translation (1917)

And the man knew Eve his wife; and she conceived and bore Cain, and said: 'I have gotten [Heb. kanah, to get.] a man with the help of the Lord.'² And again she bore his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering;⁵ but unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.⁶ And the Lord said unto Cain: 'Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?'⁷ If thou doest well, shall it not be lifted up? and if thou doest not well, sin coucheth at the door; and unto thee is its desire, but thou mayest rule over it.'⁸ And Cain spoke unto Abel his brother. And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.⁹ And the Lord said unto Cain: 'Where is Abel thy brother?' And he said: 'I know not; am I my brother's keeper?'¹⁰ And He said: 'What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground.'¹¹ And now cursed art thou from the ground, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand.¹² When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a wanderer shalt thou be in the earth.'¹³ And Cain said unto the Lord: 'My punishment is greater than I can bear.'¹⁴ Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the land; and from Thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth; and it will come to pass, that whosoever findeth me will slay me.'¹⁵ And the Lord said unto him: 'Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.' And the Lord set a sign for Cain, lest any finding him should smite him.¹⁶ And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, [That is, Wandering.] on the east of Eden.¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bore Enoch; and he builded a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.¹⁸ And unto Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael; and Mehujael [Heb. Mehijael] begot Methushael; and Methushael begot Lamech.¹⁹ And Lamech took unto him two wives; the name of one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of such as dwell in tents and have cattle.²¹ And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all such as handle the harp and pipe.²² And Zillah, she also bore Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of brass and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.²³ And Lamech said unto his wives: Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech; for I have slain a man for wounding me, and a young man for bruising me;²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son, and called his name Seth: [Heb. Sheth.] 'for God hath [Heb. shath.] appointed me another seed instead of Abel; for Cain slew him.'²⁶ And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh; then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.

Genesis, Chapter 4

Everett Fox

- 1 The human knew Havva his wife,
she became pregnant and bore Kayin.
She said:
Kaniti / I-have-gotten
a man, as has LORD!
- 2 She continued bearing—his brother, Hevel.
Now Hevel became a shepherd of flocks, and Kayin became a
worker of the soil.
- 3 It was, after the passing of days
that Kayin brought, from the fruit of the soil, a gift to LORD,
- 4 and as for Hevel, he too brought—from the firstborn of his flock,
from their fat-parts.
LORD had regard for Hevel and his gift,
- 5 for Kayin and his gift he had no regard.
Kayin became exceedingly upset and his face fell.
- 6 LORD said to Kayin:
Why are you so upset? Why has your face fallen?
- 7 Is it not thus:
If you intend good, bear-it-aloft,
but if you do not intend good,
at the entrance is sin, a crouching-demon,
toward you his lust—
but you can rule over him.
- 8 Kayin said to Hevel his brother ...
But then it was, when they were out in the field
that Kayin rose up against Hevel his brother
and he killed him.
- 9 LORD said to Kayin:
Where is Hevel your brother? He said:
I do not know. Am I the watcher of my brother?
- 10 Now he said:
What have you done!
A sound—your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil!
- 11 And now,
damned be you from the soil,
which opened up its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
- 12 When you wish to work the soil
it will not henceforth give its strength to you;
wavering and wandering must you be on earth!
- 13 Kayin said to LORD:
My iniquity is too great to be borne!
- 14 Here, you drive me away today from the face of the soil,
and from your face must I conceal myself,

I must be wavering and wandering on earth—
now it will be
that whoever comes upon me will kill me!

- 15** LORD said to him:
No, therefore,
whoever kills Kayin, sevenfold will it be avenged!
LORD set a sign for Kayin,
so that whoever came upon him would not strike him down.
- 16** Kayin went out from the face of LORD
and settled in the land of Nod/Wandering, east of Eden.
- 17** Kayin knew his wife;
she became pregnant and bore Hanokh.
Now he became the builder of a city
and called the city's name according to his son's name, Hanokh.
- 18** To Hanokh was born Irad,
Irad begot Mehuyael,
Mehuyael begot Metushael,
Metushael begot Lemekh.
- 19** Lemekh took himself two wives,
the name of the (first) one was Ada, the name of the second was Tzilla.
- 20** Ada bore Yaval,
he was the father of those who sit amidst tent and herd.
- 21** His brother's name was Yuval,
he was the father of all those who play the lyre and the pipe.
- 22** And Tzilla bore as well—Tuval-Kayin,
burnisher of every blade of bronze and iron.
Tuval-Kayin's sister was Naama.
- 23** Lemekh said to his wives:
Ada and Tzilla, hearken to my voice,
wives of Lemekh, give ear to my saying:
Aye—a man I kill for wounding me,
a lad for only bruising me!
- 24** Aye—if sevenfold vengeance be for Kayin,
then for Lemekh, seventy-sevenfold!
- 25** Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son.
She called his name: Shet / Granted-One!
meaning: God has granted me another seed in place of Hevel,
for Kayin killed him.
- 26** To Shet as well a son was born,
he called his name: Enosh/Mortal.
At that time they first called out the name of LORD.

Genesis, Chapter 4

Robert Alter

1 And the human knew Eve his woman and she conceived and bore Cain, and she said, "I have got me a man with the Lord. 2 And she bore as well his brother, Abel, and Abel became a herder of sheep while Cain was a tiller of the soil. 3 And it happened in the course of time that Cain brought from the fruit of the soil an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel too had brought from the choice firstlings of his flock, and the Lord regarded Abel and his offering 5 but He did not regard Cain and his offering, and Cain was very incensed, and his face fell. 6 And the Lord said to Cain.

"Why are you incensed,
and why is your face fallen?

7 For whether you offer well,
or whether you do not,
at the tent flap sin crouches
and for you is its longing
but you will rule over it."

8 And Cain said to Abel his brother, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 And the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? Listen! your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil. 11 And so, cursed shall you be by the soil that gaped with its mouth to take your brother's blood from your hand. 12 If you till the soil, it will no longer give you its strength. A restless wanderer shall you be on the earth." 13 And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is too great to bear. 14 Now that You have driven me this day from the soil and I must hide from Your presence, I shall be a restless wanderer on the earth and whoever finds me will kill me." 15 And the Lord said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain shall suffer sevenfold vengeance." And the Lord set a mark upon Cain so that whoever found him would not slay him.

16 And Cain went out from the Lord's presence and dwelled in the land of Nod east of Eden. 17 And Cain knew his wife and she conceived and bore Enoch. Then he became the builder of a city and called the name of the city, like his son's name, Enoch. 18 And Irad was born to Enoch, and Irad begot Mehujael and Mehujael begot Methusael and Methusael begot Lamech. 19 And Lamech took him two wives, the name of the one was Adah and the name of the other was Zillah. 20 And Adah bore Jabal: he was the first of tent dwellers with livestock. 21 And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the first of all who play on the lyre and pipe. 22 As for Zillah, she bore Tubal-Cain, who forged every tool of copper and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. 23 And Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, O hearken my voice,
You wives of Lamech, give ear to my speech.

For a man have I slain for my wound,
a boy for my bruising.

24 For sevenfold Cain is avenged,
and Lamech seventy and seven."

25 And Adam again knew his wife and she bore a son and called his name Seth, as to say, "God has granted me other seed in place of Abel, for Cain has killed him." 26 As for Seth, to him, too, a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. It was then that the name of the Lord was first invoked.

Genesis, Chapter 4

Richard Elliott Friedman

¹And the human had known Eve, his woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain and said, "I've created a man with LORD." ²And she went on to give birth to his brother, Abel. And Abel was a shepherd of flocks, and Cain was a worker of ground. ³And it was at the end of some days, and Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the ground. ⁴And Abel brought, as well, from the firstborn of his flock and their fat. And LORD paid attention to Abel and his offering ⁵and did not pay attention to Cain and his offering. And Cain was very upset, and his face was fallen.

⁶And LORD said to Cain, "Why are you upset, and why has your face fallen?" ⁷Is it not that if you do well you'll be raised, and if you don't do well then sin crouches at the threshold? And its desire will be for you. And you'll dominate it."

⁸And Cain said to his brother Abel. And it was while they were in the field, and Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹And LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

And he said, "I don't know. Am I my brother's watchman?"

¹⁰And He said, "What have you done? The sound! Your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground! ¹¹And now you're cursed from the ground that opened its mouth to take your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground it won't continue to give its potency to you. You'll be a roamer and rover in the earth."

¹³And Cain said to LORD, "My crime is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Here, you've expelled me from the face of the ground today, and I'll be hidden from your presence, and I'll be a roamer and rover in the earth, and anyone who finds me will kill me."

¹⁵And LORD said to him, "Therefore: anyone who kills Cain, he'll be avenged sevenfold." And LORD set a sign for Cain so that anyone who finds him would not strike him. ¹⁶And Cain went out from LORD's presence and lived in the land of roving, east of Eden.

¹⁷And Cain knew his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. And he was a builder of a city, and he called the name of the city like the name of his son: Enoch. ¹⁸And Irad was born to Enoch, and Irad fathered Mehuya-el, and Mehuya-el fathered Metusha-el, and Metusha-el fathered Lamech. ¹⁹And Lamech took two wives. The one's name was Adah, and the second's name was Zillah. ²⁰And Adah gave birth to Yabal. He was father of tent-dweller and cattleman. ²¹And his brother's name was Yubal. He was father of every player of lyre and pipe. ²²And Zillah, too, gave birth to Tubal-Cain, forger of every implement of bronze and iron. And Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah. ²³And Lamech said to his wives:

Adah and Zillah, listen to my voice,
Wives of Lamech, hear what I say.
For I've killed a man for a wound to me
And a boy for a hurt to me,
²⁴For Cain will be avenged sevenfold
And Lamech seventy-seven.

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she gave birth to a son, and she called his name Seth, "because God put another seed for me in place of Abel because Cain killed him." ²⁶And a son was born to Seth, him as well, and he called his name Enosh. Then it was begun to invoke the name LORD.

Genesis, Chapter 4

Chaim Stern 7"7

In "The Torah: A Modern Commentary," edited by W. Gunther Plaut

1] The man now was intimate with his wife; she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain, saying, "Both I and the Eternal have made a man." **2]** She then continued, giving birth to his brother Abel. Abel became a shepherd, while Cain tilled the soil.

3] [One day,] in the course of time, Cain brought some of his harvest as an offering to the Eternal, **4]** and Abel, too, brought [an offering] from among the choice lambs of his flock and their fattest parts. The Eternal approved Abel and his offering, **5]** but did not approve Cain and his offering. Cain was filled with rage; his face fell. **6]** The Eternal One then said to Cain,

"Why are you so angry?

Why your fallen face?

7] Would you not do well to lift it?

For if you do not do well—

sin is a demon at the door;

you are the one it craves,

and yet you can govern it."

8] Cain now thought about his brother Abel....Then, when they were in the field, Cain turned on his brother Abel and killed him. **9]** Then the Eternal One said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And he replied, "How should I know; am I my brother's keeper?" **10]** And [God] said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood is shrieking to Me from the ground! **11]** Now you are cursed by this very soil, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hands. **12]** When you till the soil, no longer shall it give you its yield. You shall become a rootless wanderer on the earth." **13]** Cain then said to the Eternal One, "My punishment is too heavy to bear! **14]** Seeing as now You have expelled me from the face of the soil and I must hide from Your face, I am become a rootless wanderer on the earth, and anyone who finds me might kill me!" **15]** "Not so," said the Eternal One. "Should anyone kill Cain, he would be avenged sevenfold." And the Eternal gave Cain a sign, that none who came upon him would kill him. **16]** Cain then went away from before the Eternal, and settled in the Land of Nomads, east of Eden.

17] Cain then was intimate with his wife, who became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch; he became the founder of a city, and he named the city after his son, Enoch. **18]** To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad begot Mehiyael, and Mehiyael begot Metushael, and Metushael begot Lamech. **19]** Lamech took two wives: one was named Adah and the other was named Zillah. **20]** Adah bore Jubal—he was the progenitor of tent dwellers and herders. **21]** And his brother's name was Jubal—he was the progenitor of all who play the lute and the long flute. **22]** As for Zillah, she too bore: Tubal-Cain, a smith, progenitor of every artisan who makes copper and iron tools; and Naamah was Tubal-Cain's sister. **23]** Now Lamech said to his wives Adah and Zillah,

"Hearken to me, wives of Lamech,

give ear to my speech:

because of my bruise I've slain a man,

because of my wound, a lad.

24] Cain is avenged sevenfold,

and Lamech seventy-seven!"

25] Adam once again was intimate with his wife, and she bore a son and gave him the name "Seth"—"since God has given me another offspring in place of Abel"—for Cain had slain him!

26] As for Seth, to him too was born a son, and he named him Enosh. Then it was that people began to invoke the Eternal.