

THE BIBLICAL FAMILY AND THE ROOTS OF OUR DIVIDED SOCIETY

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1. The Garden of Eden and Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel

The Garden of Eden

: וַיָּקֶם קַיִן אֶל הֶבֶּל אָחִיו <u>וַיּהרְגַהוּ</u>	וַתִּקַּח מִפְּרְיוֹ <u>וּתּאׁכַל</u>
	<u>וְיַצו</u> יְדוְד <u>לא תאכל</u>
וַיּאמֶר יְדוָד אֶל ק <u>ּיִן אי</u> הֶבֶל אָחִי ךּ	ַויָּקְרָאוַיּאׁמֶר לוֹ <u>איִּכְּה</u>
ּ נִיּאמֶר לֹא יָדַעְתִּי הֲשֹׁמֵר אָחִי אָנֹכִי	וַיּאמֶרוָאִירָא כִּי עֵירֹם אָנֹכִי וָאֵחָבֵא הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִפְּדִי הָוא נָתְנָה לִי
וַיּאֹבֶר <u>בָּה עָשִׂיתָ</u>	וַיּאמֶר יְדוָד אֱלֹהִים לָאִשָּׁה <u>מַה זּאַת.</u> עשׂית
וְעַתָּה אָרוּר אָתָה	וּלְאָדָם אָמֵר <u>אַרוּרָה הָאַדָּמָה</u> בַּעֲבוּרֶ ך ּ
לפתח <u>חטאת</u> רובץ גדול <u>עוני</u> מנשוא	
ואליך תשוקתו <u>ואתה תמשל בו</u>	אל אישך תשוקתך <u>והוא ימשל בך</u>
הן <u>גרשת</u> אותי <u>וַיְּצ</u> ֵא קַיִּןוישב קדמת עדן	<u>וּיְגָרְשׁ</u> אֶת הָאָדָם וַיַּשְׁכֵּן <u>מִקּדָם לְגוּ עִדָּו</u>
וַיַּדַע קַיִן אֶת אִשְׁתּוֹ	: וָהַאַדָם יַדַע אֶת חַנָּה אִשְּׁתּוֹ

She took from the fruit and ate	Cain arose over Abel his brother and killed
	him
The Lord commanded "do not eat (of the	
tree)"	
He (the Lord) called and said, "Where are	The Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your
you?"	brother?"

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He said, "I was afraid because I was naked	He said, "I do not know… Am I my brother's
the woman you gave me—gave me from	keeper?"
the tree"	
What have you done?	What have you done?
To the man "Cursed be the ground for	And now, you are cursed
you"	
To your husband is your <u>desire</u> and he shall	Its <u>desire</u> is to you and you may <u>rule</u> over it
<u>rule</u> over you	
	At the doorway <u>sin</u> couches
	At the doorway sin couches
	My <u>sin</u> is too great to bear
He <u>banished</u> Ha-adam and stationed <u>east</u>	"Behold, You have <u>banished</u> me"
of the garden of Eden the cherubim	Caindwelled to the <u>east of Eden</u>
The Lord God made garments of skins for	The Lord put a mark on Cain, lest anyone
the man and his wife and dressed them	who met him should kill him
the man and his whe and dressed them	who met iiiii should kiii iiiiii
The man knew his wife Eve	Cain knew his wife

2. Cain and Abel

א) וְהָאָדֶם יָדַע אֶת חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת קַיִן וַתּאֹמֶר קַנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת יִדוְֹד :ב) וַתִּסְף לָלֶדֶת אֶת אַחִיו אֶת הַבָּל וַיְהִי הֶבֶל רֹעֵה צֹאן וְקַיִן הָיָה עֹבֵד אֲדָמָה :ג) וַיְהִי מִקּץ יָמִים וַיְּבֵא קִין מִפְּרִי הָאָדְמָה מִּנְחָר לִידְּדְ ד :ד) וְהֶבֶל הַבִּיא ג<u>ם הוּא</u> מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ וּמַחְלְבַהְן וִיִּשִׁע יְדוָֹד אֶל הֶבֶּל וְאֶל מִיְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה וַיִּחַר לְקַיִן מְאֹד וַיִּפְּלוּ בָּנִיו: (ו) וַיְּאמֶר ה' אֶל־קֵין לֶמָה תְּהְבָל אָחֵיו וַיְהָל בְּהְיוֹתְם בַּשְּׁלָה בָּנֵיף וְמָלִיך וְאֶל מְנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה וַיִּחָר לְקַיִן מְאֹד וַיִּפְלוּ בְּנֵיף וְנָשְׁת רֹבֵץ וְאֵלֶיךְ מְאַב תְּיִם בְּשְׁלִבְּן וְאֶל מְנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁלָה לָיִן אֶלהְבָּל אָחֵיו וַיְיְהִיל בְּהְיוֹתְם בַּשְּׁלָה וְנִיּקִם קִין אֶלּהָבְל אַחֵין וְיְהָל בְּהְיוֹתְם בַּשְּׁלָה וְמִי אָלִיךְ אָלִיקְב אָלִין אֶל הָבְיל אָחֶיך וְיִבְּל אָחֶיך וְאָל מְיִלְם בְּשְׁלָּת יְקוֹלְ אֶלּלְיִן אֶל הְלָיִן אֶל הְחָין וְיִיּשְׁת יְקוֹלְ אֶל לְיִן אֶל הְלָיִן אֶל מְיִלְם בְּשְׁלְתוֹ וְשְּלְתוֹ וְמִי אָלִייך בְּנִבְּי הְיִלְבְּל אָתְיך וְלִילְ אָל בְּיִלְתְּי הְלִּלְ אֶלּלְיִן אֶלְיך אֲלִין אֵלְה בְּיִי אָלִיךְ אַלְיִב בְּעִלְם הְיוֹבְי בְּתִי אָּלִיךְ אָלִם מְן וְיִבְּעִי הְוֹלִים בְּעִּבְים אָלִים בְּעִי אָלִיךְ בְּלִים אָלִין אָלִים אָלִים בְּלִים בְּעִי אָלִיךְ צְּלִים אָלִיךְ צִּלְיִם אָבִיי אָלִיף אָלִיך אָלִיך אָּבְים אָלִים מִיי אָלִיף בְּעָים אַלִים אָלִיךְ צִּעְקִים אָלִי מִרְרָהִאי אָחִיך בְּיִּאל מִי אָלִיךְ בְּלִי אָלִיךְ בְּעִיי אָלִיךְ צִּעְקִים אָלִים בְּבִי אָּלִיךְ בְּבִּי אָלִיךְ בְּעִבִים אָלִים בְּיִבּי אָלִיךְ בְּעִבּי בְּלִּים בְּבִּי בְּעִבּים אָלִים בְּיִי בְּיִי בְּיִי בְּיִי בְּיִבְי בְּבְּי בְּלִים בְּבְיי בְּבְיי בְּבְּי בְּיִי בְּיִבְי בְּבִיי בְּיִי בְּיִּי בְּבְּי בְּבְיי בְּלְיִים בְּבְיי בְּבְיי בְּבְּי בְּבְּבְּי בְּיִי בְּבְיי בְּבְּי בְּבְּבְיי בְּבְּי בְּבְיי בְּבְּבּי בְּיִי בְּבְּבְי בְּבְּי בְּבְּבְּי בְּבְּי בְּבְּי בְּבְּבְים בְּיִי בְּבְּי בְּבְּיִי בְּיִי בְּבְיּי בְּבְּבְיי בְּבְּי בְּבְּיִי בְּבְּי בְּבְּי בְּבְּבְיים בְּבּי בְּיִים בְּיבְּיבְיי בְּבְּים בְּיִבְּ

The man knew Eve... she conceived and bore Cain, and said: 'I have acquired a man with the LORD.' And she continued to give birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a tiller of the ground. At the end of days, Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD paid heed to Abel and to his offering; but to Cain and to his offering He did not pay heed. And Cain was very angry and his face fell. And the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry and why has your face fallen? Is it not so: if you do well, there will be uplift, and if you do not do well, sin couches at the door; and to you is its desire, but you may rule over it." And Cain said to Abel his brother, and it was when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and killed him. The Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."



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3. Abarbanel on verse 1

I have acquired a man with the Lord. ... she said this in order to brag: if the first time, woman was created from man—flesh of his flesh and bone of his bones—now the man, Cain, is made from the woman, Havvah... Therefore, man has no superiority over woman, since now man comes from woman. 'I have acquired a man with God' means she attributed (Cain) to herself and not to his father.

4. Radak on verse 7

הלא אם תטיב שאת - אם תטיב לבך ומעשיך יהיה לך \underline{wm} , פירוש כפרה וסליחה כמו \underline{tub} (שמות לייד) של חטאת הוא יצר הרע...

If you will do well there will be uplift. If you improve your heart and deeds you will have uplift, meaning atonement and forgiveness of sin, that is the evil inclination...

Bereishit 49:3

ּרָאוּבֶן בָּכֹרָי אַתָּה כֹּחִי וְרֵאשִׁית אוֹנִי <u>יתר שֹאַת</u> וְיֵתֵר עָז :

Reuben, you are my first born... exceeding in rank and exceeding in honor.

Bereishit 1

ּ וַיַּצַשׂ אֱלֹהִים... אֱת־הַפָּאָוֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמֵמְשֵׁלֶת הַיֹּוֹם וְאֶת־הַפָּאָוֹר הַקָּטֹן לְמֵמְשֵׁלֶת הַלַּיִּלָה וְאֵת הַכּוֹכָבֵים

God made... the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars.

5. Bereishit Rabbah

Cain said to Abel his brother...What were they arguing about? They said, "Come, let us divide the world." One took the land and the other took the moveable objects. One said, "The land you are standing on his mine." The other said, "What you are wearing is mine." One said, "Take it off!" the other said, "Get off!" As a result, "Cain arose over Abel his brother and killed him."

... What were they arguing about? One said, "In my portion will the holy temple be built." The other said, "In my portion will the holy temple be built"... As a result, Cain arose over Abel his brother and killed him."

Rabbi Yehuda bar Ami said, "They were arguing about Havvah."

Rashi on verse 8:

: נכנס עמו בדברי ריב ומצה להתעולל עליו להרגו ויש בזה מדרשי אגדה אך זה ישובו של מקרא

Cain said to Abel. He engaged in contentious words with him, to create a pretext to kill him. There are many midrashim on this, but this is the plain sense of the text.

6. Bereishit 37

וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֵת <u>דּבּתם</u> רָעָה אֵל אֲבִיהֵם... וַיִּשְׂנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ <u>דַּבּרוֹ</u> לְשָׁלֹם...

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Joseph brought <u>bad reports</u> of them to their father... they hated him so that they <u>could not speak</u> a friendly word to him.

וּיָאמְרוּ לוֹ אֶחָׁיו... <u>אם־מְשִּׁוֹל תִּמְשִׁׁל בָּ</u>נוּ וַיּוֹסְפּוּ עוֹד שְׁנָא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלֹמֹתָיו וְעַל־דְּבְרָיוּ: וַיַּחֲלָם עוֹד הְנִּא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלֹמֹתָיו וְעַל־דְּבְרָיוּ: וַיַּחְלֶם עוֹד הְנִּא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲבָּתְיוּ וְיִּאֹמֶר הִנֵּה חָלַמְתֵּי חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנְּה הַשִּׁמְשׁ וְהִיּרֹח וְאַחָד עָשְׁרֹ כִּוֹּכְבִּים מֵשְׁתַּחֵנִים לֵי: מֵשְׁתַּחֵנִים לֵי:

His brothers said, "...Do you mean to rule over us?" They hated him even more for his dreams and his words. He dreamed another dream and told his brothers. He said, "... the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

7. Bereishit 39

ַוּיְהִֿי <u>פִּדבְּרָהּ</u> אֶל־יוֹסֵף יָוֹם| יָוֹם וְלֹא־שָׁמֵע אֵלֶיהָ לִשְׁכֵּב אֶצְלֶהּ... <u>וַתְּדַבֵּר</u> אֵלֶיוֹ בַּ<u>דְּבַרִים</u> הָאֵלֶּה לֵ<u>אמָר</u> בָּא־אֵלֵי הָעֶבֶד הָעִבְרֶי אֲשֶׁר־הֵבֵאתָ לֶנוּ לְצַחֶק בִּי... וַיְהִי כִשְׁמֹעַ אֲדֹנָיו אֶת־דַּבָרָי אִשְׁתֹּוֹ אֲשֶׁר דַּבְּרָה אֵלָיוֹ לֵאמֹר כַּדְּבָרָים הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׁה לִי עַבְדֶּדְּ וַיָּחֵר אַפֵּוֹ :

She <u>spoke</u> to Joseph every day and he would not heed her to lie with her...

She <u>spoke</u> to him, with these <u>words</u>, <u>saying</u>: "The Hebrew slave whom you brought came to dally with me..." When his master heard the <u>words</u> of his wife which she had <u>spoken</u> to him <u>saying</u>...

8. Bereishit 45, 50

וַיּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל אֶחָיו אֲנִי יוֹסֵף... וְלֹא יָכְלוּ אֶחָיו לַעֲנוֹת אֹתוֹ פִּי נִבְּחֲלוּ מִפְּנָיו.. ויאמר יוסף אל אחיו גְּשׁוּ נָא אֵלֵי וַיִּגְּשׁוּ וַיּאמֶר אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אֲחִיכֶם אֲשֶׁר מְכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי מִצְרָיְמָה...וְעַתָּּה לְאֹ־אַתֶּם אֹתָרֹּ ... אֹתָדֹּ ...

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph... and they were <u>unable to answer him</u> because they were dumbfounded... Joseph said... "Draw near to me," and they drew near. And he said, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold to Egypt... now, it is not you who sent me here, but God; He has made me a father to Pharaoh... and a <u>ruler</u> over all the land of Egypt... I will provide for you..."

וַיִּפַּל עַל צַוְּארֵי בִנָיָמִן אָחִיו וַיֵּבְדָּ... וַיְנַשֵּׁק לְכָל אֶחָיו וַיֵּבְדְּ עֲלֵהֶם וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן <u>דּבְּרוּ אָחַיו אתּו</u>

He fell on Benjamin's neck and cried and Benjamin cried on his neck... and he kissed all his brothers and cried upon them, and afterwards his brothers spoke to him.

<u>... וַיְנַחֱם אוֹתָם וַיִּדַבֵּר עַל לַבַּם</u> :

...[And Joseph] consoled them, speaking to their hearts.