

More “Sevens” in Gen 1-6:9

in Gen 4 alone:

Abel = 7 times
'*ab* (brother) = 7 times
shem (name) = 7 times
Cain's sevenfold protection (4.15)
Lamech's 77 fold vengeance (4.24)
Seth = seventh generation from Adam/Eve (4.25)

in Gen 2-4:

'*erets* (earth) = 7 times
sadeh (field) = 7 times
'*adamah* (ground) = 14 times
gan (garden) + Eden + *qedhem* (east) = 21 times
divine name (*YHWH*, '*elohim*, *YHWH* '*elohim*) = 35 times

Parallels between Gen 3 and Gen 4:2-17

Thematic:

Face to face trial
Punishment in the form of a curse
Punishment tempered
God is responsible for action which protects transgressor from full consequences (clothes, protective mark)
Punishment as expulsion

Verbal links:

Know/knowledge (including “knowing wife” as aftermath): 3.5, 7, 22; 4.1, 9, 16
Temptation through “serpent”: 3.1-7; 4.7
Heb '*bd*, “till” or “serve”: 3.23, 4.2
Dominate/master: 3.16, 4.7
Question of “where” someone is: 3.9, 4.9
Curse/earth: 3.17, 4.11
“banish”: 3.24, 4.14
hidden from divine presence: 3.8, 10; 4.14
east of Eden: 3.24, 4.16

Structure of Gen 4

PART 1: 4:1-16: THE 'ADAM KNEW EVE

vv. 1-2: *introduction*: Eve's claim vis a vis YHWH: birth of Cain (tiller) and Abel (shepherd)
vv. 3-5: the offerings to YHWH and YHWH's “regard” (or lack)
v. 6-7: Cain's first dialogue with YHWH: the challenge to master sin
v. 8: Cain and Abel (no dialogue in Masoretic text)
vv. 9-15: Cain's second dialogue with YHWH: trial and punishment
v. 16: *conclusion*: Cain's departure from YHWH's presence

PART 2: 4:17-24: CAIN KNEW HIS WIFE

v. 17: Enoch: son and city
v. 18: four generations from Enoch to Lamech
vv. 19-22: Lamech's family: civilization's ancestors
vv. 23-24: Lamech's “song,” recalling Cain

PART 3: 4:25-26: ADAM KNEW HIS WIFE AGAIN

v. 25: Eve's claim vis a vis Elohim: birth of Seth in place of others
v. 26: birth: “calling his name”: Enosh (“humanity”) and YHWH