

Thematic Wordplay in Genesis: some examples

Hebrew word	translation	use in Genesis
<i>Following words use only the Hebrew consonants, אדמ</i>		
<i>'adam</i>	Earth creature	Starting at 2:7, 46 times in Genesis
<i>'adamah</i>	Topsoil, ground, earth (as loose soil, not "land" or "planet")	Starting at 1:25, 2:6; 27 times in Gen 1-9
<i>dam</i>	Blood	4:10, 9:4-6, 37:22, 26, 31, etc.
<i>'adom</i>	Red	25:30 only
<i>Edom</i>	Name for Esau and a people of a particular geographic place	25:30, 32:3, 36:1, 8, 16, etc.
<i>Following words use only the Hebrew consonants, ערום</i>		
<i>`arom</i>	Naked	2:25
<i>`arum</i>	Crafty, sly	3:1
<i>Close semantic "cousins" of above</i>		
<i>`eyrom</i>	Naked	3:7, 10, 11
<i>'arur</i>	to curse, cursed	3:14, 17; 4:11, 5:29, 9:25, etc.
<i>Following words use only the Hebrew consonants, צחק</i>		
<i>yitschaq</i>	to laugh, laughter (or mock)	17:17, 18:12-15, 19:14, 21:6
<i>yitschaq</i>	Sexual fondling	21:9 (?), 26:8, 39:14, 17
<i>Yitschaq</i>	Abraham and Sarah's son	17:19, etc.
<i>Following words use only the Hebrew consonants, שם</i>		
<i>Shem</i>	Name of Adam and Eve's third son	5:32, 6:10, etc.
<i>shem</i>	Name (both a given name of person or divinity and "reputation")	2:10, 3:20, esp. contrast 11:4, 9, 10, 11 with 12:2, 8
<i>sham</i>	There	2:8, 10, 11, 12; 11:2, 7, 8, 9

Chart by Wes Howard-Brook