



# CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR YOUR SAKE

## An Introduction to Jewish Farming

Sourcesheet compiled by Nati Passow

### Genesis 2:8-9

And G'd planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there put the earthling (Adam) whom G'd had formed. And out of the ground (adamah) G'd made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

### בראשית ב':ח'-ט'

וַיֵּטֶע יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים גֶּן-עֵדֶן מִקְדָּם וַיִּשֶׂם שֵׁם אֶת-הָאֲדָמָה  
אֲשֶׁר יָצַר: וַיִּצְלַח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִן-הָאֲדָמָה כָּל-עֵץ נֹחֵמַד  
לְמַרְאֶה וְטוֹב לְמַאֲכָל וְעֵץ הַחַיִּים בְּתוֹךְ הָגֶן וְעֵץ הַדַּעַת  
טוֹב וָרָע:

### Genesis 2:15-17

And G'd took the Adam and put him into the Garden of Eden to work it and to protect it. And G'd commanded the Adam, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it. For in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die."

### בראשית ב':ט"ו-י"ז

וַיִּקַּח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם וַיִּנְחֵהוּ בְּגֶן-עֵדֶן לְעֹבְדָהּ  
וּלְשֹׁמְרָהּ: וַיֹּצֵא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים עַל-הָאָדָם לֵאמֹר מִכָּל-עֵץ הָגֶן  
אָכַל תֹּאכַל: וּמִעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי בְיוֹם  
אָכַלְתָּ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת:

### Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild beasts that the Divine, Holy One had made. He said to the woman, "Did G'd really say: You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" The woman replied to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the other trees of the garden. It is only about fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that G'd said: 'You shall not eat of it or touch it, lest you die.' And the serpent said to the woman, "You are not going to die, but G'd knows that as soon as you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like divine beings who know good and bad." When the woman saw that the tree was good for eating and a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable as a source of wisdom, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

### בראשית ג':א'-ו'

וְהַנָּחָשׁ הָיָה עָרוּם מִכָּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-הָאִשָּׁה אַף כִּי-אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִכָּל  
עֵץ הָגֶן: וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-הַנָּחָשׁ מִפְּרִי עֵץ-הָגֶן נֹאכָל:  
וּמִפְּרִי הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ-הָגֶן אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִמֶּנּוּ  
וְלֹא תִגְעוּ בוֹ פֶּן-תָּמוּתוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר הַנָּחָשׁ אֶל-הָאִשָּׁה לֹא-מוֹת  
תָּמוּתוּ: כִּי יָדַע אֱלֹהִים כִּי בְיוֹם אָכַלְתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִפְקַחוּ עֵינֵיכֶם  
וְהִיתֶם כְּאֱלֹהִים יְדְעֵי טוֹב וָרָע: וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ  
לְמַאֲכָל וְכִי תִאווֶה-הִוא לְעֵינֶיהָ וְנֹחֵמַד הָעֵץ לְהַשְׁכִּיל וַתִּקַּח  
מִפְּרִיָּו וַתֹּאכַל וַתֵּתֶן גַּם-לְאִישָׁהּ עִמָּה וַיֹּאכְלוּ:

## Genesis 3:17-19

And unto Adam G'd said: 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying: You shall not eat of it; cursed is the ground for your sake; in suffering shall you eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the grass of the field. By the sweat of your brow shall you eat bread, until you return to the ground; for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר כִּי־שָׁמַעְתָּ לְקוֹל אִשְׁתְּךָ וְתָאכַל מִן־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לֵאמֹר לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ אֲרֻרָה הָאֲדָמָה בְּעִבְיֹךָ בְּעִצְבוֹן תֹּאכְלֶנָּה כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ: וְקוֹץ וְדַרְדַּר תַּצְמִיחַ לָךְ וְאָכַלְתָּ אֶת־עֵשֶׂב הַשָּׂדֶה: בְּזֵעַת אֶפְיֶךָ תֹּאכַל לֶחֶם עַד שׁוֹבוֹךְ אֶל־הָאֲדָמָה כִּי מִמֶּנָּה לָקַחְתָּ כִּי־עָפָר אַתָּה וְאֶל־עָפָר תָּשׁוּב:

## Genesis 4:1-17

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gained a male child with the help of the Divine, Holy One." She then bore his brother Abel. Abel became a keeper of sheep, and Cain became a tiller of the soil. In the course of time, Cain brought an offering to the Divine, Holy One from the fruit of the soil; and Abel, for his part, brought the choicest of the firstlings of his flock. The Divine, Holy One paid heed to Abel and his offering, but to Cain and his offering He paid no heed. Cain was much distressed and his face fell. And the Divine, Holy One said to Cain, "Why are you distressed, And why is your face fallen? Surely, if you do right, There is uplift. But if you do not do right Sin couches at the door; Its urge is toward you, Yet you can be its master." Cain said to his brother Abel ... and when they were in the field, Cain set upon his brother Abel and killed him. The Divine, Holy One said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" Then He said, "What have you done? Hark, your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground! Therefore, you shall be more cursed than the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. If you till the soil, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. You shall become a ceaseless wanderer on earth." Cain said to the Divine, Holy One, "My punishment is too great to bear! Since You have banished me this day from the soil, and I must avoid Your presence and become a restless wanderer on earth—anyone who meets me may kill me!" The Divine, Holy One said to him, "I promise, if anyone kills Cain, sevenfold vengeance shall be taken on him." And the Divine, Holy One put a mark on Cain, lest anyone who met him should kill him. Cain left the presence of the Divine, Holy One and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he then founded a city, and named the city after his son Enoch.

## בראשית ד': א'-י"ז

וַהֲאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתֵּהָרֵי וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת־יְהוָה: וַתִּסְפָּף לִלְדֹת אֶת־אָחִיו אֶת־הָאֵל וַיְהִי־הָקָל רָעָה צָאן וְלָוִן הֵנָּה עִבְדָּה אֲדָמָה: וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ יָמִים וַיֵּבֶא לָוִן מִפְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה מִנְחָה לַיהוָה: וְהָקָל הֵבִיא גַם־הוּא מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ וּמִסְלִכָּהוּ וַיִּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶל־הָקָל וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ: וְאֶל־קַיִן וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה וַיִּחַר לְקַיִן מְאֹד וַיִּפְּלוּ פָנָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־קַיִן לָמָּה חָרָה לָךְ וְלָמָּה נָפְלוּ פָנֶיךָ: הֲלוֹא אִם־תֵּיטִיב שְׂאֵת וְאִם לֹא תֵיטִיב לַפֶּתַח חַטָּאת רֹבֵץ וְאֵלֶיךָ תִּשְׁוָקוּתוֹ וְאַתָּה תִּמְשָׁל־בּוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל־הָקָל אָחִיו וַיְהִי בִּהְיוֹתָם בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּקָּם קַיִן אֶל־הָקָל אָחִיו וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־קַיִן אֵי הָקָל אָחִיךָ וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יָדַעְתִּי הֲשֹׁמֵר אָחִי אָנֹכִי: וַיֹּאמֶר מָה עָשִׂיתָ קוֹל דִּמִּי אָחִיךָ צֹעֲקִים אֵלַי מִן־הָאֲדָמָה: וְעַתָּה אָרִיר אֹתָהּ מִן־הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר פָּצְתָה אֶת־פִּיהָ לְקַחַת אֶת־דִּמִּי אָחִיךָ מִיָּדְךָ: כִּי תַעֲבֹד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה לֹא־תִסָּף תִּתֶּן־כֹּחָהּ לָךְ גֵּעַ וְגָד תִּהְיֶה בְּאֶרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל־יְהוָה גְּדוֹל עֲוֹנִי מִנְּשֹׂא: הֵן גִּרְשָׁתָּ אֹתִי הַיּוֹם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּמִפְּנֵיךָ אֶסְתַּר וְהָיִיתִי גֵעַ וְגָד בְּאֶרֶץ וַיְהִי כֹל־מִצְאֵי יְהִרְגֵנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יְהוָה לִכְךָ כָּל־הַרְג לָוִן שִׁבְעָתַיִם יָקָם וַיִּשֶׂם יְהוָה לְקַיִן אוֹת לְבִלְתִּי הַכּוֹת־אֹתוֹ כָּל־מִצְאֹו: וַיֵּצֵא קַיִן מִלְּפָנֵי יְהוָה וַיָּשָׁב בְּאֶרֶץ־נֹד קְדֵמַת־עֵדֶן: וַיֵּדַע קַיִן אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתֵּהָרֵי וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ וַיְהִי בִּנְהָ לָוִן וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם הָעִיר כְּשֵׁם בְּנוֹ חֲנוֹךְ:

Now there was no food in the entire land, for the famine had grown exceedingly severe, and the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan were exhausted because of the famine. And Joseph collected all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan with the grain that they were buying, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. Now the money was depleted from the land of Egypt and from the land of Canaan, and all the Egyptians came to Joseph, saying, "Give us food; why should we die in your presence, since the money has been used up?" And Joseph said, "Give [me] your livestock, and I will give you [food in return] for your livestock, if the money has been used up." So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food [in return] for the horses and for the livestock in flocks and in cattle and in donkeys, and he provided them with food [in return] for all their livestock in that year.

That year ended, and they came to him in the second year, and they said to him, "We will not hide from my lord, for insofar as the money and the property in animals have been forfeited to my lord, nothing remains before my lord, except our bodies and our farmland. Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our farmland? Buy us and our farmland for food, so that we and our farmland will be slaves to Pharaoh, and give [us] seed, so that we live and not die, and the soil will not lie fallow." So Joseph bought all the farmland of the Egyptians for Pharaoh, for the Egyptians sold, each one his field, for the famine had become too strong for them, and the land became Pharaoh's.

וְלֶחֶם אֵין בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעָב מְאֹד וַתָּלֶה אֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם וְאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן מִפְּנֵי הָרָעָב: וַיִּלְקֹט יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־הַכֶּסֶף  
הַנִּמְצָא בְּאֶרֶץ־מִצְרַיִם וּבְאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן בַּשֶּׁבֶר אֲשֶׁר־הֵם שֹׂבְרִים  
וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף בֵּיתָה פַּרְעֹה: וַיְתֵם הַכֶּסֶף מֵאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם וּמֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ כָל־מִצְרַיִם אֶל־יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר  
הִבֵּה־לָנוּ לֶחֶם וְלָמָּה נָמוּת נִגְדָּה כִּי אָפֶס כֶּסֶף: וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף  
הֲבִי מִקְנֵיכֶם וְאֶתְנֶה לָכֶם בְּמִקְנֵיכֶם אִם־אָפֶס כֶּסֶף: וַיָּבִיאוּ  
אֶת־מִקְנֵיהֶם אֶל־יוֹסֵף וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם יוֹסֵף לֶחֶם בַּסּוּסִים וּבְמִקְנֵה  
הָעֶזָּאן וּבְמִקְנֵה הַבָּקָר וּבְחֻמְרֵיהֶם וַיִּנְהֲלֵם בְּלָחֶם בְּכָל־מִקְנֵיהֶם  
בַּשָּׁנָה הַהִוא: וַתֵּתֶם הַשָּׁנָה הַהִוא וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלָיו בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִית  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא־נִכְחַד מֵאֲדֹנִי כִּי אִם־תָּם הַכֶּסֶף וּמִקְנֵה הַבְּהֵמָה  
אֶל־אֲדֹנִי לֹא נִשְׁאֵר לִפְנֵי אֲדֹנִי בְלָתִי אִם־גּוֹיְתָנוּ וְאֲדָמָתָנוּ:  
לָמָּה נָמוּת לַעֲיֹנִיד גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם אֲדָמָתָנוּ קָנָה־אֶתָּנוּ וְאֶת־  
אֲדָמָתָנוּ בְּלָחֶם וְנִהְיֶה אֲנַחְנוּ וְאֲדָמָתָנוּ עֲבָדִים לַפַּרְעֹה וְתוֹ־  
זָרַע וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת וְהָאֲדָמָה לֹא תִשָּׁם: וַיִּקֹּן יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־  
אֲדָמַת מִצְרַיִם לַפַּרְעֹה כִּי־מָכְרוּ מִצְרַיִם אִישׁ שְׂדֵהוּ כִּי־חֲזַק  
עָלָהֶם הָרָעָב וַתְּהִי הָאָרֶץ לַפַּרְעֹה: