

D. "It is true that Cain killed, but he had no one from whom to learn [the consequences of such an action]. From now on, [people should know the consequences, for] whoever murders will be put to death."

2. A. "And the Lord put a mark [on Cain, lest any who came upon him should kill him]" (Gen. 4:15):

B. R. Judah said, "He made the orb of the sun shine for him."

C. Said to him R. Nehemiah, "Do you think that for that wicked man God would make the orb of the sun shine? Rather, he made *saraat* break out on him, in line with this verse: 'And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe you or listen to the voice of the first sign...'[*saraat* will break forth as the next sign] (Ex. 4:8)."

3. A. Rab said, "He gave him a dog." [That is the sign of Cain.]

B. Abba Yose said, "He made a horn grow on him."

4. A. Rab said, "He turned Cain into a sign [an example] for murderers." [Cain was himself the sign.]

B. R. Hanin said, "He made him an example for those who would repent."

C. R. Levi in the name of R. Simeon b. Laqish: "He kept his judgment in suspense until the flood came and swept him away: 'And he blotted out every living substance' (Gen. 7:23)."

Nos. 1, 2 present matched disputes between Judah and Nehemiah, both treating the verse at hand. No. 3 then provides other theories on what, exactly, the sign of Cain was. No. 4 treats the verse somewhat differently, regarding Cain himself as the sign, and asking what he signified. Now Rab has Cain signify the fate of murderers (as we saw above, 1.B), while to Hanin Cain signifies the possibility of forgiveness for sinners who repent. But there was no repentance, so he was swept away in the flood -- a strong finish.

XXII:XIII.

1. A. "And Cain went away [from the presence of the Lord]" (Gen. 4:16):

B. Where did he go out [since no one can leave God's presence]?

C. R. Aibu said, "He shouted over the shoulder and went away, as if to deceive the ones above. [Freedman, p. 192, n. 1: He rejected God's reproof, as though murder was a light matter.]"