the account of the heavens

and earth

Genesis 2:4 -4:26

Introduction

* perspective **s**  from God as sole actor to man as reactor
* 1:1 vs. 2:4b
* from “very good”……to **d**  and a cursed earth

Themes & Structure

* Escalation
  + Temptation
    - the **s**  tempts Adam & Eve to sin
    - Cain sins after **G**  encourages him to do what is right
  + Sin
    - eats **f**  fruit
    - murder
  + Marriage
    - one man for one woman
    - **p**
* Depravity
  + Adam before the Fall **p**  unfaithful in Paradise
  + inability of man to **k**  covenant with God
  + humanity at its best **r**  in a perfect environment
  + Adam serves as humanity’s representative **h**  cf. Rom. 5:12-21
* Sin
  + breach of **t**
  + an illicit reach of **u**
  + **a**  of autonomy
  + transgressing **d**  boundaries
* Effects of Sin
  + alienation from **G**
  + alienation from **o**
  + **h**
  + **e**  barriers
  + blame-shifting
  + deteriorating ecology
  + physical and **s**  death
* The first two acts are closely related by a chiasm
  + Creation of man: his happy relationship with the earth and his home in the garden, where he has freely growing food and access to the tree of life (2:4-17)
    - Creation of woman: her happy relationship with man (2:18-35)
      * Conversation of serpent with woman: his tempting of her (3:1-5)
        + ***The sin and God’s uncovering of it (3:6-13)***
      * Punishment of serpent: its spoiled relationship with man (3:14-15)
    - Punishment of woman: her spoiled relationship with man (3:16)
  + Punishment of man: his spoiled relationship with the earth and expulsion from his home in the garden; he now has to toil to secure food and will no longer have access to the tree of life (3:17-24)

The Toledot of the Heavens and the Earth (2:4a)

* Act 1: Scene 1
  + 2:4b-7
    - the narrator introduces an additional **n**  for God – *yhwh* (LORD)
      * covenant name for God
      * LORD God shows that the Creator of the cosmos rules history through **c**  humanity
    - *adam vs. adama* – Adam is fashioned a body from the **e**  in order to live an earthly existence
  + 2:8-14
    - The garden was an enclosed , protected **a**
    - it served as the first **t**
    - **E**  was the larger area in which the garden was located
  + 2:15-17
    - work is a **g**  from God..sin has made it **t**
    - describes activity of **p**  elsewhere
    - Adam served as priest and guardian of the **g**
* Act 1: Scene 2 & Epilogue (2:18-25)
  + “not good” is **e** 
    - relationship is **m**  after God
    - the woman is a helper who is **e**  and adequate for the Man
    - In naming the animals Adam found no one **l**  him
    - God waits until Adam is prepared to **a**  the gift of woman
  + the **v**  of a woman
    - devotes **s**  verses to her creation
    - from the **r**  denotes intimacy and harmony
    - brought to the man by God who gives the **b**  away
    - the man **n**  himself in relationship to the woman – *ish / ishsha*
* Act 2: Scene 1 (3:1-7)
  + Satan’s craftiness **c**  to the couples vulnerability
  + The first example of the detrimental use of **l**
  + Truth is **d** ….for the purpose of distortion and domination
  + “you will be like divine beings knowing….(2:5)
    - WAS THIS THE TRUTH?
    - BUT….AT WHAT PRICE?
  + The Shape of Sin
    - priority is given to:
      * **p**  values
      * aesthetic **a**
      * sensual desires…rather….
    - than **o**  to God’s Word
  + knowledge of good and evil is not a **n**  state
  + Man needs **d**  from autonomy
* Act 2: Scene 2 (3:8-19)
  + See Notes Above
  + 3:15 – protoevangelium (first good news or first gospel)
* Act 2: Epilogue (3:20-24)
  + naming of **E**  beginning of hope
  + through **s**  they are restored to fellowship with God and one another
  + “us” a reference to other heavenly **b**
  + death becomes both a judgment and a **r**
* Act 3: Scene 1 (4:1-16)
  + Eve’s synergism (4:1)
  + A contrast of **w**  (4:3-5) – What is wrong with Cain’s offering?
  + Man’s relationship with **s**  – 4:6-7
* Act 3: Scene 2 (4:17-24)
  + development of human **c**  and civilization
  + **g**  civilizations but no God
* Act 3: Epilogue (4:25-26)
  + Not in chronological order
  + Eve gives God all the **c**  for the birth of Seth
  + Names of children
    - Cain – “acquire, get, possess”
    - Abel – “**v** , breath”
    - Seth – “**g** ”