

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

OLD TESTAMENT LEGENDS

M

I

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

I. ADAM AND EVE EXPELLED FROM PARADISE.
THEY SIGN A BOND FOR THE DEVIL AND TAKE
REFUGE IN THE CAVE OF NEVRON (Fig. 1).

‘Therefore ye twain must now depart—punishment
of your sin,
No longer may ye do your work this Paradise
within.’

Then the Archangel order strict upon them both
did lay,
That all unclad and all unshod they must from
thence away.

An angel from the Cherubim stood at the gates
on guard: 5
Behind Eve and the first of men the gates were
shut and barred.

Such was the sentence laid on them, a sentence
duly kept:
Before the door of Paradise they sat them down
and wept.

As Adam sat, in misery he drew full many a groan
Deep from his inmost heart, and thus he did his
fate bemoan: 10

‘O Paradise, O Paradise, planted for mine own sake,
From thee, because of my wife’s sin, I must
departure take.’

They rise, and then pursue their way all naked as
they are,
And as they walked the savage ground their
unshod feet did mar.

Darkness they never yet had seen, day had been
over all, 15
Now the sun sinks behind the west, and shades
of evening fall.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

EXPELLED FROM PARADISE

3

I

Τώρα λοιπὸν παγένεται νὰ κάμετε δουλιά σας,
 φύγεται κτὴν παράδεισον, ὡς θέλη ἀνομιά σας.

Ἄρχάγγελος τοὺς ἐπέταξεν ὀγιά νὰ καταστήσου
 ὀλόγυμνους ξυπόλυτους ἔξω τῆς παραδείσου.

Ἄγγελος τάγμα Χερουβὶμ στὲς πόρτες ἐμπο-
 δίζη, 5
 τὴν Εὐαν καὶ πρωτόπλαστον ἀπόξω τοὺς σφα-
 λίζη.

Ἐπήραν τὴν ἀπόφασιν Ἄδάμος μὲ τὴν Εὐαν,
 καὶ ἐναντίον τῆς παράδεισος ἐκάτξασιν καὶ
 κλέγαν.

Καθίζη Ἄδὰμ ὁ θλιβερός καὶ βαρυναστενάζη,
 καὶ ἀπὸ ψυχῆς ὀδύρετο, δρυμιὰν φωνὴν φω-
 νάζη. 10

Παράδεισε ἀγιώτατε, διὰ μέναν φυτεμένος,
 καὶ διὰ τῆς Εὐας τὴν βουλὴν ἀπόξω σφαισι-
 μένος.

Σικόνουνται, μισεύγουσιν, παγένουν τὴν ὀδὸν τους,
 ξηπόλυτοι καὶ ὀλόγυμνοι περιπατοῦν στὸ γόν-
 τος.

Σκότος δὲν εἶδασιν ποτέ, εἶχασιν πάντα μέρα, 15
 ὁ ἥλιος ἐβασίλευσεν, πλακόνη τους ἐσπέρα.

I—2

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

4

ADAM AND EVE

And as the shadows fell around, their way they
could not see,

The sense of sight was lost to them, they sank
upon their knee.

They thought that never more for them the day-
light would arise,

That evermore with shadows dark evening
would veil the skies. 20

Sudden the Devil thrice-accursed approached them
with his wile,

And full of envy in his heart he sought them
to beguile.

‘Say will ye me a promise make that I may comfort
give,

That in the light of sun and moon ye once
again may live?’

So they, for faint of heart they were, for him a
bond did sign, 25

And thus the freedom of themselves and all
they had resign.

‘Ourselves and all that from us come, with thee
we will hold sway,

And all that thou commandest us we’ll faithfully
obey.’

But that night passed, and lo! there came the light
of a new day,

Another night came on, and lo! that night too
passed away. 30

So once again in mockery the hopes of the twain
fled:

They smote their hands upon their breast and
bitter tears they shed.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

EXPELLED FROM PARADISE

5

Καὶ φθάνουν τοὺς τὰ σκοτεινά, χάνεται ἡ ὁδὸς
τοὺς·

κοντεύοντας τὰ γόνατα θαμπόνηται τὸ φῶς
τοὺς,

Πιστεύοντας ποτὲ σαυτοὺς νὰ μὴ ἀνατέλει ἡμέρα,
μὰ νάνε πάντα σκοτεινά, καὶ νὰ κρατεῖ ἑσπέρα.

Κ' εἰς μῖον ὁ τρισκατάρατος, ἄκου τὸ τί τοὺς
κάμνη, 21

ὁ διάβολος ὁ φθονερός εἰς πλάνον πῶς τοὺς βάνη.

Λέγει τοὺς τί μου τάσσεται, καὶ γὰρ νὰ σᾶς
ξιδράμω,

ἥλιον, φεγγάριον καὶ φῶς ὠραιότατον καὶ μέραν
νὰ σᾶς κάμω;

Καὶ αὐτοὶ ὀλιγοψυχήσασιν, χειρόγραφον τοῦ κάμ-
νον 25

(εἴ)τια λογῆν τοῦ τάξασιν, λέγουν καὶ ἀναθι-
βάνουν.

Ἡμεῖς καὶ ὅλα τὰ τέκνα μας μὲ σέναν νὰ κρατοῦμεν,
κεῖς ὅτι θέλεις μας εἰπεῖν οὐδὲ ποσὸς ναυ-
γοῦμεν.

Κ' ἡ νύκτα ἐκείνη ἐπέρασεν, κῆλθεν ἄλλη ἡμέρα,
καὶ πάλιν ἐκείνη ἐπέρασεν, κῆλθεν ἡ ἄλλη
μέρα. 30

Καὶ Ἀδὰμ πάλιν γελάστικεν δεύτερον μὲ τὴν
Εὔαν,

τὸ στῆθος τοὺς ἐδέρνασιν, φαρμακεμένα κλέγαν.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

6

CAIN'S ACT

And as they walked on night and day, at length
their footsteps came

Unto a cavern marvellous, and Nevron was its
name.

So there they crept in hand in hand, and there
they made their nest, 35

Till Death himself should find them out, which
was their long last rest.

II. CAIN'S ACT OF MURDER DETECTED. THE
CURSE LAID UPON HIM. THE BURIAL OF ABEL.

Then on a sudden was the voice of God borne on
the wind:

'Where is thy brother, tell Me, Cain, for him
I fain would find?'

Cain answer made: 'I do not know, his shepherd
who made me?'

The earth is wide for him to walk, his path
therein is free.'

'O Cain,' the Voice replied, 'what deed is this
that thou hast done? 5

The cry from that blood which thou shed'st
its way to Me hath won.

Didst thou believe the absorbing earth could hide
that blood from Me?

Didst thou believe I knew it not when I asked
"Where is he?"

A heavy curse is on thee laid that trembling thou
must fly,

And from before the face of men to mountains
waste must hie.' 10

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

OF MURDER DETECTED

7

Καὶ μέραν νύκταν περπατοῦν, κεύγαίνη τους ὁ
δρόμος

σὲ σπήλαιον παράξενον, ὄναμαν τοῦ Νευρόνος.

Ἄλλήλως μέσα ἐμπαίνουσιν, κάμνουν τὴν κατοικι-
κιάν τους, 35

ὥστε νὰ τοὺς εὔρη ὁ θάνατος, ὅπουνε ἡ παροικιά
τους.

II

Ἦλθεν φωνὴ καὶ συντυχιά ἀπὸ θεοῦ στὸν Κάϊν,
ἔρωτά τον διὰ τὸν ἀδελφόν, τὸ ποῦνε ἢ ποῦ
πάγη.

Καὶ αὐτὸς ἐπιλογήθηκεν, καὶ νάμ' ἐγὼ βοσκός του;
ἢ γῆς ἔνε τοῦ μόδου του, καὶ ὁ δρόμος ἐδικός
του.

Κάϊν, καὶ τί τον τόπικες, σ' αὐτὸν τὸν ἀδελφόν
σου; 5
τὸ αἷμαν του βοᾶ εἰς ἐμέ, κ' ἡ ἁμαρτία ὀμπρός
σου.

Ἐθάρης, Κάϊν, δηνήξευρα, ὄντεν ἐγὼ εἶπα ποῦσου;
κ' ἢ γῆς αὐτῆ κατάπινε τὸ αἷμαν τ' ἀδελφοῦ
σου;

Ἐπικατάρατος λοιπὸν νὰ τρέμης καὶ νὰ φεύγης,
καὶ ἀπὸ τὸ πρόσωπον τῆς γῆς ὄρη βουνὰ νὰ
ὀδεύης. 10

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

8

THE CURSE LAID UPON CAIN

‘But if an exile from this land I’m driven at Thy
 behest,
 I know no spot in all the world where I may
 safely rest,
 For whosoe’er shall find me out will me of surety
 slay,
 And no long time together knit will soul and
 body stay.’
 ‘Nay,’ said the Lord, ‘a promise fixed do I now
 make to thee, 15
 The man that smiteth thee to death shall never
 pardon see.
 The burden of thy seven sins he shall upon him
 take,
 The load of all thy wretchedness he shall his
 own load make.’
 All quivering like an aspen-leaf he turned himself
 to flight,
 Like hound’s in madness changéd were his colour
 and his might. 20
 When Adam came and Eve and saw Abel in death
 outlaid,
 They smote their hands upon their breasts and
 lamentation made.
 For never yet had either seen a man bereft of
 life,
 Not even at Nature’s gentle call, still less in
 violent strife.
 The more time passed, so much the more the
 corpse fell to decay. 25
 The frame of Abel who loved God began to rot
 away.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

THE BURIAL OF ABEL

9

Ἄνεν καὶ σὺ ζηγόνις με ἀπὸ τὴν γῆν ἀπόσω,
 οὐδὲν ἤξεύρω τὸ λοιπὸν νὰ πάγω ἢ ποῦ δόσω.
 Καὶ ὁποῖος ἐμὲ νὰ θελ' εὖρην εἰς μῖον διὰ νὰ
 με σφάξῃ,
 καὶ τὴν ψυχὴν ἐκ τοῦ κορμιοῦ σύντομα νὰ
 πετάξῃ.

*Ὅχι, του λέγει ὁ Κύριος σεσὲν νὰ μένε τάξῃ, 15
 μὰ νάνε ἀσυγχώρητος ὁποῦ σε θὲ πατάξῃ.

Τὰ ἑπτὰ σου ἀμαρτήματα καὶ τὲς ταλαιπορίες
 νὰ παραλάβῃς στὴν ψυχὴν, καὶ ὅλες ταῖς ἀμαρ-
 τίας.

Κ' ἦσε φυγὴν ἐτράπηκεν, καὶ τρέμει σὰν τὸ
 φύλλον,
 μαύρος πολλὰ καὶ ἀδύναμος σὰν τὸν λυσάριν
 σκύλον. 20

Καὶ ἦλθεν κῆβρεν ὁ Ἄδὰμ τὸν Ἄβελ μὲ τὴν Εὐᾶ,
 τὸ στῆθος τους ἐδέρνασιν, φαρμακεμένα κλέγα.

Διατὶ ποττὲ δὲν εἶδασιν αὐτοῖνοι ἀποθαμένον,
 οὐδὲ μὲ θάνατον καλόν, ἀλλ' οὐδε σκοτομένον.

Καὶ ὅσον ἐπέρναν ὁ καιρός, τόσον ἐκαταλιέτον 25
 ὁ Ἄβελ ὁ θεοσεβῆς, ἤρχιζεν καὶ σαπιέτον.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-316-50963-0 - Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus by Georgios Chumnos

F. H. Marshall

Excerpt

[More information](#)

10

CAIN SHOT

The longer they did gaze on him, more bitterly
they moaned,
Faster with hands they beat their breasts, and
yet more deeply groaned.
Till God in pity did send down an angel to the
place
Where Eve in tribulation cried, and Adam hid
his face. 30
'Why sit ye so,' he said to them, 'why gaze ye
thus on death,
Upon an empty shell of man bereft of blood
and breath?
Nay, take him up and carry him unto the riven
cave,
There let this lad all undefiled be laid within
a grave.
This is that death whereof God spake, when erring
ye did say 35
"As gods ourselves have we become and hence-
forth live for aye.'"
So buried by his parents' hands, Abel in earth
did lie,
Many a bitter tear they shed and heaved full
many a sigh.

III. CAIN SHOT BY THE BLIND LAMECH (Fig. 2).

Methuselah begat Lamech, that brave and stalwart
lad,
Blind was he from his earliest years, but great
the grace he had.