



## The text:

- ... Cain worked the soil (in Hebrew: 'abad' 'adamah'). (Genesis 4:2)

Hebrew uses **two words** for our concept of a **farmer**, i.e.:

## The first word:

- **abad**: a verb that can be translated as 'to work' – to serve.

In view of the verb form used, to be translated as:

- to labour, to work, to carry out work
- to work for someone else, to serve someone else by working
- to serve as subordinates
- to serve (God)
- to serve (in Levitical service)

## **A few texts:**

- Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you **work** for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." (Genesis 29:15)
- And God said (to Moses), "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will **worship** God on this mountain." (Exodus 3:12)

## The second word:

- **adamah**: a noun.

To be translated as:

- ground, land, a certain piece of land
- the earth's surface
- the whole of the inhabited earth

## **A few texts:**

- Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the **ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)
- ... then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the **land** you gave to them and their ancestors. (2 Chronicles 6:25)

Both words together are translated a few times as:

- Those who **work (abad) their land (adamah)** will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. (Proverbs 28:19 i.a.)

According to Hebrew word use, a **farmer** is to be understood as someone who:

- works the land - as a servant
- works for someone else - serves someone else by working for him
- serves, and works - as a subordinate on the land he works on, and to God.