Khaos, Broken Plows, and Discontinuity in Hesiod

(a) ἄρμενος in Works and Days

άμφι δὲ ποσὶ πέδηλα βοῶς ἤρει κταμένοι / ἄρμενα δήσασθαι, πύλοις ἐντοσθὲ πυκάσσας (541-2)
πλειῶν δὲ κατὰ χόνους ἄρμενος εἶ (617)
χρήματα δὲ εἰν οἰκῳ πάντ' ἄρμενα ποιήσασθαι (407)
ἐν δὲ τε φόρτον / ἄρμενον ἐντύνασθαι (631-2)
oúde méν ἡ πρώτη ἐκτη κοὐρη γε γενέσθαι / ἄρμενος (785-6)

(b) Plow construction, Op. 427-434

πόλλ’ ἐπικαμπύλα κάλα· φέρειν δὲ γύην, δ' ἀν εὐρῆς, εἰς οἴκων, κατ' ὄρος διζήμενος ὡς κατ' ἀρουραν,
πρίνιν· ὡς γάρ βουσίν ἀροῦν χαλκῷ λῴοιν ὡς ἀτρυγέτοιο καὶ ἀστερόεντος ἀτρυγέτοιο.
δοιὰ δὲ νεῖσθαι ἀροῦν κατὰ οἴκῳ, αὐτόγυον καὶ πηκτόν, ἐπεὶ πολὺ λῶιν οὐνω-
εὶ χεῖ ἔτερον γυ’ ἀξίς, ὑπεράνθεν κ’ ὑπὶ βουσί βάλοιο.

There is much bent firewood; bring a gué, whenever you find it
to your home, seeking it in the mountains or in the fields, one
made of holm-oak; for it is the strongest for plowing with oxen,
whenever a craftsman has planted it in the stock with pegs,
drawing it close, and fits it to the pole.
Keep two plows, working in your home,
autoguon and pêkton, since it is better this way.
If you break one, you may put the other on the oxen.

(c) Cut/approach

ἐνθα διατημέχας τὰς μὲν Κρήτη ἐπέλασεν (Od. 3.291)
tῷ οἱ ἀποτημέχας κεφαλήν οὐδάσθε πελάσασι (Od. 10.440)
χαλκῷ ταμνομένη τέρενα χ’ βοῦς φύλλα πελάσῃ (Il. 13.180)

There are the springs and limits of everything in a row
of murky earth and misty Tartarus,
and of the barren sea and of starry heaven,
woeful and moldy, things which the gods detest.
There are the gleaming gates and the bronze threshold
fitted unshakably to continuous roots,
self-grown: outside of these, apart from all the gods,
dwell the Titans, beyond dusky chaos.

(d) Chaos on the horizon, Th. 807-814

ἐνθα δὲ γύης δυνοφερῆς καὶ ταρτάρου ἕρωντος πόντου τ’ ἀτρυγέτοιο καὶ οὐρανοῦ ἀστέροεντος ἐξεῖσθας πάντων πηγαῖς καὶ πεῖρατ’ ἑσσεκ’ ἀργαλε’ εὐρώντα, τὰ τε στυγκέ ντα θεοὶ πέρ.
ἐνθα δὲ μαμάρεσαι τε πῦλαι καὶ χάλκεους οὐδόθος, ἀστεριφές βίζησι δημιουκεσσοῖ ἀρημῶς, αὐτοφυής· πρόσθεν δὲ θεῶν ἐκτοσθὲν ἀπάντων ἰττής ναίουσι, πέριην χάσεος ζοφεροῦ.

There are the sprinfs and limits of everything in a row
of murky earth and misty Tartarus,
and of the barren sea and of starry heaven,
woeful and moldy, things which the gods detest.
There are the gleaming gates and the bronze threshold
fitted unshakably to continuous roots,
self-grown: outside of these, apart from all the gods,
dwell the Titans, beyond dusky chaos.
καύμα δὲ θεσπέσιον κάτεχεν χάος· εἶσατο δὲ άντα
όφθαλμοισίν ἴδειν ἂν; οὐσιαν ὀσσαν ἀκούσαι
αὐτως; ὡς ὅτε γαῖα καὶ οὐρανός εὐρύς ύπερθε
πῦρνατο·

And an unspeakable heat held down khaos; and it seemed
for eyes to see and for ears to hear
just as when earth and broad heaven above
approached each other.

Works Cited