

Genesis Chapter 36 Commentary

1 Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom. 2 Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan; Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; 3 And Bashemath Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth.

"Esau, who is Edom" We note; we have here recorded; that which will give clarity as we read on in scripture. The names, Esau and Edom, are interchangeably used in scripture, and Esau's family became known as Edomites.

- Esau is from the Hebrew word: 'Esav (pronounced; ay-sawv') and means; *in the original sense of handling; rough.*
- Edom is from the Hebrew word: 'Edom (pronounced; ed-ome') and means; *red.*
- He was named according to his appearance at birth, as seen in: ***Ge 25:25 "And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau."***

We have in this chapter the genealogy of the family of Esau, who took wives of the land of Canaan to spite his father and mother, seen in: ***Ge 28:8-9; 8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; 9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife."***

We see in this genealogy; the fulfillment of the promise of God to Isaac and Rebekah, seen in:

- ***Ge 25:22-23; 22 "And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."*** We remember that God tells us in scripture: ***Ro 9:13 "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."*** The earth is populated by "*two manner of people*" those who God chose to save and those who are not chosen.
- ***Ge 27:38-41; 38 "And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. 39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck. 41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob."*** Esau is one of the "*two manner of people*" who are in love with earth and its fatness. These have not a care for God and godliness; they seek only what the world can give them in gain of worldly possessions.

God had promised to Abraham, and his son Isaac, that many nations would come from them. This genealogy demonstrates that God is true to his promise.

4 And Adah bare to Esau Eliphaz; and Bashemath bare Reuel; 5 And Aholibamah bare Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah: these are the sons of Esau, which were born unto him in the land of Canaan. 6 And Esau took his wives, and his sons, and his daughters, and all the persons of his house, and his cattle, and all his beasts, and all his substance, which he had got in the land of Canaan; and went into

the country from the face of his brother Jacob. 7 For their riches were more than that they might dwell together; and the land wherein they were strangers could not bear them because of their cattle.

The land of Canaan was a land of promise to Israel (Jacob). We see that Esau chooses to leave the land of promise and carries with him all his family. The same principle is true many times in our lives today, how? Only those who are chosen and promised a place in the church are true residents of the land of promise. The rest will choose to live ungodly lives raise their children outside the land of promise, the church.

We see in these verses; there is no place in the promised land for 2 kingdoms. The same is true today in our lives, and especially we see it in the eternal kingdom of God. How? Esau left with all his earthly riches and that was his possession. Jacob, now Israel, remained in the land of promise with his earthly possessions and the promises, the blessings, and the protection, of God.

Remember in the previous chapter that Jacob had all his family to give up their idols and hid them away? Remember, Israel began the visible worship of God by building the altar? This is a picture of how we enter the land of promise, devoid of our idols, and begin our walk in the land of promise, the church.

In this chapter, Esau chose to take his possessions and leave the place of the visible worship of God. Remember the scripture **Ro 9:13 "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."** We shall see why God hated Esau, known as the Edomites later in scripture, how? Esau first sold the birthright of firstborn and the blessing of the father attached thereto. Now he is demonstrating that the visible worship of God is not in his heart and mind at all. Later in scripture, we shall see the war of Esau, the Edomites, against Israel. This demonstrates the continued refusal of Esau to worship God.

8 Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. 9 And these are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir:

We find in scripture; God has given the land of Mount Seir unto Esau and his descendants as a possession, seen in:

- **De 2:4-5; 4 "And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: 5 Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession."**
- **Jos 24:3-4; 3 "And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. 4 And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt."**

10 These are the names of Esau's sons; Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, Reuel the son of Bashemath the wife of Esau. 11 And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz. 12 And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife. 13 And these are the sons of Reuel; Nahath, and Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah: these were the sons of Bashemath Esau's wife. 14 And these were the sons

of Aholibamah, the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: and she bare to Esau Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah. 15 These were dukes of the sons of Esau: the sons of Eliphaz the firstborn son of Esau; duke Teman, duke Omar, duke Zepho, duke Kenaz,

We see in verses 10-15, beginning with Esau's grandchildren, the use of titles for men. This has not ceased since, and there are many people who live to build themselves a name of greatness, or to possess a title that will give them stature in the eyes of mankind. I must warn you; the titles of men in this world will not get you into heaven, and they will not save your souls from the eternal lake of fire.

16 Duke Korah, duke Gatam, and duke Amalek: these are the dukes that came of Eliphaz in the land of Edom; these were the sons of Adah. 17 And these are the sons of Reuel Esau's son; duke Nahath, duke Zerah, duke Shammah, duke Mizzah: these are the dukes that came of Reuel in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Bashemath Esau's wife. 18 And these are the sons of Aholibamah Esau's wife; duke Jeush, duke Jaalam, duke Korah: these were the dukes that came of Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. 19 These are the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these are their dukes. 20 These are the sons of Seir the Horite, who inhabited the land; Lotan, and Shobal, and Zibeon, and Anah, 21 And Dishon, and Ezer, and Dishan: these are the dukes of the Horites, the children of Seir in the land of Edom. 22 And the children of Lotan were Hori and Hemam; and Lotan's sister was Timna. 23 And the children of Shobal were these; Alvan, and Manahath, and Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. 24 And these are the children of Zibeon; both Ajah, and Anah: this was that Anah that found the mules in the wilderness, as he fed the asses of Zibeon his father. 25 And the children of Anah were these; Dishon, and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah. 26 And these are the children of Dishon; Hemdan, and Eshban, and Ithran, and Cheran. 27 The children of Ezer are these; Bilhan, and Zaavan, and Akan. 28 The children of Dishan are these; Uz, and Aran. 29 These are the dukes that came of the Horites; duke Lotan, duke Shobal, duke Zibeon, duke Anah, 30 Duke Dishon, duke Ezer, duke Dishan: these are the dukes that came of Hori, among their dukes in the land of Seir. 31 And these are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom, before there reigned any king over the children of Israel.

Verses 31-39: There will be 8 kings over the Edomites, Esau's family, before there is a king over Israel, Jacob's family.

32 And Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom: and the name of his city was Dinhabah. 33 And Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead. 34 And Jobab died, and Husham of the land of Temani reigned in his stead. 35 And Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who smote Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his stead: and the name of his city was Avith. 36 And Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his stead. 37 And Samlah died, and Saul of Rehoboth by the river reigned in his stead. 38 And Saul died, and Baalhanan the son of Achbor reigned in his stead. 39 And Baalhanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar reigned in his stead: and the name of his city was Pau; and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab. 40 And these are the names of the dukes that came of Esau, according to their families, after their places, by their names; duke Timnah, duke Alvah, duke Jetheth, 41 Duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon, 42 Duke Kenaz, duke Teman, duke Mibzar, 43 Duke Magdiel, duke Iram: these be the dukes of Edom, according to their habitations in the land of their possession: he is Esau the father of the Edomites.

We have in this chapter the lineage of Esau, and we see the beginning of the Edomites, and all the prestigiousness placed by men on names and positions.

We can ascertain from this chapter; Esau, and his generations, are not heirs of the promise that leads to Christ, which continues today through the promise of God. We find this expounded upon in Romans chapter 8, and expressly stated in: **Ro 9:9-13; 9 "For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. 10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."** We know from the genealogies given in scripture that it was through the family of Jacob (Israel) the promise of God was made manifest, and that the family of Esau was excluded from this line.

Thankfully, we see with the coming of Christ, the grafting in of the Gentiles and the way of salvation opened, not to a geological family, but to every one that was chosen of God to be heirs of grace as stated in: **Eph 1:3-6; 3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."** Praise God! that we are chosen, we are called, and we are accepted in Christ, to inhabit the eternal land of promise.