

## Genesis 36:1-43

Most commentators will pass over this chapter because it is very difficult to study. It is definitely one of the most challenging chapters in the bible to teach, and not because of the difficult names. Why would God take so many words and verses of scripture to deal with this ungodly man Esau? There is a reason: it's an example to us Christians of a man who disregards his fellowship with God. He's interested in the world and worldly things. He cares nothing of spiritual things from childhood to adulthood. This is given to us as an example of how we have a choice to make in life: to serve God or go the way of the world (Satan). We have an overview of the chapter first, and then go on to details.

- 1 ¶ **Now these *are* the generations of Esau, who *is* Edom.** God says over and over: Esau is Edom. Edomites were the ones who hated Israel. They were Israel's dedicated enemies. That war started with Jacob and Esau. Esau was a worldly man, hated spiritual things, and hated God's chosen people.
- 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;** Esau married Canaanites, pagans. His mom and dad tried so hard to keep their lineage pure and away from the pagans, but Esau breaks that cycle.
- 3 **And Bashemath Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth.**
- 4 **And Adah bore to Esau Eliphaz; and Bashemath bore Reuel;**
- 5 **And Aholibamah bore 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.** Esau had gained so much wealth that the land won't sustain their cattle and family, and he hates spiritual things, so he moved.
- 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.**
- 8 **Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau *is* Edom.** Notice again what it says: Esau is Edom. The Horites were already living there, and we'll tell you later what happened to them in mount Seir
- 9 ¶ **And these *are* the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir:**
- 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 bore 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 bore 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, This word "duke" means "sheik", a leader of clan or group of people**
- 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.**

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- 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.** They had their kings, dukes, leaders, set up long before the Israelites ever came to their land. Remember the Edomites would not let the Jews pass through when they were on their way to the Promised Land.
- 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.** God continues to repeat the Esau is the father of the Edomites.

A man named Phillips did a great deal of research on Chapter 36. It will help us understand the conflict that came between Edomites and Israelis. Esau broke the pure chain kept from Abraham down and married pagans. He changed their pagan names to something that's not offensive to his mom and dad. One wife of Esau's was very repulsive to Isaac. Esau goes to the pagan temple and practices their pagan rituals. There he meets a temple prostitute, falls in love, and marries her. She becomes very influential on him. They go to see her father who is very powerful and high in society. Through her influence, Esau cast off all family ties and cast his lot with her family. He forsakes his godly family, his godly upbringing, and loves the lifestyle of the world (Satan). Esau took over the family power, his sons and grandsons became leaders of the Edomites. They had a big strong army. "Horite" means "cave dweller". It was the main route of the north and south, and Esau became very

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wealthy. Esau destroyed the Edomites. If anyone opposed him, he killed them. He kept all the power in his family, with his sons and grandsons.

What this boils down to is: The flesh is very prolific, pious, prosperous, persuasive, promiscuous, and powerful. It's what men like more than what God has to offer. The flesh is not spiritual at all. People think the godly lifestyle is boring, but the world will chew you up and spit you out and laugh about it.

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