

A Chapter  
Full of Names You Can't  
Pronounce

## Genesis Chapter Thirty-Six



~ Esau and Jacob attended their father Isaacs' funeral in our previous report from our Spiritual Safari; marking eleven chapters and many, many more years since they were born back in chapter twenty-five. So much has happened in this family - but we have only followed Jacob - because he is the line that will lead to Christ. Those of you who have been touring with our expedition through the entire Word of God know a lot has happened in the lives of these two brothers. You will also know our learning is very slow. The Spirit of God – the Holy Spirit – is our true Teacher, to be sure; but our learning is impeded, short-circuited and disconnected so effortlessly. I am just a human guide. So, I can point out facts, artifacts and opposing views - but only the Holy Spirit can enlighten our thinking, understanding and knowledge. Only the Holy Spirit can open your mind to spiritual discernment. The Holy Spirit is trying to change the way you think and speak, too, by the way. That change would be from despair to joy! Tragically, we are going to spend this entire report in deep, desperate and dark despondency with the rejected line of Esau.

In our last report we were also in mourning over the death of Rachel with Jacob. We didn't give her a proper eulogy, though I'm sure Jacob did. Rachel was the one fine thing in the life of Jacob. Even during those years that were so sordid in so many ways, Jacob loved Rachel and she loved him; no question about that. Jacob was willing to do anything for Rachel. I think she was the only one who Jacob would have indulged concerning stealing the images from Laban. I think it may have been a different story if it had been Leah who committed the theft. Rachel had the two outstanding sons of the twelve tribes of Israel, and she died giving birth to Benjamin. This was all, naturally, a huge heartbreak to Jacob, because the other ten sons were just nothing but a huge disappointment. I think God reminded him constantly he should never have had more than one wife. God will overrule

and bless Jacob here – and He may overrule in your life that way, too – but that is not the same as the approval of God! It's certainly FAR from being in His direct will. It's living in the providence – the permissive will - of the Lord. My advice is to be extremely careful with that. God didn't approve of any of these things - but He did overrule to bring His will to be done through the life of Jacob.

What is truly remarkable is the favoritism Jacob will show to Joseph. Jacob had seen favoritism in his own home, and he should have learned a lesson from it. He should have known the trouble it would cause; and this entire matter will come back to bite him later in a family fiasco. Well, God didn't approve of sin there and He doesn't approve of it in your life, either. The sin in our life that we feel like we are getting by with is the one that ultimately destroys us! You won't get by with living in sin and willful disobedience – or anything sinful in nature - if you are a child of God, my beloved.

Moving on, Rachel is gone and buried at Bethlehem. This chapter is now all turned over to Esau. It won't be very interesting to most of you - and it's not interesting to me, either; but it does make a tremendous study for the serious student of Scripture who wants to follow through on the meaning of names and how they apply to the life of the ones to whom they are given. Many of these names still float across the Arabian Desert today. Edom is southeast of the Dead Sea in a very mountainous region. The capitol of Edom was Petra, a city hewn entirely out of rock. We have tremendous prophecy regarding Petra - and it is there today, in ruins. God said Petra would be exactly as it is - desolate! Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah all mention this, specifically.

This is the chapter that tells us very definitely that Esau is the father of Edom – and that they're synonymous terms. Esau IS Edom. Esau is the man of the flesh. Let's go back through the centuries - over three thousand years. One little Esau has turned into many thousands of Edomites; and, by the time we get to the Book of Malachi, likely several million. Today, many great nations have come from Esau. Those nations are all filled with pride – as we will learn about ad infinitum in the little prophecy of Obadiah. God says He will bring them down. The truest form of pride is a declaration of independence that says we'll live without God and that we don't need Him

- and that's precisely what Esau did. A thousand years from this time in which we are studying - when we get to the last book in the Old Testament - God will say, "Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated...." ~

**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.**

**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.**

**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:**

**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.**

~ Does this account sound eerily familiar? Abraham and Lot had the same problem. The land would not be able to sustain them both, so they had to move apart. Esau leaves the Promised Land just as Lot had. Economic circumstances may have played some part - but it was the Lord driving Esau out, you may be sure – even though Esau appears to leave on his own volition. In verse twelve we see the first of the Amelekites. Many of the tribes over there in the desert today have come down through the centuries intact. After the fall of Carthage, the prominence of the church began to diminish. The strongest center of the church was in Africa at that time – and those tribes all pushed across North Africa. They come from Abraham and Hagar, then from Esau - and the intermarriage from the different tribes. That is what gave Isaac and Rebekah a “grief of mind” – you will recall; and that’s where the “ites” all come from, too, by the way – every one of them - right here with Esau and the Edomites....

**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,**

**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.**

**32 And Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom: and the name of his city was Dinhahab.**

**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.**

~ This crazy and boring chapter full of names we can't pronounce is, in fact, very important. The Holy Spirit used a lot of ink and a lot of my time to tell you about Esau's family. Did you notice the dukes? Where did that come from? This is the beginning of nobility – nobility that is just arrogantly presumed. No appointment – mere assumption. It begins with Esau. Also notice the beginning of kings and royalty at this time. Long before Israel ever asked for a king, Esau was establishing kingdoms. Except the birthright is Jacob's, see. Every bit of the land is his. Our head should be unraveling in revelation right now. Israel would never have even thought about having a king if they hadn't learned it from their brothers. Remember, they told Samuel, "...we want a king like the nations round about us." The nations round about were of Esau - the Edomites. The knee scraping and bowing down must have broken backs amongst these dukes and kings as they hailed each other.

So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God seeing so many people in contemporary society who, for some strange reason, desperately desire to know their ancestors. The same is true today. Personally, I have no interest in that. I think mine were a bunch of horse thieves to begin with! We are way down in the land of Edom in our safari in this report, friends. This family history goes back further than any history has ever gone. This is also the rejected line. The rejected line is Esau who is the father of the Edomites – and this is where we say good-bye again. These are the dukes and kings in the world of that day – and in and of our world today. In our next report we will rejoin Jacob and the line that leads to Christ ~

