

The Generations Of Edom (Gen. 36:1-8)

1 Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom. 2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite; Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; 3 and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth. 4 Now Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel. 5 And Aholibamah bore Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

6 Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the persons of his household, his cattle and all his animals, and all his goods which he had gained in the land of Canaan, and went to a country away from the presence of his brother Jacob. 7 For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were strangers could not support them because of their livestock. 8 So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom.

- This is another one of the family trees that divides Genesis.
- Notice that Esau married into the Canaanites and also into Ishmael.
- Rather than compete with Jacob, Esau went south or southeast when the land got overburdened by them. Both of them were probably enriched by Isaac's wealth.
- Edom is close to the word for man, which is *adam*. This is a prophetic picture because Edom represents for us the fleshly, fallen nature of mankind.

Symbolic Significance of Edom

Edom stands for the flesh, fleshly opposition to believers, and persecution.

- Jacob represents believers, with all their imperfections.
- In Jewish tradition, Edom symbolizes Rome, or Christian nations.
- Edom covers what is now the nation of Jordan, and maybe some of Saudi Arabia.



Prophetic Destiny Of Edom

- Strong ties of blood added to the bitterness of the rivalries here
- The Ammonites and Moabites were cousins to Israel.
- Israel considered Edom brothers, and in Deuteronomy, God warned the people not to bother the Edomites, because He had given them their territory.

*“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel,
And batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.
And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession,
While Israel does valiantly.”* (Numbers 24:17–18)

When the Temple was destroyed, the Edomites were cheering for its destruction:
Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who said, “Raze it, raze it, to its very foundation!” (Psalms 137:7)

Obadiah, essentially, is about God's judgment of Edom in the Day of the Lord:

10 “For violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. 11 In the day that you stood on the other side — in the day that strangers carried captive his forces, when foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem— even you were as one of them.

12 “But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother in the day of his captivity; nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; nor should you have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

13 *You should not have entered the gate of My people in the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity.*

14 *You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped; nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress.*

15 *“For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; as you have done, it shall be done to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own head. (Obadiah 10-15)*

Nevertheless, God shows them mercy, and they escape from Antichrist: *“He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.” (Dan. 11:41)*

As the *Time of Jacob's Trouble* comes to an end, we see Christ returning to the Earth near Edom, or modern-day Saudi Arabia and Jordan near the Red Sea:

- *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? — “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” (Isa. 63:1)*

Habakkuk saw the same thing; Teman and Mount Paran are in southern Edom:

- *God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden.... I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian trembled.... You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. (See Hab. 3:3-13)*

Families, Politics, And Leaders (Gen. 36:9-43)

This genealogical/historical passage has four parts:

1. Offspring and chiefs of Edom
2. The Horites, later expelled by the Edomites
3. Historical Edomite kings
4. The chiefs (or dukes) of the Edomites

9 And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir. 10 These were the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau. 11 And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

12 Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.

13 These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

14 These were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon. And she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.

15 These were the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn son of Esau, were Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz, 16 Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. They were the sons of Adah.

17 These were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

18 And these were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jaalam, and Chief Korah. These were the chiefs who descended from Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah. 19 These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.

20 These were the sons of Seir the Horite who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, 21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom.

22 And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

23 These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

24 These were the sons of Zibeon: both Ajah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the water in the wilderness as he pastured the donkeys of his father Zibeon. 25 These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah.

26 These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. 27 These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. 28 These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

29 These were the chiefs of the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah, 30 Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, and Chief Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

31 Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel: 32 Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah. 33 And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. 34 When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. 35 And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of his city was Avith. 36 When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place. 37 And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place. 38 When Saul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place. 39 And when Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor died, Hadar reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

40 And these were the names of the chiefs of Esau, according to their families and their places, by their names: Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth, 41 Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon, 42 Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar, 43 Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession. Esau was the father of the Edomites.

- Edom also had a very famous grandson who became a people and a problem in his own right, and that is Amalek.
- Amalek was called the first of the nations, because they were the first to make war against Israel when Israel came out of the land of Egypt.
- Amalek is a picture of the Devil, and satanic opposition that never gives up.
- In Exodus 17, we have the famous story about the battle with Amalek, in which two men held up Moses' hands in prayer, and as long as they did so, Israel had the upper hand in battle.
- God said that He would have perpetual war with Amalek in every generation.
- The name Horite means a cave-dweller, and these were probably very primitive people who actually lived in the caves of the area until the Edomites squeezed them out of their territory. Some believe the Horites were Nephilim or giants.

Marked By Disorder

Edom is impulsive and disorderly. Symbolically, with his 11 chiefs, he is marked by the number *eleven*, which stands for disorder and chaos.

- Israel was marked by the number 12, the number of Divine government (think: 12 tribes and 12 apostles). Eleven falls short of that and speaks of those who don't walk in God's government.

Meeting Joseph (Gen. 37:1-11)

1 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. 6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." 10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" 11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

All quotes NKJV except as noted. New King James Version®

Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Map credit: Kingdoms_of_Israel_and_Judah_map_830.svg: *Oldtidens_Israel_&_Judea.svg: FinnWikiNoderivative work:*

Richardprins derivative work: Richardprins - Kingdoms_of_Israel_and_Judah_map_830.svg, CC BY-SA 3.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10876701>