

# Genesis

Chapter 36:1- 37:22

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✠ **Gen 36:1-8** <sup>1</sup> *Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom. <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth. <sup>4</sup> Now Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel. <sup>5</sup> And Aholibamah bore Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom.*

Last week at the end of chapter 35 we read of Isaac's death, so now Esau and Israel (Jacob) are now on their own, without their father Isaac.

With all the people of Jacob and Esau's family, the land was just too small for them. Looking at the number of people in Israel's family and Esau's, it's obvious that Israel had more than Esau. This could be why Esau left instead of Israel. But the real reason was because God had promised this land to Israel and his descendants not Esau. So even though it may appear that the previous reason sounds right, in reality the real reason is God, not the number in Israel's family.

God also gave this land (Mount Seir) to Esau.

† **Deut 2:2-5** <sup>2</sup> *"And the LORD spoke to me, saying: <sup>3</sup> 'You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward. <sup>4</sup> 'And command the people, saying, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully. <sup>5</sup> "Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.*

† **Josh 24:4** *'To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.*

At the end of verse 8 it says: *Esau is Edom*. What does that mean? Remember back in chapter 25 when Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

† **Gen 25:30** *And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.*

Edom means “Red” and this name stuck with Esau forever. It’s a reminder that the Edomites are descendants of Esau.

The rest of the chapter is the genealogy of Esau; shall we go over each name one by one? I didn’t think so. But I am including it here for you to read over then we will continue this week’s study in chapter 37, and if you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me.

✚ **Gen 36:9-43** <sup>9</sup> *And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir.* <sup>10</sup> *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.* <sup>11</sup> *And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.* <sup>12</sup> *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.* <sup>13</sup> *These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.* <sup>14</sup> *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.*

#### **The Chiefs of Edom**

<sup>15</sup> *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, <sup>16</sup> Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. They were the sons of Adah.*

<sup>17</sup> *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.*

<sup>18</sup> *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. <sup>19</sup> These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.*

#### **The Sons of Seir**

<sup>20</sup> *These were the sons of Seir the Horite who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, <sup>21</sup> Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom. <sup>22</sup> And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna. <sup>23</sup> These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah. <sup>26</sup> These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. <sup>27</sup> These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. <sup>28</sup> These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.*

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

### **The Kings of Edom**

*<sup>31</sup> Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel: <sup>32</sup> Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah. <sup>33</sup> And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. <sup>34</sup> When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place. <sup>37</sup> And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place. <sup>38</sup> When Saul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place. <sup>39</sup> 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.*

### **The Chiefs of Esau**

*<sup>40</sup> 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, <sup>41</sup> Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon, <sup>42</sup> Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar, <sup>43</sup> 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.*

We now start one of my favorite parts of the book of Genesis. This is the beginning of the story of Joseph.

✧ **Gen 37:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

We start reading about Joseph when he was 17 years old. It seems by reading this that Joseph was a tattletale. But as we read on about Joseph, we will find out that he was a hard honest worker. So Joseph gives a bad report or as it says in the NLT **But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.**

So which brothers were these? Bilah's sons were Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah's sons were Gad and Asher and these brothers were probably in their mid to late 20's.

Remember that these were half brothers of Joseph with his only brother being Benjamin.

So what was Joseph telling his father? It doesn't say, but it's possible that his brothers were making Joseph do all the work, while they just sat back and partied. I can relate to Joseph here because it makes me mad when others spend more time talking than working and these are usually the people who complain about their jobs or their bosses.

Israel made a special coat for Joseph and was playing favoritism here. Because Israel did this Joseph's brothers always picked on him. The NLT says: ***They couldn't say a kind word to him.***

Have you ever wonder why one of your children is always picked on by his or her brothers and sisters? This could be one reason, favoritism. It also shows the results of divorce and remarriage with other children. Whether you admit it or not, you will favor your child of your current marriage more than your other children. Remember that Israel loved his wife Rachel more than his other wives; therefore he loved Joseph more than his other children. Even though he did have Benjamin through Rachel as well, but Joseph was the first born of Rachel.

But God does not play favorites. God loves you just as much as He loves me or any other person you know. God loves you just as much as He loves your pastor. God loves you just as much as He loves the disciples.

✠ **1 John 4:16** *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

✠ **1 Tim 2:3-6 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> *This is good and pleases God our Savior,* <sup>4</sup> *for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.* <sup>5</sup> *For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus.* <sup>6</sup> *He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message that God gave to the world at the proper time.*

✠ **Gen 37:5-8** <sup>5</sup> *Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.* <sup>6</sup> *So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: "* <sup>7</sup> *"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."* <sup>8</sup> *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.*

So Joseph had a dream about sheaves. What are sheaves? Have you ever seen pictures or driven by a field and seen these bundles of wheat, or something that looks like long brown or tan grass bundled together standing in the field? Well, these are sheaves. In Joseph's dream he saw himself and his brothers binding these sheaves, but even though they were equally bound, still Joseph's brother's sheaves bowed down to his.

What does this mean, and when were they bound?

13 years later we will read of Joseph and a famine in the land. (You can read about it starting in chapter 40.) But what had happened was Joseph was now second in command next to Pharaoh in Egypt and during this time of famine his brothers had to go to him to ask for food, although at the time they didn't know it was him. We will study this more when we get to these chapters, but the children of Israel were bound to the Egyptians unable to survive unless they went to them for food. And by doing this we will read that Joseph's brothers bowed down to him along with his father.

So how was Joseph bound if he saw him binding the sheaves also? Joseph was bound to the Egyptians and had to be separated from his family for 13 years. Once again we will study this more when we get to these chapters.

Joseph's brothers were mad at him even more because of his dreams. It seemed that Joseph was making himself out to be better than them and was bragging about it. But the truth was God was speaking to Joseph in his dreams showing him what was going to take place.

✧ **Gen 37:9-11** <sup>9</sup> *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."* <sup>10</sup> *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?"* <sup>11</sup> *And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

So Joseph dreams another dream and this time it's not only his brothers but also his father and mother who bow down to him. Once again his brothers were mad at Joseph because of these dreams and his father questioned and rebuked him which is understandable.

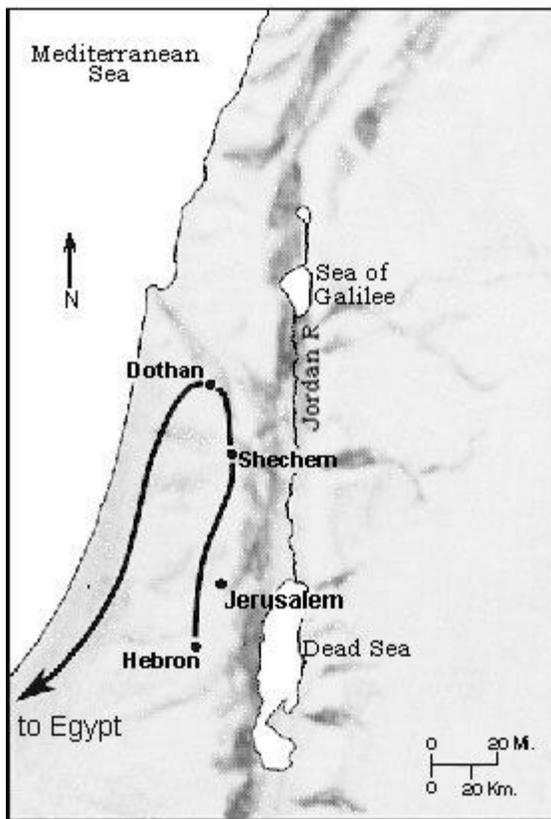
I know if my son said that I would bow down to him I would question him also and tell him, "The bible says to honor your mother and father." Sounds real spiritual doesn't it? But the truth here, in Joseph's case, was that this was God speaking to Joseph, not just his own desire to be honored by his family. Even though his brothers didn't honor him as he may have thought he should be, still he was his father's favorite and he honored him more than his brothers.

But the bible says in the NLT **that his father gave it some thought and wondered what it all meant.** Israel (Jacob) knew too well that God does speak to man because he had personally had God speak to him on several occasions. So he was wondering if God was speaking to his son Joseph through these dreams. He probably wondered how God would make such a thing happen.

✧ **Gen 37:12-17** <sup>12</sup> *Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.* <sup>13</sup> *And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am."* <sup>14</sup> *Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of*

*Hebron, and he went to Shechem. <sup>15</sup> Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" <sup>16</sup> So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." <sup>17</sup> And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.*

Israel knew he could trust his son, Joseph to bring back an honest report of his sons and the flock. So Joseph goes to Shechem where his brothers were suppose to be (note this) and as Joseph was looking around Shechem for his brothers, a man comes up to him and asks, “who or what are you looking for?” And Joseph’s reply is that he was looking for his brothers who he found out were in Dothan which lay along a major trade route to Egypt and was about 30 miles away from Shechem.



✚ **Gen 37:18-22** <sup>18</sup> Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! <sup>20</sup> "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" <sup>21</sup> But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." <sup>22</sup> And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"--that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

Joseph's brother's really hated him, so much that they were willing to kill him. But Rueben, the oldest brother who was probably in his 30's at this time, was the peacemaker and wanted to save Joseph from his brothers. So to appease them, he suggested that they only throw Joseph into a pit and not kill him.

So why did all of this happen? Remember I asked you to note that Joseph's brothers were not where they were supposed to be? We wonder why we go through certain things or struggle with certain sins. Maybe it's because you're in a place you're not suppose to be. My brother in law is a good example of this. He worked with computers as his job, and at night he will get on the Internet. But he will not do it if his wife (my sister) isn't there. Why, because there is so much temptation on the Internet with pornography and sites Christians just shouldn't be looking at or reading. So instead of not enjoying the good things on the Internet or being able to do his work, he chooses to be accountable to his wife and his children by not going on the Internet without them there to help keep him accountable.

This may sound severe or crazy to some of you, but if there's a sin that you struggle with you need someone there to keep you in check or accountable to so that you don't fall into that sin. Even though your struggle may not be with pornography, it doesn't have to be. Satan will trick you into thinking that you are strong enough to handle it as you are on the Internet, and then next thing you know, you are hooked on sites you shouldn't be at. All because of pride. You were too proud to admit you had a problem or that you where strong enough to handle such a thing.

Maybe there are other things you have a problem with. I know God has watched over me when I'm on the Internet and I use it for this web site or personal information. But what are some things you struggle with? Maybe alcohol or drugs, maybe something that seems as harmless as gossip (Yes this is a sin)? It could be, over spending, or you can't control your shopping. Maybe you judge others and are quick to condemn others without seeing any fault on your part. Whatever it is, we usually fall into sin because we are in the wrong place.

An example would be if you have a problem with alcohol you shouldn't be in bars or even a restaurant that serves alcohol. Or maybe you do have a problem with pornography or sexual sin, then you should use extreme caution on what movies you see or even watching TV. Some of the commercials on TV are almost X-rated with women wearing almost nothing.

So how do you stay accountable to these things? I would suggest a very good strong and close Christian friend. Confess your sin(s) to them and ask them to keep you accountable.

✠ **James 5:16** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

I heard of a person who had a problem with over spending money and he asked his friend to keep him accountable for his spending. So every week he would show his checkbook to his friend and would have to account for each check he wrote. Sounds crazy? Not really if you think about it.

So why a close Christian friend and not just any friend?

A Christian friend will keep God's values and not compromise. A Christian friend will not condemn you but will encourage you in love. A Christian friend is an example of God in your life; after all you should be doing it for God, not because you want to earn your way into heaven, which you can't, but because you know God's ways are right and are good for you and also to show your love for Jesus.

† **John 14:15 *If you love Me, keep My commandments.***

Maybe you're not a Christian and you haven't thought about these things or haven't cared until now. Has God been speaking to your heart even today as you were reading this? Maybe you know you have a problem and you're not a Christian and you want help. The first step is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, not religion but a relationship with Jesus. How do you do that? First confess your sins to Him and He WILL forgive you of your sins.

† **1 John 1:9-10 <sup>9</sup>*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>*If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.****

Next is to repent or turn from your sins. "But if I could do that on my own then why do I need Jesus?" you may be thinking. The answer is you can't do it on your own, but Jesus will give you the strength and ability to turn from your sins.

So how do you do all of this? With a simple prayer like this one; just pray this from your heart. Pray:

*Jesus, I admit I am a sinner and I confess these sins to you now. I ask you to forgive me and to give me the strength to turn from my sins. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and may I share what you have done for me with others. Thank You Jesus for dying for my sins and rising on the third day as You said You would. I believe in You Jesus that You are the Son of God and the price You paid on the cross was for me. Thank You Jesus. I pray this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!*

If you just prayed that prayer, you are now a Christian. I would encourage you to find a good Christian church to go to and tell them what you just did. Then make a friend there and ask them to help you in your walk with Jesus.

If you don't know of a church in your area, just send me an e-mail and I will be happy to help you find a church in your area.

Next week we will find out if Joseph's brother's killed him, threw him in the pit or just let him go. Which do you think they did? Read ahead and find out.

May God richly bless you in His love grace and mercy!