

Closing Thoughts (Gen 35)

* How would you characterize Isaac's life?

- ◆ Equal parts faith and failure
 - ▶ Honored God's will — a willing sacrifice (Gen 22:6-9)
 - ▶ Dishonored God's will — she is my sister (Gen 26:7); tried to anoint Ishmael (Gen 27:iff)
- ◆ Coddled as a child
- ◆ The icon of marriage among the Patriarchs!
 - ▶ Faithful husband, waited on God for children

Closing Thoughts (Gen 35)

- ◆ He seemed to have a good prayer life - Gen 24:63
- ◆ Marginal parenting ... marked by favoritism
- ◆ A quiet life compared to Abraham ... and thus far Jacob (with yet more drama to come)
- ◆ Inheritor of the promises when God appeared to him — Gen 26:24
- ◆ He was a "flawed-follower" ... just like us!

What Became of Esau?

GENESIS 36

Opening Thoughts

- * In short — everything that God had promised
- * Gen 36 records Esau's "generations" along with the fulfillment of Isaac's blessing, notably ...
 - ◆ Esau's separation from Jacob in a land of his own
- * Chapter 36 follows the Genesis pattern
 - ◆ It closes out a Patriarch's account with the genealogy of the "unchosen" line before proceeding with God's "chosen" line

Opening Thoughts

- * Two תּלְדוֹת accounts — One progenitor; *Why?*
 - ◆ The 1st reports Esau's posterity born in Canaan - vv. 1-5
 - ◆ The 2nd reports Esau's posterity born in Seir - vv. 9-19
- * Esau = Edom ... emphasized 5x's in vv. 1, 8, 9, 19, 43
 - ◆ Recall the association 1st established in Gen 25:30 [TURN]
- * Genealogies can be tedious, but they are fruitful to read and study for their implications

Structure of the Text

- * The Sons of Esau - vv. 1-5
- * The "Re-Settlement" of Esau - vv. 6-8
- * The Descendants of Esau - vv. 9-19
- * The Nation of Edom - vv. 20-39
 - ◆ The Sons of Seir - vv. 20-30
 - ◆ The Kings of Edom - vv. 31-39
- * The Chiefs of Esau - vv. 40-43

Sons of Esau

- * While in Canaan, Esau had 5 sons by [???????](#) wives
 - ◆ Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, Korah
- * Why do I say [???????](#) wives?
 - ◆ Because the three names of 36:2-3 differ from the three names in Gen 26:34 and 28:9
- * So how many wives did Esau have?
 - ◆ I don't "rightly know!" — Nor does it malign the text because the focus is on the sons, nevertheless ...

Sons of Esau

Gen 26:34; 28:9

- * Basemath, d. of Elon the Hittite
- * Judith, d. of Beeri the Hittite
- * Mahalath, d. of Ishmael, sister of Nebaioth

Gen 36:2-3

- * Adah, d. of Elon the Hittite
- * Oholibamah, d. Anah, gd. of Zibeon the Hivite
- * Basemath, d. of Ishmael, sister of Nebaioth

So Esau had either **3**, **4**, or **6** wives

What Say You?

I think we can eliminate 6 wives — Why?

Because only 5 sons ... no report of barrenness

So that leaves us with either 3 ... or 4

Most commentators favor 3 ... Citing name changes for the three daughters and the one father Beerī → Anah

I agree, because otherwise the genealogy of Gen 36 would either be incomplete or a complete mess

The rationale for Beerī → Anah is found in 36:24

Beerī (בְּאֵרִי) means ... “my well”

He was renamed Anah (אֲנָה) ... after discovering the “hot springs”

Thus the renamed Judith likely has the same father!

Which changes absolutely nothing, BUT ... you know I had to take a “crack at it”

“Re-Settlement” of Esau

- * Having noted Esau’s sons born in Canaan, vv. 6-8 record the occasion of his separation from Jacob
- * Up to now, the brothers were both in Canaan with Hebron as “base camp”
- * What was the impetus for the move?
 - ◆ Not enough land to support their “property”
- * What/who does this remind you of?
 - ◆ The separation ... and same impetus ... of Abram & Lot

“Re-Settlement” of Esau

- * 20-30 miles wide and about 100 miles long ... extending to the Gulf of Aqaba which empties into the Red Sea
- * Strategically located along the Syria-Egypt trade route (the Kings Highway), prospering both from trade and tolls
- * A natural fortress owing to the sandstone cliffs & hill country



“Re-Settlement” of Esau

- * Edom had a prominent role in biblical history ...
 - ◆ It was originally settled by the Horites ... who were subjugated by Chedorlaomer in Gen 14:6
 - ◆ It was dispossessed by Esau ... Deut 2:12, 22
 - ◆ Edom famously denied Israel safe passage in the exodus ... Num 20:14-21
 - ◆ And was later conquered and subjugated by King David ... 2 Sam 8:13-14

“Re-Settlement” of Esau

- ◆ Most notably, the Book of Obadiah records the LORD's future judgment on Edom owing to:
 - ▶ Pride (of their impregnability) - note Obadiah v. 1-9
 - ▶ Persecution of Israel - note Obadiah v. 10-14
 - ▶ Carried out in the day of the Lord - vv. 15-21
- ◆ Modern day “Edom” is a desolate military outpost along the Western border of the nation of Jordan ... populated by some Bedouin tribes

“Resettlement” of Esau

- * The story of Edom, then, is the historical outworking of the Esau-Jacob “brotherhood of nations,” focusing on their perpetual enmity owing to ...
 - ◆ The older shall be ruled by the younger
 - ◆ And the older will rebel against this arrangement
- * The “original” Arab - Israeli conflict!

Descendants of Esau

- * This section begins again the “generations” of Esau — now born to him in Edom
- * Verses 9-14 record the birth of Esau’s grandsons
 - ◆ To his son Eliphaz (Adah) - 5 sons + 1 more son via a concubine of Eliphaz (Timna)
 - ◆ To his son Reuel (Basemath) - 4 sons
 - ◆ To his sons by Oholibamah none are recorded

Descendants of Esau

* What is the point of v. 12a?

- ◆ It is parenthetical ...
- ◆ Its purpose is to record the birth of a figure (and a nation) that is prominent in Israel's subsequent history — Amalek
- * Amalek and the Amalekites were among Israel's bitterest enemies ...
 - ◆ They fought against Israel in the exodus - Exod 17:8ff

Descendants of Esau

- ◆ God used Amalek as part of consortium formed by Moab to go against apostate Israel - Judg 3:13
- ◆ They led to King Saul's downfall ...
 - He defeated the Amalekites but did not "utterly destroy" (חרם) them as commanded, Saul - 1 Sam 15:1ff They were repeatedly subdued by David - 2 Sam 8:12
- * Verses 15-19 then record this combination of sons and grandsons — 14 in all (13 recorded + 1 phantom - Korah in v. 16) — rose to become chiefs in Edom

Descendants of Esau

- ◆ Korah could be explained by another concubine ... though unrecorded in the the genealogy as Amalek was owing to his later prominence
- * Nothing “dogmatic” is to be attached to the title of chiefs — it simply conveys positions of prominence in Edom

Nation of Edom

- * Verses 20-39 capture the “inhabitants” of the land of Edom, subdued by Esau, who enter into the making of the Edomites
- * Their “patriarch” is Seir the Horite who has seven (7) sons who are the chiefs of the Horites ...
 - ◆ And 1 daughter (Timna) the sister of Lotan
- * These sons in turn fathered 19 sons (grandsons) and 1 daughter (granddaughter)

Nation of Edom

- * It is pointed out that Anah, son of Zibeon is the one who discovered hot springs in the wilderness ...
 - ◆ Perhaps as surmised earlier to suggest it is the same personage as Beer, father of Judith
- * Surely this group subsequently intermarried with Esau's clan — but the respective genealogies cease at the 2nd generation
- * Verses 31-39 go on to identify a succession of kings that ruled in Edom prior to a king sitting on Israel's throne

Nation of Edom

- * Some try to impugn the veracity of Scripture based on v. 31 citing that Moses could not have known of Israel's kings ... **How would we rebut this?**
- * Appeal to Gen 17:6; 35:11 that clearly prophesy that “kings” will come from the patriarchal line
- * Moses simply “writes as he believes ... and is inspired” — He surely did not live to see it, but he knew that God had promised it!

Nation of Edom

- * So from the 3rd generation onward it would seem that Edom was ruled by a succession of kings ...
 - ◆ Or likely earlier with the “chiefs” selecting the king who would rule
- * Which might explain why there was NO family succession as not one of the kings descended from the predecessor ... per the genealogy

Chiefs of Esau

- * The genealogy concludes, returning to Esau ... *Why?*
 - ◆ I think deliberately to re-establish Esau's sovereignty in Edom — serving as chapter “book-ends,” and ...
 - ◆ Further supported by the 5th association of Esau with Edom — noting his “fatherhood” of the Edomites — in the final verse
- * *What is the nature of this final list?*
 - ◆ It “re-expresses” the initial list of Esau's chiefs ... providing a geographic emphasis versus a genealogical one

Chiefs of Esau

* How do we know?

- ◆ From the clues in v. 40, 43 — First “[their localities](#)” (v. 40) and
- ◆ “[Their habitations in the land of their possession](#)” (v. 43)
- * It is not a new list of chiefs, rather the names of their capital cities where they ruled ...
 - ◆ Two of which bore the names of the chiefs — Teman, Kenaz (v. 11)
- * Then the genealogy concludes with an emphasis on Esau’s “[possessing](#)” the land of Edom

Closing Thoughts

- * Note how completely God’s promises, by way of Isaac’s blessing, are fulfilled; Esau ...
 - ◆ Has many progeny
 - ◆ Settles away from fertility ... the “hill country of Seir,” a mountainous area
 - ◆ Breaks the yoke of his brother, and lives by the sword
 - ◆ But ultimately will be decimated ... cf. the Book of Obadiah; Ezek 35:7, 9

Closing Thoughts

- * None of which should surprise us given Esau's flippancy w/r/t ...
 - ◆ His birthright — which he despised and traded for a bowl of stew ... the "red stuff"
 - ◆ He was fleshly versus spiritual ... always indulging his physical desires
 - ◆ All of which is affirmed in the NT — [Heb 12:16-17](#) [READ]

Closing Thoughts

- * Some final implications ...
 - 👉 Human sin does not change God's plan
 - 👉 God's blessing to the "non-elect" is abundant and a measure of His common grace ...
 - 👉 And should be a reminder to the elect of how great and precious is the saving grace of regeneration unto new and eternal life!!

The Ascendance of Joseph ...

AND THE "REST OF THE STORY"

Opening Thoughts

- * Jacob's "patriarchy" is told primarily through the "life and times of Joseph"
- * Gen 37-47 record how God used Joseph to ...
 - ◆ Preserve Egypt and the surrounding nations in a severe famine, and
 - ◆ Preserve & prosper what will become Israel
- * In so doing, God demonstrates his power and sovereignty over the affairs of man!

Opening Thoughts

- * We also see how ONE GODLY MAN can make a “world-wide” impact when he submits to God’s providence
- * Joseph, along with Paul ... and Christ ... is the epitome of Heb 12:15 [\[READ\]](#)
- * The narrative only returns to Jacob to record his death, final blessing, and burial in Gen 48-50:14
- * And Genesis concludes with the Bible’s most striking statement of grace, recognizing God’s providence in the midst of evil — Gen 50:20-21 [\[READ\]](#)

The Big Picture

TEXT	TITLE
GEN 37	FROM “PRIVILEGED” TO “PEDDLED”
GEN 38	JUDAH’S PROGENY AND “PROSTITUTE”
GEN 39-41	FROM POWER TO PRISON TO PREEMINENT
GEN 42-45	THE BROTHERS PRESERVATION AND PREFERENCE
GEN 46	THE FAMILY REUNION
