

# Israel and Edom

- I. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:20-34)
  - A. Esau and Jacob were twin sons born to Isaac and Rebekah.
  - B. While they were in the womb of their mother, they struggled with one another.
  - C. God declared that this foreshadowed the futures of the two boys.
    - 1. Each would be the father of a nation.
    - 2. One would be stronger than the other; and the elder would serve the younger.
    - 3. In fact, two manner or kinds of people would descend from these two men – the spiritual and the carnal.
  - D. Esau was the firstborn; but, Jacob took hold of his brother's heel as he was born.
  - E. Esau grew up to be a hunter, a man of the field with little concern for spiritual things.
  - F. Jacob is described as a "plain man," but the word actually means that he was upright, undefiled, morally pure, or perfect.
    - 1. Thus, the great contrast is made.
    - 2. Esau sought the things of the world while Jacob was concerned with heavenly things.
  - G. The contrast between the attitudes of the two men is seen in Esau's willingness to sell his birthright for a bowl of beans (cf. Ecc. 8:15; Isa. 22:13; 1 Cor. 15:32; Heb. 12:16-17).
  - H. It is seen again in Esau's desire for the physical inheritance bestowed by the blessing of Isaac (Gen. 27:1-4, 27-40).
  - I. Finally, it is seen in the women Esau chose to marry (Gen. 26:34-35; 27:46; 28:8-9).
- II. Israel and Edom (Numbers 20:14-21)
  - A. Jacob's name was changed by God to Israel – and he became the father of the nation of Israel.
  - B. Esau was known as Edom – and he became the father of the nation of Edom (cf. Genesis 36:1, 8, 19, 43).
  - C. The two nations were in continual conflict with one another.
  - D. Edom's pride brought about the judgment of God (cf. Obadiah).
  - E. This was symbolic of the judgment of all who oppose God (cf. Isa. 63:1-4).
- III. Spiritual and Carnal (1 Corinthians 2:7-16)
  - A. The relationship between Jacob and Esau – Israel and Edom – illustrates the constant conflict between the spiritual man and the carnal man.
  - B. The carnal man despises and profanes spiritual things (cf. Matt. 22:5; 26:15; Luke 14:18-20; Phil. 3:18-19).

- C. The carnal man cares more for the material and temporal than the spiritual and eternal (cf. 1 John 2:15-17).
- D. The carnal man chooses to associate with the world and neglects his relationships with the righteous (cf. Heb. 10:25).
- E. The carnal man opposes the spiritual (cf. 1 John 3:11-12).
- F. The carnal man is motivated by pride and arrogance (1 Cor. 1:18-29).

Conclusion: *Are you spiritual or carnal?*