

# 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?*

## History of Esau and Edom

“Esau” – 100 times in the Bible

“Edom” – 87 times in 21 OT books

“Edomite” – 20 times

Genesis 36:8 – Esau dwelt in Mount Seir

South of the Dead Sea

Rugged and mountainous with some fertile plateaus

Rich in copper and iron

Originally inhabited by the Horites (Gen. 14:6), but some intermingled (36:20-30)

First ruled by chiefs (Gen. 36:15-30), then by kings (Gen. 36:31-39)

Numbers 20:14-21 – Refused to let Israel pass through their land

Numbers 24:17-18 – Balaam’s prophecy against Edom

1 Samuel 14:47-48 – Edom began to be conquered by King Saul

2 Samuel 8:14 – Edom subjugated by King David

1 Kings 11:14 – Edom raised up by God as an enemy to King Solomon

2 Kings 8:20 - During the reign of King Jehoram, Edom freed themselves from Israel

2 Chronicles 28:17 – Edom attacked Judah and took captives

Isaiah 34 – 35 – Edom symbolizes the spiritual dead

Obadiah – Edom represents pride

Joel 3:19 – Edom symbolizes the world against God

Amos 1:6-11 – Edom represents hatred of God’s people (cf. 9:11-12)

Ezekiel 35 -36 – Edom symbolizes God’s judgment of the world

In 300 BC, Edom was driven from its land by the Nabateans

They settled west of the Dead Sea and south of Judah

Around 150 BC, they were conquered by the Maccabees and forced to accept Judaism

The Herods of the NT are descended from the Edomites