

## **GENESIS Lesson 39 – 8/04/19**

### **Issac dies**

**35:21: And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.**

**35:22: And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:**

**35:23: The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:**

**35:24: The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:**

**35:25: And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:**

**35:26: And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padan-aram.**

**35:27: And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.**

**35:28: And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.**

**35:29: And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.**

We pick in verse 21, what do you notice? Jacob had left Bethel, and where was he supposed to go? He was supposed to go back home to his father Isaac.

But again, he stops, and this time he stays near the tower of Edar. This was a watchtower where the inhabitants would watch for incoming enemies. This tower was about ½ mile from Bethlehem.

Jacob was closer, but he still didn't go where he was supposed to; he had a habit of stopping along the way. And as always something bad happens when Jacob decides to stay where he is not supposed to.

This is where Reuben decided it was ok to have relations with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine. Reuben was the firstborn we would expect better behavior from him, but alas he disappoints! Remember, he was the one who found the mandrakes (see Lesson 33). I don't know if there is a connection here, but I wonder—he had to have known what mandrakes are.

This was a serious sin.

Lev. 18:6: None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD.

Lev. 18:7: The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

Lev. 18:8: The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

And for his sin, Reuben is disinherited. He loses the birthright.

1 Chr. 5:1: Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his

birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

1 Chr. 5:2: For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)

Reuben was now disqualified and so were Simeon and Levi for what they did at Shechem; we are now left with Judah, the birthright is his to lose.

In verses 23 to 26 we are given a list of Jacob's twelve sons, but not in birth order. You will also notice that we are told in that "these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padan-aram."

All but one was born there; Benjamin was born somewhere north of Bethlehem, south of Bethel. Why does the Holy Spirit do this?

We don't have a good answer, the only thing I can think of is that in Padan-aram Jacob received his wives through whom he was able to beget these boys, but I am grasping at straws here.

Jacob finally makes it home. It has been almost 30 years since he left home thinking he probably would never see his father again before he died.

There is no dramatic narration of a teary reunion, simply that soon after Jacob arrived home Isaac died. The Bible does not record any final words or further blessings. Isaac dies and it is 1712 BC; only ~300 years from the tower of Babel. So Esau and Jacob bury their dad.



## Chapter 36

This chapter lists the genealogy of Esau. Esau is Edom; Edom in Hebrew means red. The Edomite people descended from Esau, the son of Isaac and the twin brother of Jacob. (See notes in Lesson 29).

We will just make a couple of comments in this chapter and move on to chapter 37.

We are told in Gen. 36:2: “Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan...” Remember that Abraham was determined that Isaac would not take a wife from among the daughters of Canaan (Gen. 24:37). But Esau married Canaanite women, which caused much grief to Isaac and Rebekah (Gen. 26:34-35). (See Lesson 28 for more comments on Esau.)

We list the wives of Esau as found in the following verses and point out something interesting.

<b>Genesis 26: 34; 28:9</b>		<b>Genesis 36: 2-3</b>
Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite		Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite
Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite		Aholibamah daughter of Anah of Zibeon the Hivite
Mahalath daughter of Ishmael, the sister of Nebajoth		Bashemath daughter of Ishmael, the sister of Nebajoth

First we learn that some people in those days had two first names, Esau was also called Edom, Jacob was also called Israel, etc. You will also find

this when you study the lineage of the kings of Israel and Judah, some kings had two names. Some suggest they could be sisters, but we are given two lists and Nebajoth who is a sister is clearly pointed out.

Second, we find that Esau had four wives; two different lists, each omits one wife. Perhaps Judith is not mentioned because she had no children or died before we get to chapter 36 and Esau married Aholibamah after chapter 28.

Another thing I want to point out are the Horites, and you will see why. They are first mentioned in Genesis chapter 14.

Gen. 14:4: Twelve years they (*the kings of Siddim*) served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Gen. 14:5: And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

Gen. 14:6: And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto El-paran, which is by the wilderness.

The Horites were confederate with Chedorlaomer, the king that took Lot captive after the kings of the valley of Siddim rebelled against him. (see notes Lesson 14). The Horites dwelt in Mount Seir; later Esau also dwelled in Mount Seir.

These Horites are mentioned again alongside the genealogies of Esau.

Gen. 36:20: These are the sons of Seir the Horite, who inhabited the land; Lotan, and Shobal, and Zibeon, and Anah,

Gen. 36:21: And Dishon, and Ezer, and Dishan: these are the dukes of the Horites, the children of Seir in the land of Edom.

So the Edomites and Horites became one people; the Edomites being stronger conquered them; the Edomites then assimilated the Horites and they were simply known as Edomites later on. Scholars associate the Horites with Hurrians (from Egyptian inscriptions); they are the Hivites in the Bible. Aholibamah was a Hivite; could Esau have married her to form an alliance with the Horites? “Hori” in Hebrew means cave dweller; they were “troglodytes”.

Deut. 2:12: The Horims (*Horites*) also dwelt in Seir beforetime; but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their stead; as Israel did unto the land of his possession, which the LORD gave unto them.

Deut. 2:21: A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the LORD destroyed them before them; and they (*children of Lot*) succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead:

Deut. 2:22: As he did to the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, when he destroyed the Horims (*Horites*) from before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead even unto this day:

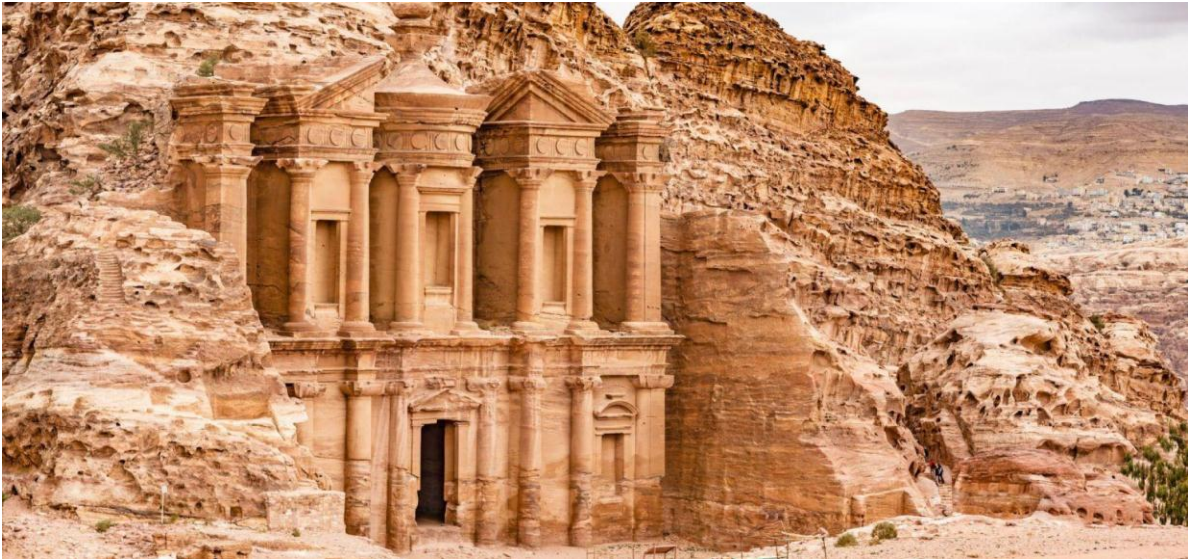
The Lord helped the children of Lot and Esau possess their land.

Deut. 2:4: And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore:



Deut. 2:5: Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.

In Mount Seir, these people built a civilization that was literally carved out of the rock. **Pictures of Petra:**



During the tribulation the Jews will be forced to flee after the Antichrist begins his persecution of God's people.

Matt. 24:16: Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Rev. 12:6: And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Many believe the ruins at Petra, the ancient rock-cut city in a deep valley left by the Edomites is the place mentioned in Rev. 12:6.

It was said that Petra was so defensible that a dozen men could protect it against a whole army. The city can only be reached through a narrow, winding gorge. Petra is currently located in modern day Jordan.



**Location of Petra**



One more verse:

Gen. 36:31: And these are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom, before there reigned any king over the children of Israel.

Moses wrote the book of Genesis under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He could not have known that Israel would eventually have a king unless the Holy Spirit told him! The foreknowledge of God.

### Jacob loves Joseph

**37:1: And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.**

**37:2: These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.**

**37:3: Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.**

**37:4: And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.**

Jacob is finally where he supposed to be, a sojourner in the land of Canaan, having the title deed of the land, but never possessing it. He was sojourner as was Isaac and as was Abraham.

Now in this chapter we are given a story that took place somewhere between chapters 34 and 35 while Jacob dwelt in the land of Shechem.

Jacob was the father over a troubled family; boys from four different mothers, all living and working together. Nowhere are we told that Jacob disciplined or reprimanded any of his children for their behavior. Jacob had his favorite wife and we are told that he had a favorite son; the son of his old age.

Where was Benjamin? Benjamin had not been born yet, he was born after they left Shechem and after they left Bethel (Gen. 35:16).

There was no Benjamin in this story; Joseph at that time was Jacob's youngest boy.

Next week or so we will look at the typology between Joseph and Christ.

But here we see (vs. 2) that Joseph tattled on his brothers, he brought an evil report to Jacob concerning the sons of the concubines. He told dad all the bad things they were doing. Joseph was Jacob's clear favorite; so much so that he made him a coat of many colors. This naturally made him even more unpopular and disliked among his brothers.

As the firstborn son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife, Joseph was given the birthright (see 1 Chr. 5:1-2). Thus the "coat of many colors" Jacob gave to Joseph represented the fact that Joseph received the birthright. How do you think this made the others feel? Just like Esau!

Every time the brothers spoke to Joseph it was with disdain and contempt. They could take him or leave him.

Siblings who sense that their parent(s) consistently favor or reject one child over another get affected.

They experience resentment and often try hard to gain their parents approval. The long-term effects of being ostracized bode ill for those children. They often lack self-esteem; they feel they can never meet up to their parent's expectations; they can develop a chronic need to feel special.

Later on in life they may carry the "sibling-rivalry" and shun relationships with their siblings.

Research shows that favoritism may lead to depression in adulthood.

Acts 10:34: Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Parents as much as is possible treat your children the same.

### Joseph dreams

**37:5: And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.**

**37:6: And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:**

**37:7: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.**

**37:8: And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.**

**37:9: And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.**

**37:10: And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?**

**37:11: And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.**

To make matters worse, not only is Joseph a tattletale, not only is he dad's favorite, he now starts having dreams where everyone is bowing before him! The sun (Jacob), the moon (Rachel), and the eleven stars (his brothers) bow before him.

When Joseph has these dreams he displays no tact, he simply tells his brothers what he saw whether it bothered them or not. Even Jacob feels a little disdain for what his youngest son told him and responds: "Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Do you notice what Jacob says? He makes reference to Rachel, Rachel is still alive, and that means that Benjamin has not been born yet. Keep in mind they are still in Shechem—bad things happen to Jacob when he is dwelling in the place he is not supposed to.

Look at Gen. 37:12: And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.



Joseph's dreams are prophetic. In his first dream, Joseph sees everyone in his family, including himself, binding sheaves.

A sheaf is a bundle of grain stalks tied together lengthwise and set upright after reaping.

Joseph tells them that in his dream, everyone sheaf was bowing before his.

Joseph's ultimate position of authority over his brethren would eventually be connected with grain.

Everyone understood perfectly the meaning of the dream, that one day Joseph would reign over them and have dominion over them; they knew he was given the birthright by dad.

Next week: Joseph sold into bondage.

When Jacob leaves Shechem, he leaves with a ruined daughter and a missing son.