GENESIS

Chapter 36

*Esau’s Descendants*

**This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom). 2 Esau took his wives from the women of Canaan: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite— 3 also Basemath daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth. 4 Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, Basemath bore Reuel, 5 and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam and Korah. These were the sons of Esau, who were born to him in Canaan. 6 Esau took his wives and sons and daughters and all the members of his household, as well as his livestock and all his other animals and all the goods he had acquired in Canaan, and moved to a land some distance from his brother Jacob. 7 Their possessions were too great for them to remain together; the land where they were staying could not support them both because of their livestock. 8 So Esau (that is, Edom) settled in the hill country of Seir. 9 This is the account of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir. 10 These are the names of Esau’s sons: Eliphaz, the son of Esau’s wife Adah, and Reuel, the son of Esau’s wife Basemath. 11The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam and Kenaz. 12Esau’s son Eliphaz also had a concubine named Timna, who bore him Amalek. These were grandsons of Esau’s wife Adah. 13The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah. These were grandsons of Esau’s wife Basemath. 14The sons of Esau’s wife Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon, whom she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jalam and Korah. 15 These were the chiefs among Esau’s descendants: The sons of Eliphaz the firstborn of Esau: Chiefs Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz, 16 Korah, Gatam and Amalek. These were the chiefs descended from Eliphaz in Edom; they were grandsons of Adah. 17The sons of Esau’s son Reuel: Chiefs Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah. These were the chiefs descended from Reuel in Edom; they were grandsons of Esau’s wife Basemath. 18The sons of Esau’s wife Oholibamah: Chiefs Jeush, Jalam and Korah. These were the chiefs descended from Esau’s wife Oholibamah daughter of Anah. 19 These were the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these were their chiefs. 20 These were the sons of Seir the Horite, who were living in the region: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, 21 Dishon, Ezer and Dishan. These sons of Seir in Edom were Horite chiefs. 22The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam. Timna was Lotan’s sister. 23The sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho and Onam. 24 The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. This is the Anah who discovered the hot springs in the desert while he was grazing the donkeys of his father Zibeon. 25 The children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah daughter of Anah. 26The sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran and Keran. 27The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan and Akan. 28The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran. 29These were the Horite chiefs: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, 30 Dishon, Ezer and Dishan. These were the Horite chiefs, according to their divisions, in the land of Seir.**

Though we may not understand why, God caused the names of some 200 Edomite noblemen and noblewomen to be written in His Word. (TLSB)

**36:1** *account.* See note on 2:4. Though repeated in v. 9, the word does not mark the start of a new main section there since the information in vv. 9–43 is merely an expansion of that in vv. 1–8. *Esau (that is, Edom).* See 25:30 and NIV text note. Reddish rock formations, primarily sandstone, are conspicuous in the territory of the Edomites, located south and southeast of the Dead Sea. (CSB)

Gn is divided into 10 “generations” (genealogies). Esau’s is the ninth. (TLSB)

**36:2–3** See note on 26:34. (CSB)

**36:2** *wives*. The names of Esau’s wives differ from those given in 26:34; 28:9. Possibly death, alternate names, or additional wives account for this. (TLSB)

**36:7** See 13:6; see also 26:20 and note. (CSB)

**36:8** *Seir.* Another name for Edom. The word itself is related to the Hebrew word meaning “hair,” a possible meaning also for the name “Esau” (see NIV text note on 25:25). Esau’s clan must have driven away the original Horite (see v. 20) inhabitants of Seir (see 14:6 and note). The descendants of Seir are listed in vv. 20–28. (CSB)

Where he had already moved before Jacob’s return home. Cf Dt 2:12. Thus Jacob had Canaan to himself (37:1), so that God’s promise would be fulfilled. Cf Jsh 24:4. The territory that Esau settled came to be called Edom (Idumea in the NT). (TLSB)

**36:10–14** The same list of Esau’s descendants (see 1Ch 1:35–37) is repeated in vv. 15–19 as a list of tribal chieftains. (CSB)

**36:11** *Eliphaz: Teman.* One of Job’s friends was named Eliphaz the Temanite (Job 2:11), and Job himself was from the land of Uz (Job 1:1). Thus Job probably lived in Edom (see vv. 28, 34). (CSB)

**36:12** *Amalek.* See note on 14:7. (CSB)

**36:20–28** See note on v. 8. The same list of Seir’s descendants (see 1Ch 1:38–42) is repeated in abbreviated form in vv. 29–30 as a list of tribal chieftains. (CSB)

**36:24** *This is the Anah who … Zibeon.* To distinguish him from the other Anah mentioned in vv. 2, 14, 18. The two Anahs appear together in v. 25. (CSB)

*The Rulers of Edom*

**31 These were the kings who reigned in Edom before any Israelite king reigned: 32Bela son of Beor became king of Edom. His city was named Dinhabah. 33When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah succeeded him as king. 34 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites succeeded him as king. 35 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, succeeded him as king. His city was named Avith. 36When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah succeeded him as king. 37When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the river succeeded him as king. 38 When Shaul died, Baal Hanan son of Acbor succeeded him as king. 39When Baal-Hanan son of Acbor died, Hadad succeeded him as king. His city was named Pau, and his wife’s name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-Zahab. 40 These were the chiefs descended from Esau, by name, according to their clans and regions: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, 41Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, 42 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, 43 Magdiel and Iram. These were thechiefs of Edom, according to their settlements in the land they occupied. This was Esau the father of the Edomites.**

**36:31** *before any Israelite king reigned.* Presupposes the later Israelite monarchy and is therefore considered an editorial updating subsequent to Moses’ time (see note on 14:14). (CSB)

Before the Israelites had a king. Cf 35:11; Dt 17:14. Either Moses the prophet wrote these words foreseeing that Israel would one day be ruled by kings, or this is an editorial update written after Moses’ time. (TLSB)

**36:37** *Rehoboth on the Euphrates*. Or, “Rehoboth-hannahar” (“open space of the river”). (TLSB)

**36:43** *This … Edomites.* A summary statement for the whole chapter (just as v. 1 is a title for the whole chapter). (CSB)

**Ch 36** God shows us that for the sake of devout parents such as Isaac and Rebekah, He will give good things to their children, the Edomites, even though the children do not imitate their parents’ faith and life. By doing so, God would lead them and their descendants to repentance. Though the Edomites were often rivals of Israel, the Lord made provision for their salvation (Dt 23:7–8). How great is God’s mercy! • Lord Jesus, have mercy on all generations that stray. Call them back to You. Amen. (TLSB)