

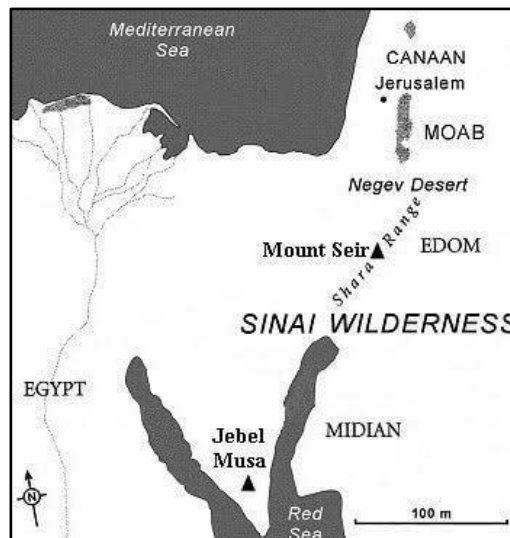
THE FAMILY OF ESAU

As well as listing the genealogy of Jacob that founded the nation of Israel, there is also a record of the sons of Esau that founded the nation of Edom. Isaac had said to Esau when he blessed him that 'by your sword you shall live' (Gen.27:40). History records fulfilment of this as the nation of Edom became characterised by war and conflict.

Have you ever traced your genealogy? What did you find out about your ancestors?

ESAU'S WIVES v 1-5 – three wives of Esau are mentioned in this genealogy. Adah and Aholibamah were Hittites who occupied the land of Canaan. Their family were idol worshippers who sacrificed to false gods which is why Isaac and Rebekah were so upset when he chose them as his wives. Basemath was the daughter of Ishmael. Esau had other wives such as Judith (ch 26:34), and Mahalath (ch 28:9) but they are not mentioned. This may be because they died childless.

SETTLED IN SEIR v 6-8 – after Jacob returned to Canaan the families of Esau and Jacob grew rapidly from their numerous sons and daughters. Eventually, Esau and his growing family with their need for pasture to accommodate their vast livestock decided to establish their own territory outside the land of Canaan. Therefore, they moved into Mount Seir which later became known as 'Edom'. Today, these are known as the al-Sharat mountains in south-western Jordan.



What did the Lord Jesus say to His disciples about 'living by the sword?' (Matt.26:52)

THE GENERATIONS OF ESAU AND HIS TRIBAL CHIEFS v 9-19 –

Esau's three wives, gave him three sons and from those sons came 12 grandsons which founded the nation of Edom. Timan (v 12) is mentioned as the 'concubine' of Esau's son. She was the daughter of Seir, into whose land they eventually moved (1 Chron.1:38-39). From their marriage was born Amalek, whose descendants became an arch enemy of Israel provoking God's judgement (Exodus 17:14-16).

THE GENERATIONS OF SEIR v 20-30 – the Horites were the descendants of Seir. The bible does not give any genealogy for Seir, or mention his parents by name. After their invasion, the Horites intermarried with the sons of Esau and were eventually completely subsumed by them. Gradually they lost their identity as Horites, and became known as Edomites. The Edomites were noted for not giving the children of Israel safe passage through the land when they escaped from Egypt (Num.20:14-21), King Saul and King David fought against them and Edom subsequently rebelled against the Kings of Judah. When Babylon attacked Israel in 595 BC the Edomites rejoiced over their ruin (Obadiah 1:12).

What is happening to the identity of our nation? In what way is our Christian heritage being affected?

KINGS AND CHIEFS v 31-43 – this list of complicated names outlines the growth of the nation. It is noted in the final sentence, that Esau was their father. The alliance of Esau and the Horites produced a nation that opposed God and His people.

***'Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?'***
2 Corinthians 6:14