

Genesis 36 Death to the flesh!

I. Background:

- A. In chapter 34 we read about Jacob's dysfunctional family.
 - 1. His daughter, Dinah, was raped by Shechem, the prince of Shechem.
 - 2. His sons, Simeon and Levi, deceived the men of Shechem to become circumcised,
 - a) And on the 3rd day when they were sore, Simeon and Levi went on a mass-murdering spree and slaughtered all of the men.
 - b) Then the other sons plundered all of the goods of the city and took as captives the women and children.
 - 3. In that whole chapter there is not 1 reference to GOD.
- B. But when Jacob was at his wits end, his lowest, then the LORD in chapter 35 appeared to him and called him back to Beth-El, where GOD wanted Jacob to live all along.
- C. In chapter 35 GOD is mentioned at least 15 times!
 - 1. Jacob responds to GOD's call and obeys HIS command to return to Beth-El.
 - 2. Jacob commanded his family to repent and put away their idols and false gods - which they did.
 - 3. Jacob built an altar to the LORD and also set up a pillar of stone and poured wine and oil upon it.
 - 4. GOD appeared and spoke to Jacob saying, for the 2nd time in his life,

Genesis 35:10b "...Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel."
- D. But while in Beth-El his nanny, Deborah, died.
- E. For some strange reason Jacob decided to move his family away from Beth-El down toward Bethlehem.
 - 1. But his favorite wife, Rachel, was 9 months pregnant.

2. While on the way she went into hard labor and gave birth to her 2nd son, and then died.
 3. Before she died she called him “BenOni”, but Jacob called him “Benjamin”
- F. Then Reuben committed adultery with his father’s concubine, Bilhah, who was also his aunt’s handmaid.
 - G. Then when they came to their journey’s end, where his 180 year old father Isaac lived, Isaac then died.
 - H. Jacob and Esau were once again reunited in burying their father.
 - I. Which brings us to chapter 36 where we read about the genealogy of Esau.

II. **Vss 1-3 Carnal Esau’s fleshly wives**

1 Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom.

- A. Remember why Esau was nicknamed Edom? He sold his birthright for a pot of red lentil stew.

Hebrews 12:16,17 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

- B. Esau was hairy, red, had a mouth that made a sailor blush, a hunter, a woman chaser, a man’s man.
- C. And was as carnal as the day is long!
 1. He was profane
 2. He didn’t care a bit for spiritual things, including the birthright and the blessing.
- D. The birthright meant not only a double portion of the inheritance, but also the spiritual responsibility of leading the family in their walk with GOD.
 1. Esau only cared about his physical needs and wants.
 2. So when he came home hungry, he willingly sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of beans!
- E. Esau is an example of a person who is spiritually dead, a carnal man or woman of the flesh.

F. Esau's choices of wives revealed how fleshly and carnal he was.
 2a Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan:

G. Not from those who believed in the 1 true and living GOD, but from idol worshippers.

2b Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite;

H. Adah means "Adornment"

1. Or pretty accessory, a trophy wife.
2. Carnal men like Esau are looking for someone or something that makes them look good - the appearance of success, like a trophy wife to hang on their arm!

2c Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite;

I. Aholibama means "My tent is in a high place". Which speaks of the sensual worship of idols.

1. When a person went to worship a false god next to the altar was a tent where temple prostitutes gave sex for money -
 - a) All part of the worship of false gods.
 - b) Sadly, our country is wholly given over to idol worship in its pursuit of sex of all perverse and twisted forms!
2. Some Bible teachers suggest that Aholibama was a temple prostitute, not only beautiful, but very experienced sexually.
3. Carnal men like Esau want a beautiful woman who's good in bed.

3 and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth.

J. Basemath means "Fragrant spices" -

1. She was the original "Spice Girl" - smelly spice.
2. Perfume, after-shave, cologne, they're all nice.
3. But what they are is an external, artificial, cover scent.
4. Carnal men like Esau are all about the external, artificial, cover-up, pretending to be something they're not.

K. So here in chapter 36 we read about the 3 wives of Esau:

1. Adah, Aholibama, and Basemath.
2. Or trophy wife, hot momma, and Smelly Spice.

- L. But chapters 26 and 28 say that Esau had three wives, but with different names:
1. Judith, another Basemath, and a cousin named Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael.
 2. It could be that Esau had 6 wives, 2 of which had the same name, “Basemath”, or “Smelly Spice”.
- M. We know that Judith and the first Basemath were not well received by Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 26:34,35 When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.³⁵ And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

1. Judith means “Jewish”.
 2. Carnal men, like Esau, will be satisfied with a hint of religion, but will not tolerate anything that is truly deeply spiritual.
 3. And “Mahalath” means sickness and suffering, or “You make me sick!”
 4. Carnal men, like Esau, will end up sick and suffering due to their carnal, fleshly choices.
- N. So Esau was married to Adah, Aholibama, Basemath, Judith, another Basemath, and finally, Mahalath. Or,
1. Make me look good,
 2. Give me hot sex,
 3. Give me a sweet cover-up for my offensiveness,
 4. Give me another sweet cover-up for my offensiveness,
 5. Be religious in name only,
 6. You make me sick!
- O. These are the ways and the results of carnal people, who pursue the lusts of the flesh.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- P. The HOLY SPIRIT through Paul told the Galatians to avoid the death of the pathway of following the flesh by walking in the SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:16-21 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

1. Then they were told about avoiding the works of the flesh

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. Again, as we saw in Romans 8:13,

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Q. Then the HOLY SPIRIT to the Colossians told them and us how to avoid the pathway of the flesh.

Colossians 3:1-17 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

R. So we first seek the LORD, HIS kingdom, HIS righteousness, and then declare war and total annihilation of the things of the flesh.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

S. So we're to put to death fleshly actions, and then fleshly attitudes.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

T. In JESUS CHRIST we are no longer Esau - children of the flesh - but are now Israel - governed by GOD.

1. Therefore we put to death the things that are Esau

2. And we put on the things that are JESUS!

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one

another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

III. Vss 4-8 Pursuing the flesh leads one astray

4 Now Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel. 5 And Aholibamah bore Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

- A. Notice that Esau's sons were born in the land of promise before he moved to Seir outside of the land of promise.
- B. Jacob's children were born out of the land, but then Jacob moved them into the land.
- C. Carnal people, like Esau, are always moving their families from the promises of GOD to pursue carnal things.
 - 1. "I know it's Sunday, but it's such a beautiful day - let's take the boat out to the lake!"
 - 2. "I know it's Wednesday night, but we're tired and GOD wants to give us rest!"
 - 3. "I know it's Sunday night prayer, but the Packers are playing!"
 - 4. "I know we're really growing in the LORD here, but let's move to a nicer place with more money!"
- D. Which was really carnal Esau's reason for moving away from the promised land.

6 Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the persons of his household, his cattle and all his animals, and all his goods which he had gained in the land of Canaan, and went to a country away from the presence of his brother Jacob. 7 For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were strangers could not support them because of their livestock.

- E. Just like how Lot separated himself from Abraham - which was a bad move for Lot and his family.

8 So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom.

- F. And for many generations Israel had many problems and many battles with the Edomites,
- G. And spiritual people contend with their flesh and also with carnal people.

IV. Vss 9-43 Sons, Chiefs, and Kings

9 And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir. 10 These were the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau.

- A. In vs 10 Esau had 1 boy with Adah: Eliphaz
- B. And Basemath had 1 boy: Reuel.
 1. Vs 11 Eliphaz had a son named Teman.
 2. One of Job's friends / tormenters was Eliphaz the Temanite.
 3. Vs 12 Eliphaz had a concubine who bore Amalek - whose descendants became the most hateful, vicious, ruthless enemy Israel ever faced!

11 And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

12 Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife. 13 These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. 14 These were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon. And she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.

- C. In vs 14 Esau had 3 boys with Aholibama: Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.
- D. Then in vss 15-19 the sons of Esau were given the title of "Chief".

15 These were the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn son of Esau, were Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz, 16 Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. They were the sons of Adah. 17 These were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. 18 And these were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jaalam, and Chief Korah. These were the chiefs who descended from Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah. 19 These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.

- E. Then in vss 20-30 we have the descendants of a man named Seir, who happened to be the great grandfather of Esau's wife, Aholibama.
 1. Esau moved his family to the region of Seir and initially became part of them.
 2. But then he conquered them and took over as the ruler of the land.

3. That's what the flesh does: it pretends to be our friend, but if we allow it to have its way, it will rise up and conquer us.

20 These were the sons of Seir the Horite who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, 21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom. 22 And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna. 23 These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. 24 These were the sons of Zibeon: both Ajah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the water in the wilderness as he pastured the donkeys of his father Zibeon. 25 These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah. 26 These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. 27 These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. 28 These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran. 29 These were the chiefs of the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah, 30 Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, and Chief Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

F. Then in vss 31-43 we read about chiefs and kings in Edom.

31 Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel:

G. Carnal people like Esau always wants to be first!

H. Then Vss 32-43 mentions a lot of names.

32 Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah. 33 And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. 34 When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. 35 And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of his city was Avith. 36 When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place. 37 And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place. 38 When Saul died, Baal-hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place. 39 And when Baal-hanan the son of Achbor died, Hadar reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab. 40 And these were the names of the chiefs of Esau, according to their families and their places, by their names: Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth, 41 Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon, 42 Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar, 43 Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession. Esau was the father of the Edomites.

V. Again, Esau is a type of the flesh.

- A. Self-seeking, self-promoting, concerned about fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- B. The flesh cares nothing about spiritual things, and is willing to trade any lasting spiritual thing for a moment of fulfillment.
- C. The flesh will pretend to be nice, but its nature is to rise up, conquer, rule and reign, and destroy.
- D. We have got to put to death the deeds and attitudes of the flesh, or else it will destroy us.
- E. Which we do by putting on the LORD JESUS CHRIST.