

SALT Church

Genesis 36

“Bitter Roots”

September 30, 2026

“In the Beginning”

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The \$50 question:

- How is this section of scripture useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness?

Esau's Family (verses 1-8)

36 These are the family records of Esau (that is, Edom). ² Esau took his wives from the Canaanite women: Adah daughter of Elon the Hethite, Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite, ³ and Basemath (Basma) 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 Esau's sons, who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

- The single most important decision in our lives is whether we chose to submit to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

- Notice what I did not say:
 - I did not say, believe that Jesus is real and is the Son of God.
 - I did not say, believe that He died and rose from the grave on the third day.
 - I did not say, believe that He died for my sins.
 - Why?
 - Because the demons believe those things and they will burn in Hell for eternity.

What the demons will not do is ***submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ***

- They live and thrive in rebellion
 - Meaning they live in open, active, willful disobedience.
 - People who do the same will share in the same fate as the demons.

So, the most important decision anyone could make is to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The second most important decision we make in our lives is who we marry.

- The Bible says that we become one with that person
 - They have a tremendous influence over our lives
 - They shape and mold other relationships with
 - Friends
 - Family

- Career
- And most certainly our God

Esau spent his entire life seeking pleasure:

- He lived for the moment
- He lived for the party
- He lived for the sex
- He cared nothing for tomorrow
 - (Right now) is all that mattered.
 - This “live for the moment and forget the consequences of our decisions” catches up with Esau.
 - Esau may be the most likable of the twins but let’s be very clear that He was not Gods favorite.
 - The New Testament reminds us more than once of Esau’s fate.

One Decision changes everything:

- Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of beans
- Esau chose Canaanite women to be his wives
- Esau chose Ishmael’s daughter to be his wife

What was the end result?

- He forfeited his rights as the oldest son
- He lost his position within the family of God
- He left a legacy of rebellion and violence.

⁶Esau took his wives, sons, daughters, and all the people of his household, as well as his herds, all his livestock, and all the property he had acquired in Canaan; he went to a land away from his brother Jacob. ⁷For their possessions were too many for them to live together, and because of their herds, the land where they stayed could not support them. ⁸So Esau (that is, Edom) lived in the mountains of Seir.

The last few chapters recorded 20 years of Jacobs life but nothing was said about Esau.

- We can speculate that he stayed close to his parents but it is doubtful that he was too close as Rebekah despised his wives.
 - This is what happens when you reject your God and your parents advice.
 - Rebellion always cost more than we are willing to pay.

This next section is Esau's life living within Seir.

- Why is it important that we know what happened there?
 - Couple of things come to mind:
 - God's word is always true
 - Genesis 27 said this was going to happen
 - The Edomites come from Esau and sadly they become the enemies of God's people.
 - But even in the rebellion God blesses Esau because His daddy is Isaac.

- But the blessing of more children and even Kings that come from Esau's line are sad and filled with sin, and war.
- This will continue even in Jesus' day.

I think the reason this is recorded the way it is, is due to the future rebellion of Israel.

- The nation of Israel can see the difference between Jacob and Esau
- They can see the love and blessing of God as well as the punishment and judgement.
 - The names do not mean as much to us as our Jewish brothers and sisters but if nothing else they scream to us that these were real people who had rejected God.
 - The result is they and their families become enemies of God and His people.
 - Meaning they passed down their sins to many generations without any concern of the consequences. (Just like their father Esau)

⁹ These are the family records of Esau, father of the Edomites in the mountains of Seir.

¹⁰ These are the names of Esau's sons:

Eliphaz son of Esau's wife Adah,
and Reuel son of Esau's wife Basemath.

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

¹² Timna, a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz,

bore Amalek to Eliphaz.

These are the sons of Esau's wife Adah.

¹³ These are Reuel's sons:

Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

These are the sons of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹⁴ These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah
daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon:

She bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah to Edom.

¹⁵ These are the chiefs among Esau's sons:

the sons of Eliphaz, Esau's firstborn:

chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief Kenaz,

¹⁶ chief Korah, chief Gatam, and chief Amalek.

These are the chiefs descended from Eliphaz
in the land of Edom.

These are the sons of Adah.

¹⁷ These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son:

chief Nahath, chief Zerah, chief Shammah, and chief Mizzah.

These are the chiefs descended from Reuel
in the land of Edom.

These are the sons of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹⁸ These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah:

chief Jeush, chief Jalam, and chief Korah.

These are the chiefs descended from Esau's wife Oholibamah
daughter of Anah.

¹⁹ These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom),
and these are their chiefs.

You will notice a difference or a shift in the genealogy of Esau's line, why?

- In Genesis 27 Isaac tells Esau that he will live by the sword which is a nice way of saying that he and his family will be violent people.

Genesis 27:38-40 (*Just before Jacobs leaves*)

38 Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!” And Esau wept loudly.

39 His father Isaac answered him, Look, your dwelling place will be away from the richness of the land, away from the dew of the sky above. 40 You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you rebel, you will break his yoke from your neck.

Esau's family will not live in the promised land.

- Away from the richness and away from the dew (or rain) tells us and Esau that he and his family will live in the mountains and not the rich farmland of the valleys.
 - He will end up in the mountains of Seir.

Esau's family will take over Seir's family line

- God gives us Seir's family line as a testimony to the violent nature of Esau's family.

Seir's Family

20 These are the sons of Seir the Horite,
the inhabitants of the land:

Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

²¹ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

These are the chiefs among the Horites,
the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom.

²² The sons of Lotan were Hori and Heman.

Timna was Lotan's sister.

²³ These are Shobal's sons:

Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

²⁴ These are Zibeen's sons: Aiah and Anah.

This was the Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness
while he was pasturing the donkeys of his father Zibeen.

²⁵ These are the children of Anah:

Dishon and Oholibamah daughter of Anah.

²⁶ These are Dishon's sons:

Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

²⁷ These are Ezer's sons:

Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

²⁸ These are Dishan's sons: Uz and Aran.

²⁹ These are the chiefs among the Horites:

chief Lotan, chief Shobal, chief Zibeen, chief Anah,

³⁰ chief Dishon, chief Ezer, and chief Dishan.

These are the chiefs among the Horites,
clan by clan, in the land of Seir.

Rulers of Edom

³¹ These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom
before any king reigned over the Israelites:

³² Bela son of Beor reigned in Edom;

the name of his city was Dinhabah.

³³ When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah reigned in his place.

³⁴ When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

³⁵ When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad reigned in his place.

He defeated Midian in the field of Moab;

the name of his city was Avith.

³⁶ When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah reigned in his place.

³⁷ When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the Euphrates River reigned in his place.

³⁸ When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor reigned in his place.

³⁹ When Baal-hanan son of Achbor died, Hadar reigned in his place.

His city was Pau, and his wife's name was Mehetabel
daughter of Matred daughter of Me-zahab.

**⁴⁰ *These are the names of Esau's chiefs,
according to their families and their localities,
by their names:***

chief Timna, chief Alvah, chief Jetheth,

⁴¹ *chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon,*

⁴² *chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar,*

⁴³ *chief Magdiel, and chief Iram.*

***These are Edom's chiefs,
according to their settlements in the land they possessed.***

Esau was father of the Edomites.

Esau should have been the son of promise but he was not.

- Esau was the son of rebellion and that is how he is eternally remembered.
- The writer of Hebrews warns us about becoming like Esau;

Hebrews 12:14-17

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord.

- How do we pursue peace with everyone?
 - “People are going to people”
 - Sin is going to happen so how do we pursue peace with everyone?
 - When conflict arises go to Matthew 18 and do what it says.
 - Go to the person that you have issue with
 - Do not gossip or grumble!!!!!!
 - Get the facts
 - Pray before you go
 - Pray as you meet
 - Pray after you meet
 - Do everything for the glory of God
 - Do everything to protect the unity of the Church
 - Understand that Satan and his demons main goal is to destroy Gods great name
 - Destroy the unity of the church
 - Why?

UNIFIED CHURCHES ARE POWERFUL AND BRING GREAT GLORY TO GODS NAME!

“Pursue holiness”

- Walk away from sin
- Draw close to God the Father
- Make the decision to:
 - Change your friend group if needed
 - Change what you listen to
 - Watch
 - Read
 - Do
- Pray for holiness
 - Wisdom and discernment
 - A hunger and thirst for Gods word that is unquenchable

Remember these words from Hebrews 12

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord.

¹⁵ Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.

- This is a very powerful verse
 - “Making sure that no one falls short of the grace of God” means we better learn to pour grace on everything and everyone.
(WHY?)

- If we do not “pour grace” the root of bitterness springs up!

Think of it this way:

- We think of Hell being below us or in the depths of the earth
- Bitter roots have their origin below us in the depths of the earth.
 - Roots equal fruits
 - It’s as if we are bringing Hell up into our world
 - So when we tap into hell the only fruit that can be produced is bitterness
 - Bitterness destroys people, thus the fruit of bitterness is destruction

Pouring out grace comes from above:

- When we choose to pour out grace we bring Heaven down into our world.
 - ***“Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”***

Here is what I know:

“THE root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many”

- The bitterness of Esau caused trouble for him and his entire family.
- That bitter personality shaped and doomed an entire nation of people.
- That bitterness was still around 2,000 years later when Jesus was born.
- King Herod was an Edomite and he tried to kill baby Jesus so that Jesus would not become king.

Back to Hebrews 12 (Where's Esau?)

¹⁶And make sure that there isn't any immoral or irreverent person like Esau, who sold his birthright in exchange for a single meal.

- Esau's position within the family of God meant nothing to him.
- He traded it for food! (Beans!)
 - The Bible calls him "immoral and irreverent"
 - He was immoral meaning without morals due to his lust for the flesh, he lived for the moment.
 - Nothing was more important to him!
 - He was irreverent because he did not care for the things of God.
 - His position within the family of God nor his responsibility to God meant anything to him.
 - Esau's god was Esau and that was all that mattered to him.

Listen we must not blow by this and think poor Esau!

- We are just like Esau!
 - We will live in sin and justify it
 - We will live in active willful disobedience and claim that we are Christ followers.
 - The Bible says we are liars when we do this...

Here is the crazy thing:

- When our world comes crashing down around us, we have the audacity to blame God

- Why is God doing this to me?
- Or God did this to me!

Oh yeah?

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord.

- Tell me how this verse applies to you shacking up with someone?
- Tell me how this verse applies as you gossip and grumble?
- Tell me how this verse applies when you wont do what Matthew 18 says you should do when you encounter conflict with another Christian.
- The truth is this:
 - The church has it fair share of Esau's!

Pastor why are you being this way?

- ***Because the next verse is so true!***

¹⁷ For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, even though he sought it with tears, because he didn't find any opportunity for repentance.

- Bitter roots destroy
 - Lives
 - Churches
 - Relationships
- Everyone wants grace and mercy from Heaven to poured out upon them

- You can beg God for it
 - With tears in your eyes
 - But... **he sought it with tears, because he didn't find any opportunity for repentance.**

Esau's life is a testimony to the whole world about the dangers of the root of bitterness.

- You want grace and mercy
 - Seeking it with tears will not call it down from Heaven!
 - It is not until we confess and repent does grace and mercy flow.

We close with this final thought:

Hebrews 9:22

²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- You were bought with a price
- Grace and mercy are free but it cost Jesus His life
- The time has come to:

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord.

¹⁵ Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.