

In the Beginning

Genesis 36-37

- We left off with Jacob being told by God to go to Bethel but instead decided to travel to Shechem where he and his family are met with disaster as his daughter Dinah is raped by the King's son and taken in to be a part of his harem. Jacob's sons Simeon and Levi exact revenge on the people of Shechem and killing the men after tricking them into believing they would live in peace with them, and afterward takes the children and women as slaves.
- God speaks to him a second time telling him to now Go to Bethel as he should have done in the first place and this time Jacob obeys the Lord and in route asks everyone in his party to turn over the idols that he knew they were carrying with them all along and purify themselves prior to coming to Bethel. Once there Jacob builds an altar and calls it "**El Bethel**" The God of Bethel, and God speaks to him and reminds him that his name is no longer "**Jacob**" heel catcher or schemer, but "**Israel**" God's fighter, the one who lost the battle but gained the victory.
- Jacob had been deceiving others and himself his whole life, and in doing so he had been fighting against God and His will for his life, and its ended up in one disaster after another. Now in reminding Jacob that he'd received a new name signified a new beginning and an opportunity for Jacob to make a fresh start. This will not be without opposition, as we read his eldest son make a play for the leadership of the tribe by attempting to take Bilhah his father's concubine as wife, also we read that his father Isaac has died and he buries him along with Esau his brother. Although he is given a fresh start its not without old problems the question is will Jacob revert back to his old self or will he live up to his new name one in which denotes a surrender to God.

V1-43

- **V1-2** Chapter 36 records the genealogy of Esau Jacob's twin brother, some may think why is this important? **Gen 25:23** Rebekah is told that she had **2** nations in her womb > **1, Isralites-** Jacob, **2. Edomites-** Esau, this chapter is important because it shows that God always fulfills His Word > **Num 23:19** says "**God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent, has He said and will He not do? Or has He spoken and will He not make it good?**"
- As we read about Esau's life remember it was very distressing to his parents that he lived this way > **Gen 26:34-35-** it brought grief and bitterness and to make matters worse and add more sorrow to his parents grief he went to "**Ishmael**" the son of the flesh to marry from his line > **Gen 28:9.** This guy is the poster child for **Prov 10:1, 17:25,** parents let this be a lesson to you about being mindful what you model in front of your children, as it may be cute now but in the end it will bring nothing but pain, grief and sorrow, as they live their lives in rebellion to the Lord
- **V6-8** he wanted no part of the spiritual responsibilities of being a son of Abraham and Isaac but only the natural blessings that came from it, and there are many children who think the same,

give me the blessings of being a child of parents who love and serve the Lord but none of its responsibilities, as they themselves don't want to live for the Lord but only take from the Lord.

- **V43** calls him the father of the Edomites, just so you know their history, when Israel traveled through the wilderness to the Promise Land it was the Edomites who refused them passage through the land > **Num 20:14-21**, the prophets spoke out against the Edomites > **Jer 49:17-18**, **Ezek 5:12-14**, and Herod the Great who killed all those Jewish babies also was an Edomite. So not only was this bad for the people of God now but also in later generations as well.

Chapter 37

V1-36

- **V1-2** Jacob has suffered much, he's lost his beloved wife Rachel, both his parents have died, his eldest has dishonored him by sleeping with his brothers mother, his concubine, Rachel's handmaiden, his 2nd and 3rd sons have deliberately disrespected him by publicly speaking in defiance to him, his daughter's been raped, and his nanny died. Now the story shifts off of him and onto his children specifically to his favorite Joseph the eldest of Rachel's two sons.
- **V3-8** don't give your kids too much credit folks as most of them have very little discernment when it comes to how their favorable treatment may negatively affect those around them, Joseph is rubbing his brothers nose into how he is the perceived favorite of the family and he doesn't care if everyone knows it. In **Lk 2:19** Mary upon hearing she was the chosen mother of our Saviour wisely kept it to herself, **Prov 11:22**- speaks about the wisdom of having discretion.
- **V9-11** Joseph has not learned his lesson as he tells both his brothers and his father a second dream and this angers his father but he doesn't teach Joseph discretion. **V12-17** this shows how undiscerning Jacob is by sending Joseph out to check on his brothers with his colorful coat. **V18-22, 3** of the older brothers have already shown that they do not follow their father's counsel and yet these are who Jacob sends Joseph out to check on, and we see their mindset as their jealous, envious, angry, and they've already killed those who they despise so killing Joseph is no big deal.
- They begin to conspire of how to kill Joseph and cover it up, but Reuben who although a fornicator, and adulterer draws the line at killing his younger brother so he suggests lets teach him a lesson by throwing him in a pit, what a crew these men are where the **12** tribes of Israel descend from. Folks as Christians don't ever try and defend the history of man because it is bad, only God intervening on our behalf makes any of what we do any good, but in and of ourselves its bad, which is why when we read the Bible it's all about reconciliation and redemption.
- **V23-27** after grabbing Joseph and stripping him of his coat which reminded them of his position as the favorite, and throw him in a pit, they sit down and eat a meal showing how heartless and godless their character was at this point in their lives as they contemplate killing young Joseph.

- **V28-32** Judah where the Messianic line descends from says let's not kill Joseph but let's make some money out of the deal and sell him as a slave to some Ishmalites of all people. This is so shocking its almost numbing that these brothers where the **12** tribes of Israel descend from doing something as cold and callous as selling their young brother to slavers for a few coins.
- They cover their sins with a lie by killing a young goat and spreading the blood all over the coat to try and fool their father Jacob that this was Joseph's blood, all Jacob needed to do was ask the Lord what happened, pray, wait on God, but we don't see that, for just as he fooled his father many years ago so his sons fool him also. **V33-36** he recognizes the coat with all the blood on it but doesn't realize it's not his son's blood, and Jacob says this is it he will not be joyous again, and Joseph is brought down into Egypt a type of the world and there God will shape him.