

The Birth of a Nation

A Study in Genesis 25-36

The Generations of Esau
Genesis 36:1-43
May 9, 2021

These are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir. - Genesis 36:9

I. GOD'S BLESSING ON ESAU

- Esau is a child of Isaac, and although not the chosen seed of God, he is still blessed. His immediate "generations" amount to 73 descendants (Vss. 9-43).
- Jacob and Esau's material wealth make it impossible for them to dwell together (Vss. 6-7; Gen. 13:5-6).
- Esau heads east, away from the land of promise. Nevertheless, God will require Israel not to harass their brothers in the time of the conquest (Deut. 2:1-6, 23:7).

II. A PROCESS OF ASSIMILATION

- Esau is blessed, and he seems to have reconciled with his family, but he demonstrates a decided lack of desire for the things of God (Gen. 25:32, 26:34-35; Heb. 12:15-17).
- Esau intentionally marries into Canaanite society. He has placed his own desires above those of God, and thus he walks out of the storyline of salvation history.

III. EXCHANGING TRUTH FOR LIES

- "Be like us, and be at peace" is the call of this world. God's call is a call to transformation (Rom. 12:1-2).
- Our own proclivity toward wanting our wishes fulfilled leads to foolishness (Rom. 1:21-32; 2 Tim. 4:3-4).
- Worldliness can lead to great fame and fortune. In the end, it leads only to death (Prov. 14:12).
- Jesus has offered us a better way. Harder, but better (Mark 8:34-38; John 15:1-11).

KNOW: Life continues for those who are assimilated into the world. Often, good things happen from a worldly perspective. Yet in the end, everything is lost.

DO: Take up your cross. Gain eternal life.

Suggested Reading:

Discipline: The Glad Surrender by Elisabeth Elliott (LifePoint Library #248.4)

The Radical Disciple by John R.W. Stott (LifePoint Library #248.4 STO)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 36:1-8

1. Chapter 36 is essentially one long genealogy. What can we receive and learn from biblical genealogies?
2. What seems to be the trajectory of Esau's life? What was he living for?
3. Why, do you think, God continues to bless Esau, even when he was not chosen to be the one through whom God's blessings would flow to the nation of Israel?
4. Why are we called in Scripture to deny the world (and ourselves) in order to follow after God?
5. How do we go about doing that, practically?
6. What steps can you take to move further away from the world and closer to Christ?