

SCENE 1 — ESAU YIELDS (Genesis 36:1–19 NASB)

1 Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).
2 **Esau took his wives** from the daughters of Canaan:
Adah the daughter of **Elon the Hittite**, and **Oholibamah**
the daughter of **Anah** and the granddaughter of **Zibeon the Hivite**;
3 also **Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, the sister of Nebaioth**.
4 **Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau**, and **Basemath bore Reuel**,
5 and **Oholibamah bore Jeush and Jalam and Korah**.
These are the sons of **Esau who were born to him** in the land of Canaan.
6 Then **Esau took his wives and his sons and his daughters**
and **all his household**, and **his livestock and all his cattle**
and **all his goods** which **he had acquired in the land of Canaan**,
and **went to another land** away from his brother **Jacob**.
7 For **their property had become too great for them** to live together,
and **the land where they sojourned could not sustain them** because of their livestock.
8 So **Esau lived in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom**.
9 These then are the records of the **generations of Esau**
the **father of the Edomites** in the hill country of **Seir**.
10 These are the names of Esau's sons:
Eliphaz the son of **Esau's wife Adah**, **Reuel** the son of **Esau's wife Basemath**.
11 The sons of **Eliphaz** were **Teman, Omar, Zepho and Gatam and Kenaz**.
12 **Timna was a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz** and **she bore Amalek to Eliphaz**.
These are the sons of Esau's wife Adah.
13 These are the sons of Reuel: **Nahath and Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah**.
These were **the sons of Esau's wife Basemath**.
14 These were **the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah**,
the daughter of **Anah** and the granddaughter of **Zibeon**:
she bore to **Esau, Jeush and Jalam and Korah**.
15 These are the chiefs of the **sons of Esau**.
The **sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn of Esau**, are **chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief Kenaz**,
16 **chief Korah, chief Gatam, 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, 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, chief Korah.
These are the chiefs descended from **Esau's wife Oholibamah**,
the daughter of **Anah**.
19 These are the sons of **Esau** (that is, Edom), and these are **their chiefs**.

There is no fight. No negotiation. No speech. Esau just _____.

There is a Hebrew word — *betsa* — wealth accumulated through dishonesty.

Jacob's abundance came through _____.

Am I going to spend my life _____ because of Jacob?

Or am I going to _____ him?

By Genesis 36 Esau is not leaving because he lost. He is leaving because he is free.

SCENE 2 — GOD IN THE OTHER NATIONS (Genesis 36:20–30 NASB)

20 These are the sons of **Seir the Horite**, the inhabitants of the land: **Lotan and Shobal and Zibeon and Anah**, 21 and **Dishon and Ezer and Dishan**. These are **the chiefs** descended from **the Horites**, the **sons of Seir** in the land of **Edom**.

22 The sons of **Lotan** were **Hori and Hemam**; and **Lotan's sister** was **Timna**.

23 These are the sons of **Shobal**: **Alvan and Manahath and Ebal, Shepho and Onam**.

24 These are the sons of **Zibeon**: **Aiah and Anah**— he is the **Anah** who found the hot springs in the wilderness when he was pasturing the donkeys of his father **Zibeon**.

25 These are the children of **Anah**: **Dishon**, and **Oholibamah**, the daughter of **Anah**.

26 These are the sons of **Dishon**: **Hemdan and Eshban and Ithran and Cheran**.

27 These are the sons of **Ezer**: **Bilhan and Zaavan and Akan**.

28 These are the sons of **Dishan**: **Uz and Aran**.

29 These are the chiefs descended from the **Horites**: chief **Lotan**, chief **Shobal**, chief **Zibeon**, Chief **Anah**, 30 chief **Dishon**, chief **Ezer**, chief **Dishan**.

These are **the chiefs** descended from **the Horites**, according to their **various chiefs** in the land of **Seir**.

Anah was just watching donkeys and stumbled onto _____.

In the beginning God put a spring in a _____. Eden.

The God who put a spring in Eden is putting springs in _____.

Theologians call this _____.

Eden breaking out in _____.

God is not small enough to only bless one family. The question is whether you recognize it when it happens in your wilderness.

SCENE 3 — KINGS BEFORE ISRAEL HAD KINGS (Genesis 36:31–39 NASB)

31 Now **these** are **the kings** who reigned in the land of **Edom** before any king reigned over the sons of Israel.

32 *Bela the son of Beor reigned in **Edom**, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.*
33 *Then Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah became king in his place.*
34 *Then Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the **Temanites** became king in his place.*
35 *Then Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the field of Moab, became king in his place; and the name of his city was Avith.*
36 *Then Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah became king in his place.*
37 *Then Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth on the Euphrates River became king in his place.*
38 *Then Shaul died, and Baal-hanan the son of Achbor became king in his place.*
39 *Then Baal-hanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar became king in his place; and the name of his city was Pau; and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, daughter of Mezahab.*

Edom had _____ before Israel.

Israel said — give us a king like the _____.

They have not rejected you. They have rejected _____ from being king.

God never designed Israel to be _____.

The problem was they forgot _____ they were.

The thing they chased became the instrument of their destruction. God is not impressed by your Edom metrics.

CLOSE — THE CROWNED KING (Genesis 36:40–43 NASB)

40 *Now these are the names of the chiefs descended from **Esau**, 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, chief Iram.*

*These are the chiefs of **Edom** (that is, **Esau**, the father of the **Edomites**), according to their habitations in the land of their possession.*

Edom's crowns _____. Israel's crowns _____. Jesus' crown _____.

He _____ the last enemy every other king bowed to.

He is not in the tomb. He is at the table.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Esau made a choice to forgive Jacob rather than live in bitterness. Is there someone in your life you have been carrying anger toward that God is asking you to release?

2. Esau stopped trying to be Jacob and built something real with who he actually was. Where in your life have you been comparing yourself to someone else instead of building from who God made you?

3. Anah found hot springs doing ordinary work. Where has God shown up unexpectedly in the ordinary moments of your life that you may have almost walked past?

4. Israel rejected God as king because they wanted to look like the nations around them. What Edom metrics are you using to measure your own spiritual life?

5. Victor Glover looked back at Earth from the moon and called it an oasis. What would change if you looked at your own life — your family, your health, your community — with that same sense of wonder and gratitude?

BIBLE NERDS ONLY



The Biblical Writer: Understanding Genealogies and Hebrew Word Plays

Most modern readers treat biblical genealogies as filler. But in the ancient world genealogy was never filler. It was a theological statement. These people matter. They are connected to something larger than themselves.

1. Genealogies Establish Identity

In the ancient Near East, you were who your family was. Your lineage determined your status, your alliances, your rights, your obligations. When Moses records the descendants of Esau in Genesis 36, he is saying — these are real people with real history. Edom is not a myth. It is a nation with roots.

2. Genealogies Fulfill Promises

God told Abraham he would be the father of many nations. Genesis 36 is evidence that the promise was kept — not just through Jacob but through Esau. Every name in that list is a fulfilled word from God.

Genesis 17:4–6 (NASB)

As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations... I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.

Eight kings of Edom are listed in Genesis 36 before Israel has a single one. That is not Esau winning. That is God keeping His word to Abraham through a line most people consider secondary.

3. Genealogies Honor the Unnamed

Every name in Genesis 36 was a person. A child someone named. A life someone lived. In a world where only the powerful got remembered, the biblical genealogy says — God remembers everyone. Even Anah son of Zibeon, who found hot springs while watching donkeys. His name made it into Scripture. That is not an accident.

4. Genealogies Mark Transitions

The phrase these are the generations of appears eleven times in Genesis — it is the spine of the whole book. Each time it signals a transition. Genesis 36 is Esau's genealogy closing his chapter so Jacob's story can continue in Genesis 37. This happened with Ishmael in Genesis 25. It happens with Esau here.

When you see a genealogy in Scripture do not skip it. Ask — who is being honored? What promise is being fulfilled? What transition is the narrator marking?

The Hebrew Wordplay in Genesis 36

Hebrew authors embedded meaning into names constantly. Genesis 36 is full of wordplay most English readers walk right past.

Esau = Hairy. Edom = Red. Seir = Hairy.

Genesis 25:25 tells us Esau came out of the womb red all over, and hairy like a garment. His family called him Esau — hairy. His descendants became the Edomites — from *adom* meaning red. And then he goes to live in Seir — which also means hairy. The red hairy man went to live in the land of Hairy. The narrator is winking at you.

Lotan and Leviathan

In the list of Seir's sons, the first name is Lotan. In Hebrew the consonants of Lotan — L-W-T-N — are almost identical to the consonants of Leviathan — L-W-Y-T-N. One extra letter separates them. Leviathan is the sea monster of chaos in texts like Job 41 and Psalm 104. Close enough that a Hebrew reader would have raised an eyebrow. Chaos quietly embedded in the family tree.

Betsa — Ill-Gotten Gain

1 Samuel 8:3 (NASB)

His sons, however, did not walk in his ways but turned aside after dishonest gain (betsa) and took bribes and perverted justice.

The Hebrew word *betsa* describes wealth accumulated through dishonesty. Jacob's abundance in Genesis 36 is rooted in *betsa*. The same word appears in 1 Samuel 8 when Samuel's corrupt sons prompt Israel to demand a king. The narrator does not explain the

connection. He just uses the same word in both places and trusts careful readers to connect the dots.

When you see a repeated word across passages in the Old Testament — pay attention. The narrator is almost always doing something with it.

He is the Anah

Genesis 36 has two men named Anah. Verse 20 lists Anah as a son of Seir. Verse 24 refers to Anah son of Zibeon. The narrator clarifies — he is the Anah who found the hot springs while pasturing the donkeys of his father Zibeon.

That phrase distinguishes the two men AND honors the one worth remembering. Not for his lineage. Not for his position. Just one ordinary day when Eden broke open in his wilderness.

Sometimes the thing that gets you into Scripture is not what you planned. It is just what happened on an ordinary day when you were paying attention.

ANSWER KEY

SCENE 1 — ESAU YIELDS

- Esau just ____: **GOES**
- Wealth through dishonesty: **ILL-GOTTEN GAIN**
- Spend life ____: **ANGRY**
- Or ____ him: **FORGIVE**

SCENE 2 — GOD IN OTHER NATIONS

- Anah found ____: **HOT SPRINGS**
- Spring in a ____: **GARDEN**
- Springs in ____: **DESERTS**
- Theologians call this ____: **COMMON GRACE**
- Eden breaking out in ____: **EDOM**

SCENE 3 — KINGS BEFORE ISRAEL

- Edom had ____ first: **KINGS**
- King like the ____ nations: **OTHER**
- Rejected ____ as king: **ME / GOD**
- Never designed to be ____: **EDOM**
- Forgot ____ they were: **WHO**

CLOSE

- Edom's crowns ____: **RUSTED**
- Israel's crowns ____: **CORRUPTED**
- Jesus' crown ____: **bled**
- He ____ death: **CONQUERED**
- Not in tomb. At the ____: **TABLE**