Genesis 36 Verse 1

* Now ***literally*** that is indeed this chapter. This chapter contains a lot of names and you would wonder why this chapter is even included in the Bible because it is ***literally*** the genealogy of Esau. Here are a couple of reasons…one, for the sake of Isaac because Esau was his son. And more importantly because God had told Rebekah back in Chapter 25, *“Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body…”* This Chapter, I believe, is included because ***God is faithful to His Word and faithful His promises!***
* Very little if anything at all is known or said about any of these names throughout the rest of scripture other than in the circumstance of the **enemies** of the people of Israel. Some of these names appear again…but God had said to Abraham that he would be the *father of many nations*, not just the nation of Israel, and so in this Chapter we are given the genealogy of Esau and we see the Word of God come to pass as it was given to Abraham and to Rebekah.
* Now three (3) times we will be told *repetitively* in this chapter that ***Esau is Edom*** and Edom throughout the history of Israel will be their enemy and throughout the typology of the Old Testament Edom will be a picture of the **flesh.** We’ll also see that Esau is the father of the Amalekites. When Jacob returned to his father he and Esau did not go to war but the first people that end up in conflict with the nation of Israel after they flee Egypt were decedents of Esau…the Amalekites.

Genesis Chapter 36 Verses 2 – 5

* So Esau had three wives and five sons. Now if we ***painstakingly*** compare the names of his wives with other places in the Bible that they are mentioned, we will discover that Esau did some name changing…***very odd.*** This Chapter gives us their original names. But it’s in Chapter 26 we find out that Adah’s name was changed to Judith.
* Judith and Adah. Now Adah means, *“Ornament”* which could mean that she was very pretty and if you recall, Isaac had told his sons not to take wives of the Canaanites but then Esau brings home Adah who was essentially a daughter of the land of Canaan as she was a Hittite and so it could be that her name is changed to perhaps ***appease*** Esau’s parents. Judith literally means *“Praised”,* but also it means *“Jewish,”* which is interesting because at this time the children of Israel are not know by that title.
* Now also, through some scriptural comparison, we find that Basemath and Mahalath are the same person. And this is where it starts to get interesting. Basemath literally means, *“Spice,”* so she is the **original Spice Girl!** HA! She must have been ***very*** beautiful! SPICY! But in this is a picture of the flesh already…Here is what the flesh does…Adah, the ornament…beautiful and desirable…Esau gets her and changes her…and for a time, praises her…this is the work of the flesh. But then…he essentially **casts her aside**…And then he is on to the next ornament…
* Then Basemath…spice…but he, just like the flesh, **grows tired of her** and we find out in Chapter 28 (btw…it’s in spite of his father and brother he takes her as wife) that he changed her name to Mahalath. Do you know what that name means? It ***could*** mean *“stringed instrument,”* but it also means, ***“Sickness!”*** How would you like to be named, *“You make me sick!”* HA!! But **this is the flesh**…from spice to sick, man…this is what the flesh does!
* Then he finds his favorite…one son by Adah, one son by sickness (HA) and five sons by Aholibamah. Now, Aholibamah was the daughter of Anah who was a pagan priest in the region of Mount Seir. Aholibamah literally means, *“Tent of the high place,”* and so most likely Aholibamah was a temple priestess and therefore she was a prostitute. A decendenat of Anak, she was probably **big and beautiful** and she becomes Esau’s favorite. But Adah…***lost her identity***…Basemath…***loses her spice***…and ***this is what the flesh does.*** It begins with a beautiful white wedding…pleasurable for a season, and then it (whatever it is) becomes king…and changes you…
* So Esau had three wives, five sons. And this is *interesting* to me. You would think (at least perhaps I would think) that living in the land of Canaan, under the **protection and provision of his father’s legacy and luxury,** that Esau would have a much larger family then Jacob who had been a stranger in his land and a nomad (a traveler, a pilgrim) for much of his life. ***But Jacob had 12 sons and Esau had only 5 sons.***
* What’s the point of interest? You may not be in the most comfortable condition in life…and certainly we Christians don’t feel cozily at home here in this world…our hearts belong to God who is in heaven and our citizenship is there…**but**…God still desires to increase you and prosper you even over those that have much more favorable conditions than you IF you will heed His voice, even over the call for comfort from your flesh. I’m not necessarily talking about money, possessions or children…***I’m talking about the heart***…***where true poverty or prosperity dwells.***
* Think about it…you could have billions of bucks or hoards of houses or casts of children, ***but if your heart is not right then you enjoy none of it***…in fact you may even slip into a *great disdain* or *depression*…loathing your own life. Hence the reason we see *so many that have so much so often* choose to end their own lives…but…if you have very little…perhaps barely making it financially and not an asset to your name but you have a heart filled with **joy and gratitude** towards God for what He has done and your heart is filled with **hope and steadfastness**…well, I’m not sure anyone would take the former over the ladder…
* ***True prosperity or true poverty*** isn’t the *size of your bank account or the friend count or the likes you get or the possessions you have*…***true prosperity or true poverty exists SOLELY in the heart***…so I guess you could say I am a prosperity gospel preacher…because if you give your whole heart to Jesus then **you will prosper**…every day…all day…no matter your outward circumstance…that’s the point of interest to me as I read this account of Esau’s legacy and think on what God has done with and for Jacob…

Genesis Chapter 36 Verses 6 – 8

* This is most interesting…Esau ends up leaving Canaan to Jacob. After their father dies and Esau is there in the land with Jacob he realizes that the land cannot support both of their families, flocks and herds and so **he packs up and takes off**…this is interesting because Canaan was promised to Jacob and yet Esau *squatted* for 20+ years. What’s the point? Canaan is the Promised Land and that land is promised to Jacob…he received the blessing and ***whatever opposition might come, God’s promises, God’s Word will be accomplished!***
* Esau has no perception or intention of yielding to God’s Word or God’s promises but notice this…**he does.** **Even those that seemingly oppose God’s Word will see themselves sooner or later under some sort of necessity to yield to God and *His* Word.** God’s Word is like that, why? Because Jesus said it in John Chapter8, *“The Word is Truth.”* Whether you follow it or not, believe it or not…doesn’t matter…sooner or later, **everyone will.** Some of us are just ahead of the game…***taking every test with the answers – Open book life, baby!!!!!!!***

Genesis Chapter 36 Verses 9 – 15

* Now this is interesting…***nowhere*** do we read that they, **any of them**, are worthy of any title but it appears ***they title themselves***…***they give themselves honor***…exactly what the flesh does. The flesh cries out *entitlement*, the spirit cries out in *humility*. ***It takes no strength, no accomplishment and no honor to crown yourself chief***…isn’t that just the truest of statements!? And yet so many today, young and old, title themselves and demand respect…think about this…**true honor, true beauty needs no attention**…might get attention but the need to attend is in others because of the beauty that exists…the flesh demands attention, why? No beauty…There’s a whole sermon there for sure…

Genesis Chapter 36 Verses 16 – 43

* And so God is true to His Word and His promises and details the nation of Esau and then the entire Word of God moves on…except for a few of these names that will come up as enemies of the people of God later, the flesh profits nothing…and God moves on.