

HISTORY OF THE EDMITES (#1)

This lesson will come from a study of the 8th Toledoth in the book of Genesis (Gen.25:19-35:29).

The history of the Edomites is one of the perpetual struggle against the supremacy of Israel. It is a history of a cyclic struggle from servitude, to revolt, to being conquered again.

This cyclic history of struggle was prophetically decreed to Esau and his descendants in our lesson text.

Pay special attention to this prophecy's connection to the Coming of Jesus Christ in history.

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob (Gen.27:27-29) and Esau (Gen.27:39-40), even regarding things to come.” (Heb.11:20)

In part #1 of this study we will cover six aspects of the History of the Edomites
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1. We will examine the prophecy of the History of Edomites by four points (Gen.27:39-40).

- Their land would not be prosperous (Gen.27:39; 36:8-9; Josh.24:4; Deut.2:1-7)
 - The mountainous country of Seir
- They would live by the sword (Gen.27:40a).
 - “You will live by the sword”
- Their history would be cyclic struggle of servitude to Israel (Gen.27:40b).
 - “you will serve your brother.”
- There would be times when they would be motivated for their freedom. It would occur during a time of divine discipline upon Israel (Gen.27:40c).
 - “But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck.”

2. The descendants of Esau became known as the Edomites because of Esau selling his birthrights (Gen.25:27-36).

Edomite comes from the Hebrew word for the **red** lentil stew (edom) (Gen.25:30, 34).

- “He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

3. The Mosaic Law allowed the 3rd generation of the Edomites and Egyptians to become incorporated into Israel (Deut.23:7-8).

However, the Moabites and the Ammonites were not allowed until the 10th generation (Deut.23:3-8; Gen.19:37-38) [Lot’s children].

It was based on the national understanding that **spiritual freedom** was God turning cursing into blessing - in Christ (Deut.23:5; Gen.12:1-3; Gal.3:16, 26-29; 5:1, 13).

4. The prophecy of the Edomites' (Esau) hostility towards Israel (Jacob) would be passed down throughout generations of descendants until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

One historical example of the fulfillment of this prophecy of hostility was in Edom's refusal to allow the Exodus generation to pass through their land (Num20:18-21). This occurred over 400 years after the prophecy.

Ezekiel gave a prophetic reference to them in (Ezek.35:1-15). The Edomites entered an alliance with Babylon against Israel and was disciplined for it (Ezek.25:12-15; Obadiah).

Principle: God is not indifferent to what is happening in the world as it relates to the Plan of God.

God allowed the Edomites to participate in His Divine Discipline upon Judah (the 5th cycle of discipline upon Judah by Babylon).

5. The Edomite's were primarily a heathenistic and idolatrous people (2 Chron.25:14-15, 20).

(Heb.12:16) "That there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal."

They lived in sharp contrast to Israel's faith in God through Christ. A strong pivot of believers carried the Plan of God from Abraham to Jesus Christ (Matt.1:1-17; Luke 1-3).

Then a strong pivot of disciples of Jesus Christ carried it out of Israel into the world (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

(Rom.9:7-8) "Nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: 'through Isaac your descendants will be named.' That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants." (Gen.21:12; Gen.25 and 27)

Let me conclude with one final example of the hostility of the Edomites against Israelites and Jesus Christ with Herod the Great. (Matt.2:16-18; Jer.31:15) [The Babylon Captivity] [Prophecy given 586 BC and fulfilled in 4BC].

[4 AD] (Matt.2:16-18) "When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

[586 BC] (Jer.31:15) "This is what the LORD says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

A "Hortonism": "God may wait - but He is never late."

