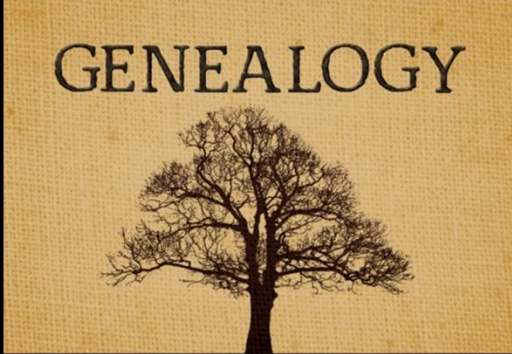


GENEALOGY



SOOKE
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Sunday
May 26
2024
10am

Our Faith is Historical, Not Mythological
Genesis 36

Chat/Question:
Every family as at
least one eccentric
individual.
Who is yours?



03:00

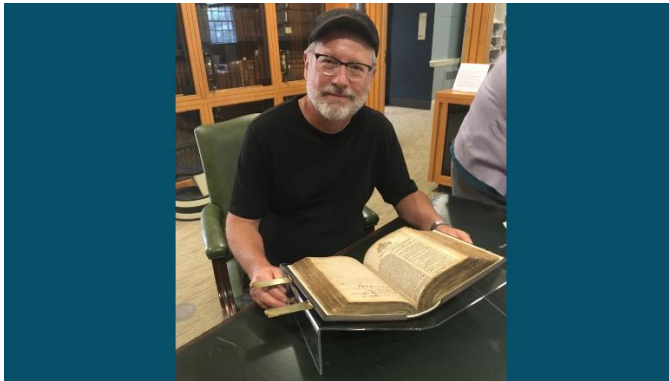
Show my grandma's genealogical chart.

When I was younger, I wasn't all that interested in this chart...
To me they were just a long list of names.
Let me share with you a couple.

There is another genealogical chart on my father's side, located in
Lancaster, Pennsylvania... in a family Bible... that we were able to
see and hold.



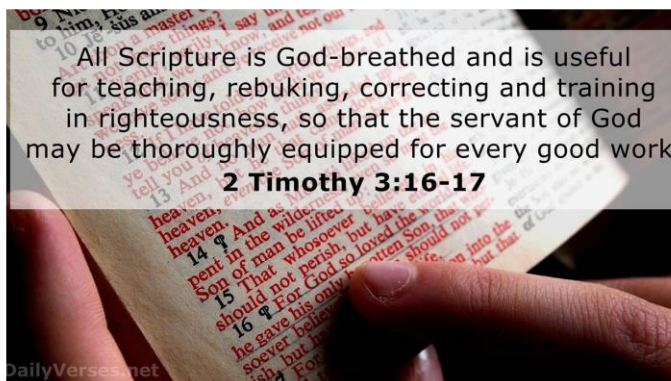
Lancaster,
Pennsylvania



Our study in the book of Genesis has brought us to chapter 36... which details the family line of Esau. Therefore, there is question we must ask ... why is so much space given in the book of Genesis to genealogies?

- Genesis 5** gives a genealogy that spans from Adam to Noah.
- Genesis 10** details the clans of Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth... and the places they lived.
- Genesis 11** describes Abraham's genealogy who was a descendant of Shem.

Look at this verse from the book, 2 Timothy.



All Scripture is God-breathed and useful.

This is true of the psalms... the prophets... the books of history... the four gospels... the books of wisdom... the letters to the churches... the Pentateuch... and... the genealogies.

When you've struggled with illness; or have lost your job; or had a fight with your spouse; or broke up with your significant other; or had challenges in raising your children, or caring for your aging parents, or have experienced trouble with work colleagues or neighbors ... or have needed direction at what you should do... which part of the Bible have you gone to ... for comfort, for hope, or for encouragement?

Is there anyone here... who went to the genealogies?



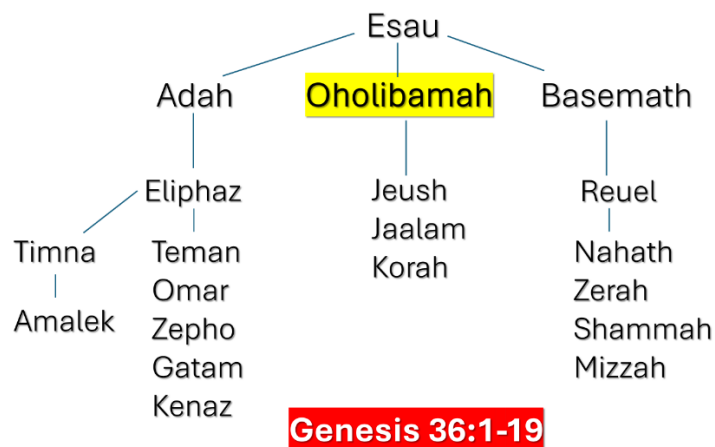
This is why... in light of what the Spirit of God moved Paul to write in his letter to Timothy... we have to ask... how are the genealogies useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness?

This is the question I hope to answer in our study.
I am convinced that the answer will leave us in awe of God and his ways... and will encourage and motivate us to faithfully and passionately live for God.

Look with me at **Genesis 36**

v.1 – This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom).

The first nineteen verses of Genesis 36 lists the names of Esau’s three wives, the sons they had and the children born to them.



v.2 = Esau took his wives from the women of Canaan.

Esau did so in defiance of his parents.

In Genesis 28:9, Isaac had commanded Jacob: **“Do not marry a Canaanite woman.”**

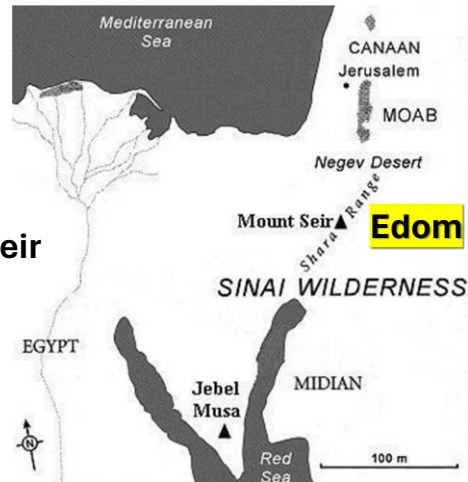
Isaac’s command was also applicable to Esau.

v.6 – Esau...moved to a land some distance from his brother Jacob.

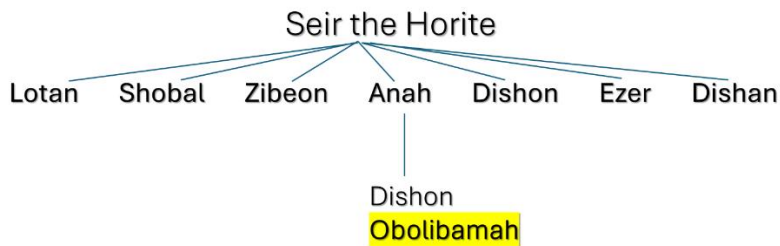
The land he went to was the hill country of Seir, which was where a people known as the Horites lived.

Look at what God told Moses in Deuteronomy 2:6:

Deuteronomy 2:6
 “I have given Esau
 the hill country of Seir
 as his own.”



Genesis 36:20-30 reveals that Esau married into the Horite family... through Oholibamah the daughter of Anah... who was the granddaughter of Seir.



Genesis 36:20-30

This detail is significant.

When he first came to Seir, it was through his marriage to Oholibamah... that Esau gained influence and land.

But after Esau’s death... when his descendants had grown in number and power... they dealt treacherously with the Horites.

Deuteronomy 2:12
Horites used to live in Seir,
but the descendants of Esau drove them out.
They destroyed the Horites
from before them
and settled in their place....

This is how and when the region of Seir became the kingdom of Edom (Esau).

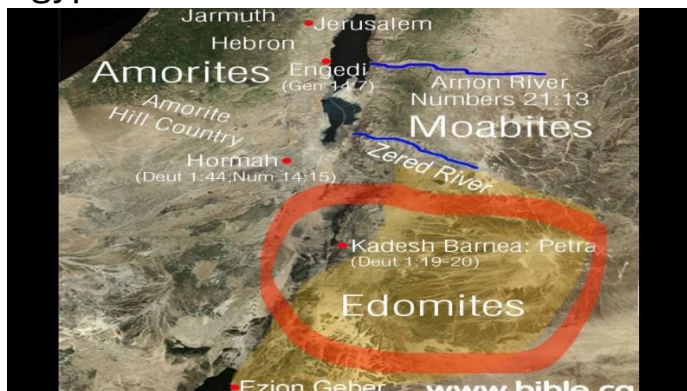
The last part of the genealogy in Genesis 36 provides the names of eight kings...

The Kings of Edom

Genesis 36:31-43

Bela
Jobab
Husham
Hadad
Samlah
Shaul
Baal-Hanan
Hadar

...who reigned in Edom... before... the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob returned to Canaan after centuries of bondage in Egypt.



Let me ask again - why did God include the genealogy of Esau in the book of Genesis and what do we learn from it?

1. The genealogy informs us that Esau experienced blessing from God.

Though the land of Canaan was not given to Esau, God nonetheless blessed Esau with land in which to live.

This reminds us of what God revealed in Acts 17:24-27.

Acts 17:24-27

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

God blesses all peoples of the earth with common grace – sunshine, rain, seasons, crops...

He also blesses the with land... and with time.

2. The genealogy informs us that God blessed Esau even though every indication is that Esau did not walk in the faith of Abraham.

God blessed Esau because he was faithful to keep his promises to Abraham.

The faithfulness of Abraham brought blessing to Esau.

The genealogy in Genesis 36 teaches grandparent and parents, the immeasurable value of an inheritance of obedience that proves the faithfulness of God.

I am forever grateful for the spiritual heritage I was given and the accompanying blessings that have come upon me because of the faith of my extended family.

Parents and grandparents...God blesses us to be a blessing.

3. The genealogy teaches us that because of his grace God protected Esau.

Look at what God said to Moses.

Deuteronomy 2:4-6, 8a

'You are about to pass through the territory of your relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you but be very careful.

⁵ Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own.

⁶ You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.' ... ⁸ So we went on past our relatives, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir.

God's appointed time for Esau's descendants had not come to an end... they still had hundreds of years to seek after God in order to find him.

This impresses upon us that no one will stand before God to give an account of their life and be able to claim, "I had no opportunity to repent."

God is gracious... and gives opportunity after opportunity.

But his patience is not to be presumed upon.

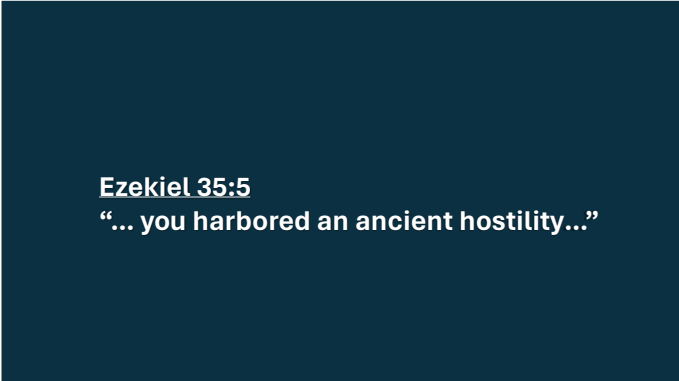
The Scripture give this invitation which is also a warning... today if you hear his voice, repent and believe in him.

4. Because the sin nature is passed on through procreation, it is not uncommon for a person to engage in the sins of their forefathers.

Esau so hated his brother for what he had done... in deceiving and defrauding him of his birthright and blessing... that he planned to kill Jacob.

However, when Jacob returned home after a twenty year absence, it was at Peniel that the two brothers reconciled. Esau laid down his hatred.

But Esau's descendants chose to take up his sin as their own. Look at what God said to the people of Edom through the prophet Ezekiel.



Ezekiel 35:5
“... you harbored an ancient hostility...”

The people of Edom chose to stoke old hatreds. This is how they became an enemy of Jacob's descendants and in turn an enemy of God.

What specifically did they do?

When the nation of Babylon invaded and ransacked Israel and deported its people, the book of Obadiah speaks to them...

The Book of Obadiah

This is what the Sovereign LORD says about Edom.

v.3 – The pride of your heart has deceived you...

v.10 – Because of the violence against your brother Jacob,
you will be covered with shame...

v.11 - ...you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth...

v.12 - ...you rejoiced over the people of Judah
in the day of their destruction...

v.13 - ...you looked down on them in their calamity...

v.14 - ... you waited at the crossroads to hand over their
survivors...

v.15 - ...As you have done, it will be done to you...

Esau's descendants, in taking hold of an ancient hostility... not only stood aloof... not only celebrated as it happened...but actively assisted the Babylonians in the destruction of Judah and its people.

By doing so they brought ruin upon themselves.

God said to them... "as you have done, so it will be done to you."

The Scripture repeatedly teaches... the outcome of sin is never life, but death.

There was one last tragedy that Esau's descendants inflicted upon Jacob's.

It was an infamous act that has never been forgotten.

An Edomite king... Herod the Great... slaughtered the babies of Bethlehem... in order to kill what he perceived as the threat of a rival Jewish king.

After Herod, we hear no more of the Edomites.

The word of the LORD was fulfilled.

Obadiah 14
**“There will be no survivors
from the house of Esau.”**
The LORD has spoken.

These are the specific things that the genealogy of Genesis 36 teaches us.

Because of his grace God blesses, even those, who are his enemies.
Because of his goodness God is faithful to his promises.
Because of his mercy God gives opportunity for people to repent.
Tragically, it is a human tendency for one to enter into the sins of their forefathers.

But all the genealogies of the Bible remind us that ours is an historical, not a mythological faith.

The story of the Bible is about real people, not fairy tale characters. This sets Christianity apart.

The genealogies of the Bible forcefully impress upon us sin’s consequences.

Whatever genealogy you read; those names are of people who lived... but who also died.

This is what sin does.

Death is not natural.

God placed eternity in the human heart.

Death is not part of the circle of life.
Death is an aberration; death is an enemy.

Genealogies reveal to us how short our lives are – no matter how long we live.

All of us are but a vapor as James wrote.

Psalms 103:15 says our days are like grass.

We are left in awe that the triune God who created all life... pursues relationship with the fallen sons and daughter of Adam and Eve.

The psalmist asked – what is man that you are mindful of him. Psalms 8:4.
Not only is God mindful of us, he provided in Jesus Christ all that is needed for a person to come home to him and experience by grace through faith the life that never ends.

The biblical genealogies record the names of ordinary people who lived drawing upon ordinary means of grace.

Of course there are the giants of the faith.

But the day-to-day stuff of our lives is what God uses to bring about his purposes.

Ordinary moments matter.

One last thing.

The names in a genealogy may be faceless to us.

But they weren't to God.

As it was with them, so it is with us.

You are known to God.

You are dearly and deeply loved.

You may feel insignificant, but follower of Jesus, your story is now part of his story, and this makes all the difference... in this life and in the age to come.

Genealogies remind us that our God is sovereign... and that he is in control of history.

Our God is active... to bring about his will upon the earth.
Nothing and no one can frustrate or stop him.

This knowledge is a source of great fear for the sinner but is one of great comfort and encouragement to those who follow Jesus.
This is why... as those who went before us, we give ourselves to live for Jesus and the glory of his kingdom.

The first genealogy is found in Genesis 5.

Adam

Seth

Enosh

Kenan

Mahalalel

Jared

Enoch

Methusaleh

Lamech

Noah

But look at Genesis 5:1-2

This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.

He created them male and female and blessed them.

And he named them "adam," when they were created.

Adam is a proper name, v.1.

But it is also a generic word for the human race, v.2.

Genesis 5 echoes Genesis 1:26-28, stating that humankind is made in the likeness of God... male and female.

This is the source of our identity, our dignity and worth.

And the blessing which is mentioned in Genesis 5 and Genesis 1?

It is the God-given ability of the male and female to procreate – to be fruitful and to increase in number that they might fill the earth and steward it on God’s behalf.

God created Adam and Eve in his image.

But through procreation, Genesis 5:3 says, Adam had a son in his own likeness.

Did that mean that Seth did not bear the image of God?

Did the entrance of sin into human nature erase that image?

The scripture reveals that we receive our sin nature from our parents.

Psalms 51:5 says, “I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”

This is what was stated in Genesis 5:3.

Seth inherited his sin nature from his parents, Adam and Eve, and in turn passed that sin nature onto his own children and they in turn to theirs.

We know this because of what God said in Genesis 9:1-7... to Noah after the flood.

v.1,7 – “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

v.2 – “The animals of the earth are given into your hands.” “They will fear you.”

v.3 – “ I gave you the green plants to eat. Now you may also eat all animals as food.”

v.4 – “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood in it.”

v.5-6 – “Nor shall you shed the blood of a human being.”

Why?

v.6b – “For in the image of God has God made mankind.”

The entrance of sin into human nature did not erase the image of God in which humanity was created.

The genealogies in Genesis teach us this.

In spite of the fact that sin has passed on by parents to their children, the genealogies also make know that the blessing of fertility was not cancelled by Adam and Eve’s disastrous choice. Humankind continues to fill the earth and the fact that they do so is a blessing from God.

God’s creation purposes were not thwarted by human sin.