

#25 Northside Natter

9 September 2020

Today I'm looking at **Esau**.

Esau is the twin brother of Jacob and the firstborn of the pair. Accordingly, he had the greater inheritance coming to him, yet did not receive it due to, amongst other things, the wiles of his mother, Rebekah, and brother Jacob.

Esau had trouble doing the right thing by God, he sold his birthright to Jacob for red lentil stew and even had to settle for a lesser blessing when Jacob deceived their father on his deathbed. Esau made poor choices in his dealings with Israel and the Lord. Those poor choices cost him dearly.

The *Book of Jasher* claims that Esau killed a man, and as a result, certain others were after him to kill him, therefore, he took refuge at his parents' home. Being desperate and very hungry, he said to Jacob, *'I am at the point to die and what profit shall this birthright do to me?'* (**Genesis 25:32**). The red pottage was the last meal of a condemned man. He sold his birthright to his brother at that moment. (*The Book of Jasher is referenced in 2 Samuel 1:18, Joshua 10:13 and was relied upon by the Israelites as an historical document*).

When the Hebrews tried to make it to the promised land, by going through Edom along the King's Highway, they were refused passage, even after reminding Edom (*Esau*) of their kinship to the children of Jacob. From the time of Israel's first king (*Saul*) skirmishes and battles with Edom were plenty and eventually led to Edom becoming a vassal of Israel.

Numbers 24:18-19

And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

Even though the Lord planned Edom's future punishment and final destruction, he continued to teach Israel how they should behave towards their neighbours.

Deuteronomy 23:7-8

Thou shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is thy brother; thou shall not abhor an Egyptian, because thou wast an alien in his land. The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the LORD in their third generation.

That was a great privilege that the Lord extended to them and may explain why we later find a reigning Edomite King, Herod, in Jesus' time. Unfortunately, this Edomite did not divert from the road well-travelled by his forefathers. He caused a great slaughter of Hebrew infants from two years of age and under when he heard of the Messiah's birth, fearful that this Messiah would become someone who later took his throne.

The final end of Esau's tribe is predicted. I believe it coincides with Armageddon.

Isaiah 34:5-8

*For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon **Idumea**, and upon the people of my curse, to judgement. The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it*

*is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the **land of Idumea**. . . .*

. . . ⁸For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

The Lord has promised an end to Edom like the one he gave to Sodom and Gomorrah. Never to be seen again.

Records show that in the latter half of the second century BC, the Nabataeans invaded the land of Edom and pushed the Edomites out to the south-west of Judah. The Edomites resettled in the hills of southern Judah down to an area north of Be'er Sheva. The area later became known as the province of Idumea.

The Edomites were called Idumean Jews. How did they get that name? Apparently, it is the Greek form of the word Edom which was rendered as Uduma or Adum in ancient Aramaic dialects, or Adumi or Udumu by the Assyrians.

During the war with Nebuchadnezzar II it is believed that the Idumeans helped the enemy to plunder Jerusalem and slaughter the Israelites. The Idumeans moved north into Hebron, after Judah's survivors went into captivity, and there the Edomites prospered through the ages to follow.

Genesis 39-40 *And Isaac his father answered and said unto him (Esau), Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above; ⁴⁰ And by thy sword shalt thou live, And shalt serve thy brother; And it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, That thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.*

But as we know, the Lord sees all and does not forget.

Joel 3:19

Egypt will become a waste and Edom will become a desolate wilderness, because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, in whose land they have shed innocent blood.

Esau's descendants should have been trembling in their boots, but like so many people today, they were blind to what they were doing.

When the Israelites began to return to their homeland, from Babylon captivity and rebuilt the temple of their God, the children from a marriage between an Israelite and an Edomite were forbidden to enter the temple to the fourth generation. Jacob's disdain for his brother Esau continued even then. However, in time, some Idumeans were converted over to Judaism – *forcibly* – and incorporated into the Jewish nation. Their reluctant acceptance of Esau's presence was obvious.

During the siege of Jerusalem in 70AD, when Titus led the Roman army, some 20,000 Idumeans helped the zealots fight for independence from Rome. Of course, they lost, and

from that time there has been no further record of the Idumeans in that area, even though the southern province of Idumea was still referred to for some time after.

There is a Jewish tradition stemming from the Talmud, that the descendants of Esau would eventually become the Romans, and to a larger extent, all Europeans. While sounding rather fanciful, history shows Edom in areas above Turkey, living and ruling amongst the Armenians – the *Isaurian Dynasty in 711-802AD* – and then through various royal marriages and migrations made his way across to places like Austria in the Byzantine era. During the Ottoman and Mitanni Empires, some of the people headed for Imperial Russia under Ivan III (*aka Ivan the Great*). Mitanni were the descendants of Abraham's children: Esau, Midian and Ismael. Interestingly, *the double-headed eagle* (an everlasting symbol of power, possibly of Hittite origin) *is most commonly associated with the Byzantine Empire, the Holy Roman Empire, the Russian Empire and their successor states. And Hitler. They were the same people.* [Citation1](#) [Citation2](#) This same symbol can be followed throughout many European and west Asian areas.

But perhaps the story could also relate to the 'spirit' (*or mentality*) of Esau who is both the brother and the enemy of God's chosen. In which case, we can see him everywhere. There isn't a nation on earth that is not affected by those who hate God. Perhaps we are again in an Isaurian Dynasty in these end days.