

# Who Are The Edomites?

## And their role in the End Time

Why on earth should we concern ourselves with an obscure Biblical nation which has long since disappeared from both the maps and history? Well, for some faithful end-time Christians they will become very relevant indeed, as we will see from the scriptures!

We have to return to the time of Isaac, son of Abraham, to find the mystery of Edom. Two future nations were twins in his wife Rebekah's womb. Esau was born first, Genesis 25:25-26, *'And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was three score years old when she bore them.'*

Jacob though, was his mother's favourite, a home loving family man who cared for his flocks and herds, while Esau was more at home with his weapons, out hunting for the wild game his father loved, verse 28, *'And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.'*

Jacob became the ancestor of the Western Judeo-Christian nations. These nations descended from ancient Israel [Jacob was re-named Israel by God] and possessed his caring, outgoing concern for others, today reflected in their copious food aid given to needy nations around the world.

Esau though, would father nations of a very different character, Genesis 27: 37-40, *'And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, your dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; **And by your sword shall you live, and shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass when you shall have the dominion, that you shall break his yoke from off your neck.**'* Here we need to turn from the King James version, to find the correct translation. Most modern translations correctly translate verse 39 –

Eg, ESV, *'Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: Behold, **away from** the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, **and away from** the dew of heaven on high.'*

Fred R Coulter, *'Behold , Your dwelling shall be **far from** the fatness of the earth **and far from** the dew of heaven from above.'*

ESV Verse 40, *'**By your sword** you shall live, and you shall serve your brother: but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.'*

Bullingers Companion Bible: comment v 39, 'the fatness of the earth, and of. Heb, of the fatness &etc. The 'of', which is omitted in the first clause is a prep, which means 'from' RV, marg. *Away from. ...Should be "**Far from** the fatness of the earth shall be thy dwelling, and **far from** the dew of the heavens,"* &etc. Jacob had already received the blessing 'of' the fatness of the earth or the land (verse 28). Esau's was to be far from it, in the desert, and so it was.'

Esau was always to be wild, living in the wilderness areas of the Middle East, Genesis 36:8, *'Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: **Esau is Edom.**'* These areas eventually came under the control of Britain, Israel's descendant in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, though Edom was also ruled by ancient Israel, in its day.

Always though, the Edomites remained angry about Esau's loss of his birthright and blessings, to his brother Jacob, or Israel. They hated Israel, they hated God for blessing Israel, and they hated the Jews with an eternal hatred and rejoiced at its troubles and captivity to Babylon in 586 BC.

They took advantage of that, to move into Canaan, but within 4 years after Jerusalem was burned, Edom was desolated (582BC) by the very same Babylonians whom they had aided against Jerusalem. The few Edomites that were left were confined to a region in South Judaea, where for 4

centuries they were active enemies of the Jews. In 126 BC they were subdued by John Hycanus, one of the Maccabean rulers, and absorbed into the Jewish State. When Palestine was conquered by the Romans (63BC) the Herods, an Edomite (Idumean)family, were given control of Judah, and with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70, they disappeared from history.

Scholars claim the Edomites are the 'Palestinians' but most of *them* are actually a mongrel race descended largely from Ishmael. There is no doubt that some Edomites were fully absorbed as Jews cf. Deuteronomy 23:7-8, '*You shall not abhor an Edomite; for he is your brother: you shall not abhor an Egyptian; because you were a stranger in his land. The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the LORD in their third generation.*' But wherever they are found now, they still tend to retain the character which God hates, Malachi 1:3, '*And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the jackals of the wilderness.*'

That character still includes a violent and jealous desire for their lost birthright, illustrated in the murderous hatred of Doeg the Edomite, I Samuel 22:17-19 and Haman, the Jew's enemy, Esther 3:10, as well as Herod's murder of the children. This is still evident today in their hatred displayed towards the Jews and the Western nations descended from Israel. We see that same wild and violent, careless character displayed in the random rockets fired into Israel, and the car bombs and suicide bombers directed even at their own Arab brethren of a different Islamic sect.

It is the implacable cruel hatred which differentiates the scattered Edomites from their Ishmaelite brethren. We see it in the unreasoning anger and murderous wrath of the Islamic extremists, a character trait which Satan has been only too pleased to legitimise by his inspiration of the Koran, which sanctions such violence to non-believers, and is found behind almost all terrorism that exists in the world today.

However, we need not have any doubts about where the Edomites are to be found when Jesus Christ returns, because God's word is quite specific about where Christ goes to find and punish them for their eternal hatred and violence towards His people.

The first indication is found in Daniel 11:41, '*He[the Beast] shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and most of the children of Ammon.*' Here we see mentioned Edom, Moab, and Ammon, today all found comprising the Middle Eastern nation of Jordan, with its capital city Amman. In Malachi 1:4 we find a prophecy that though Edom was driven from Mt Seir, they would return, '*If Edom says, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus says the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD has indignation forever.*'

Now let's look at Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, the final seven year period before Jesus Christ returns from heaven with His Bride, to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth, Daniel 9:27, '*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease, [the work of God's church in Jerusalem] and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*'

This 7 year period is known as the Tribulation. The first 3 ½ years are called 'the tribulation of those days', up until the 6<sup>th</sup> seal of Revelation 6. Matthew 24:29, Revelation 6:12-13. '*Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.*' ... '*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as*

*sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood, And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts its unripe figs, when it is shaken by a mighty wind.'*

This period is also depicted in Revelation chapter 14. (See our article of that name for details). Thanks to that chapter, we understand that 'Jacob's trouble' (the nations descended from Jacob or Israel) begins early in the first of these 7 years, with invasion and captivity. Only God's people who understand, leave their nations in time to reach Jerusalem to follow God's instructions (read our article, 'End Time Church in Jerusalem', on the End Time tab.) The rest of 'Christianity' is then trapped in their nations by war. When the Beast's armies surround Jerusalem at the 3 ½ year point, God's people will flee to the mountains of Judaea, Luke 21:20-21, *'And when you shall see Jerusalem surrounded with armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let them **who are in Judea flee to the mountains**; and let them who are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter into it.'*

There, a division takes place at the resurrection of the Saints. (Read 'Division of the Saints') Those not carried to the Sea of Glass in that resurrection of the firstfruits, will then continue South around the Dead Sea into Jordan, where God has promised to protect and provide for them during the last 3 ½ years of what the Bible calls the 'Great Tribulation', Matthew 24:21, *'For then shall **be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.***' And Isaiah 33:16, *'He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the fortresses of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.'*

The Bible reveals that their destination is indeed a mountain fortress, in Bozrah, where they will be protected, verse 19, *'You shall not see a fierce people, a people of a more obscure speech than you can perceive; of a stammering tongue, that you can not understand.'* There, they eventually share that protection with fleeing Moabites who have left their homes to the North because of the threat of invasion from the advancing army of the East. Revelation 9;14-16, *'Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Loose the four angels who are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, who were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.'*

And Isaiah 16:3-4, *'Take counsel, execute judgment; make your shadow like the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; betray not him that escapes. Let my outcasts dwell with you, Moab; be a refuge to them from the face of the plunderer: for the extortioner is at an end, the destruction ceases, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.'*

That threat from the East occurs in response to the Beast's actions after his invasion of Israel, Daniel 11:40-43, *'And at the time of the end shall the king of the south attack him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass through. He shall enter also into the glorious land, **and many countries shall be overthrown**: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and most of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also against the countries: **and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall follow in his train**'. Obviously the Eastern nations fear the loss of their oil supplies as the Middle East comes under his control. The King of the South leads the Islamist combine mentioned here in verse 43, and from the evidence we have today, that main sponsor of terrorism and Islamism in Lebanon, Gaza and the Middle East, is Iran.*

With regard to Edom, the result of the Beast's actions is that those Palestinian terrorist groups, Hamas, and Hezbollah, which are sponsored and supplied by Iran, are threatened with annihilation by the Beast. Some of these terrorists, probably from Hamas, then fulfil prophecy by returning to Jordan which their ancestors left, because that is the one place the Beast avoids, after previously losing one of his armies in pursuit of God's people who were fleeing from Jerusalem. ( Revelation 12:15-16, *'And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. [biblical symbol of an army] And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.'* )

There, they find God's people, as we will see from the following article, sheltered and protected in Sela, Teman, Bozrah, Petra or Wadi Musa, as it is called today, a modern town full of hotels which would otherwise be empty because of the advent of world war.

Though under God's protection, as the Edomites gain control of the surrounding area, this does not prevent these terrorists from conspiring to hold them (presumably) to ransom, when Jesus Christ finally returns, and you can read of what finally happens to the Edomites in our article, 'Christ Goes to Petra'

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