

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible against a dark, starry background. Below the moon, a planet's surface is shown, with a bright, glowing horizon line. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric, with a focus on the vastness of space.

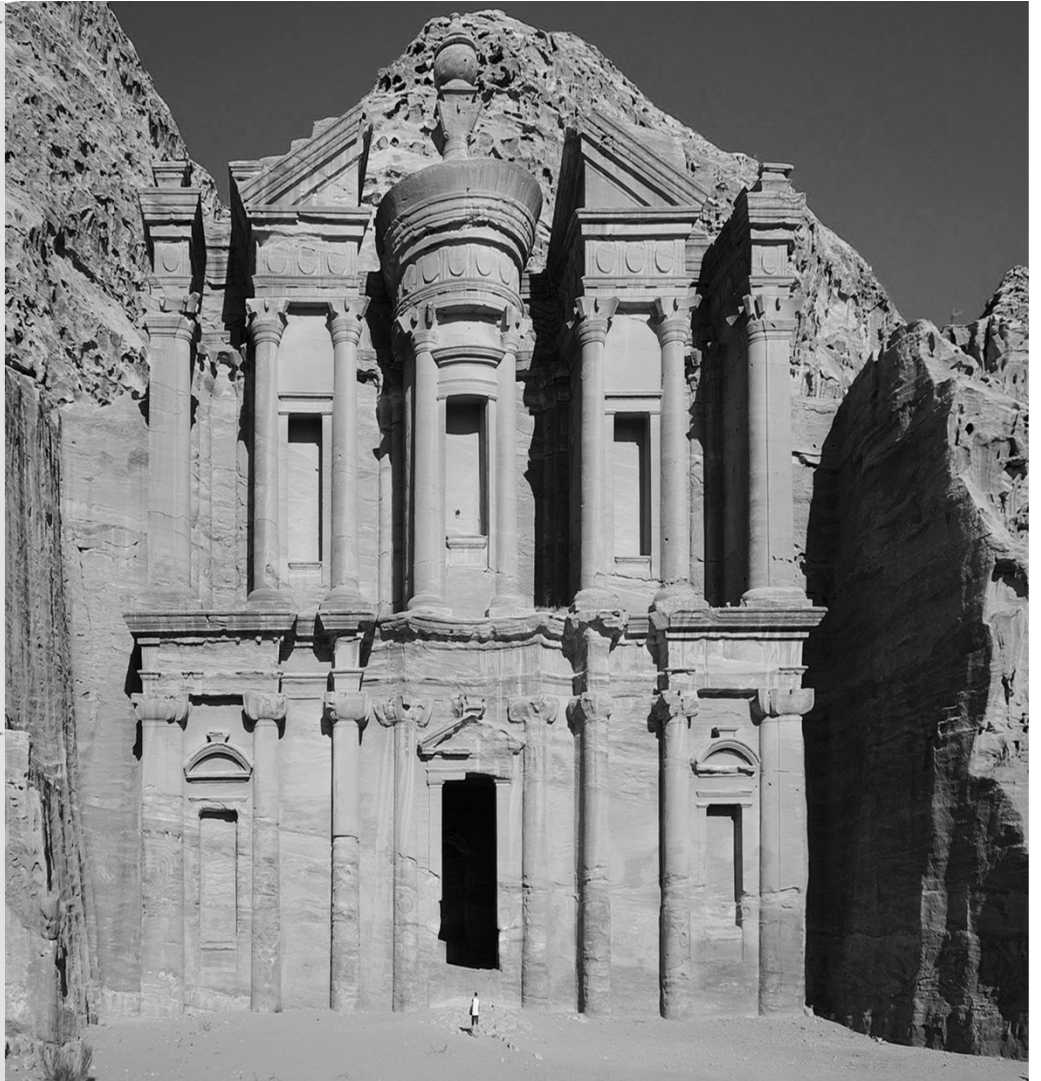
THE BOOK OF  
**GENESIS**

# ***THE EDOMITES***

## ***GENESIS 36***

### **The family of Jacob's twin brother, Esau**

- Notice Mount Seir (v. 8), Hebrew *Har Se'ir*, today known in Arabic as *Jibal ash-Sharah*.
- Seir is the ancient biblical name for a mountainous region stretching between the **Dead Sea** and the **Gulf of Aqaba**, demarcating the southeastern border of **Edom** and **Judah**.
- Lying in southern Jordan and the location of the home of the ancient Nabataean culture and its capital, Petra.



## ***WHO ARE THE EDMITES?***

- Esau's descendants, the Edomites, were idolaters and have been a different people than the Israelites in manners, customs, and religion from the very beginning.
- In **Ezekiel 35**, there is a prophecy against these people that has yet to be fulfilled. Though Jordan and Israel live in relative peace today, Jordan will rise up against the Jewish people during the Tribulation.
- The Bible lists eight kings of Edom before Israel's kings.
- The Bible lists at least ten reasons for Edom's destruction in the last days. **Obad. 1**

## ***A BIT OF SEMITIC HISTORY***

- Many of the modern Islamic nations are actually Semites related to the Jewish people they have vowed to wipe out.
- The Mosaic Law specifically protected the Edomites even though they have been, and continue to be, the sworn enemy of Israel. **Deut. 23:7**
- Isaac's death changed Jacob's status; he was now the head of the family and the heir of the covenant blessings.
- There are six lists of names in three basic groups in this passage—sons, chiefs, and kings—that Arabs still use today.

## ***ESAU MOVES EAST FROM CANAAN TO MOUNT SEIR***

- The nation of Edom and the Edomites came from Esau.
- The name “Edom” comes from a Semitic word meaning “red”. The land south of the Dead Sea was given that name because of the red sandstone found there.
- It is the mountainous area that includes the capital of Edom, the rock-hewn city of Petra.
- When Greek became the common language in the region, the Edomites were called Idumaeans.

## ***THE IDUMEANS***

- During the Roman Empire, an Idumean whose father had converted to Judaism was named king of Judea.
- That Idumean is known in history as ***King Herod the Great***, the tyrant who ordered a massacre in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill the Christ child. **Matt. 2:16-18**
- All the Herods of the New Testament were Idumean-Edomites. The first of them attempted to kill the Christ child; another Herod murdered John the Baptist; another one killed James, the brother of John.
- The Arab-Israeli conflict today is a continuation of this same hatred.

## ***EDOM IN PROPHECY***

One little Esau has become millions of Edomites, most of whom are still the sworn enemy of Israel and Israel's God.

- God sent warnings to Edom. **Obad. 1:1-4; Mal. 1:1-4**
- **Jeremiah 49:7-22** speaks of the coming judgment on Edom.
- In **Ezekiel 35:1-15**, God speaks of His final vengeance upon Edom.
- By forgetting that they and the Jews shared Abraham as an ancestor, the Edomites fell victim to God's promise to Abraham (**Gen. 12:3**). God will one day soon deal with Edom.
- The salvation of Israel is still coming. **Rom. 11:23-28**