

Esau's Sons and Grandsons

36: 9-14

This is the account of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir (36:9). He had **five sons** and **ten grandsons**. Esav's daughters (36:6) probably married Horite men and presumably his granddaughters did also. First, there is a summary statement about Esau's first two wives. These are the names of Esau's sons: **Eliphaz**, the son of Esav's wife **Adah**, and **Reuel**, the son of Esau's wife **Basemath** (36:10).

First, the sons of **Eliphaz** are mentioned. They were **Teman**, **Omar**, **Zepho**, **Gatam** and **Kenaz** (36:11). Later one of Jobs three friends was named **Eliphaz the Temanite** (Job 2:11, 4:1 to 7:21). It very well could have been this son because they lived about the same time. These were grandsons of Esau's wife **Adah** (36:12).

Then, as a side note, Moses tells us that Esav's son **Eliphaz** also had a concubine named **Timna**, who bore him **Amalek** who was to play a key role in the future history of Isra'el. Because **Amalek** was the son of a concubine, he was looked down upon by the other sons of **Eliphaz** and seen as inferior. This may have forced him to live in a separate region and to develop his own nation. The descendants of **Amalek** became the notorious Amalekites, who settled in the area of the Sinai and the Negev (**Genesis 14:7**, **Numbers 13:29**, **14:43-45**). The Amalekites were the first nation to oppose the entrance of Israel into the Promised Land after their deliverance from Egypt (**Exodus 17:8-16**), and they later subjugated Isra'el in the period of the judges (**Judges 3:13**, **6:3**, **7:12**). However, they were slaughtered under Saul (**First Samuel 14:48**, **15:1-9**), and later attacked by King David (**First Samuel 27:8**, **30:1**). Finally the tribe of Simeon exterminated them in the days of Hezekiah (**First Chronicles 4:42-43**).

Next, the sons of Esau's second son **Reuel** are mentioned. They were **Nahath**, **Zerah**, **Shammah** and **Mizzah**. These were grandsons of Esav's wife **Basemath** (36:13). Therefore, these were Esav's grandsons through his son Reuel.

Lastly, the sons of Esau's wife **Oholibamah** daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon, who bore three sons to Esav: **Jeush**, **Jalam** and **Korah** (36:14). At that point no grandchildren were recorded.