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The Kings of Edom

36: 31-39



The organization of **the clans** in **Edom** apparently paralleled that in Isra'el. **They** ultimately chose **a king** from one of **their clans**, and carried on a line of succession from **him**. Whether or not the line of eight **kings** mentioned here extends beyond the time of Jacob and Esau is unclear.⁵⁴⁸ The point is comparative; there were **eight kings who reigned in Edom** by the time Moses wrote **Genesis (36:31a)**.

In most situations kingdoms were based upon family bloodlines. But this was not the case in **Edom**. It is interesting that **the Edomite kings** never became a family dynasty. When each **king** died, another unrelated individual ascended to the throne, probably by force of arms. The **city of the new king** served as **Edom's** capital during **his** reign. You never read of a capital **city of Edom** because it shifted from **city to city**, depending on where the new **king** came from. These **kings reigned in Edom before** there was a **king** in Isra'el (**36:31b**).

Bela, son of Beor, became king of Edom. His city was named Dinhabah (36:32). The Rabbis teach that this man was the same as Balaam (Numbers 22:21 to 24:25).

When Bela died, Jobab, son of Zerah from Bozrah, succeeded him as king (36:33). Bozrah will figure prominently in the Second Coming of Christ.

When Jobab died, **Husham**, from the land of the Temanites, succeeded him as king (36:34).

When Husham died, **Hadad I** son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, succeeded him as king. His city was named Avith (36:35).

When Hadad I died, **Samlah** from Masrekah, succeeded him as king (36:36).

When Samlah died, **Shaul**, from Rehoboth on the river, succeeded him as king (36:37).

When Shaul died, **Baal-Hanan** son of Acbor succeeded him as king (36:38).

When Baal-Hanan son of Acbor died, **Hadad II**, who lived during the time of Moses, succeeded Baal-Hanan as king. His city was named Pau, and his wife's name was Mehetabel, daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-Zahab (36:39). Moses sent messengers to Hadad the king of Edom asking permission to pass through Edom, but the king refused and came out against the Israelites with a large and powerful army (Numbers 20:14-21).