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The Clans of Esau

36: 40-43a



These were the eleven clans descended from Esau, by name, according to their families and regions. We know something about four of these names. **Timna** was the concubine of Eliphaz and the sister of Lotan, son of Seir. **She** became a **clan** leader of **her** own name. Next was **Oholibamah**, who was the daughter of Anah and the wife of **Esau**. **She** became the leader of **her** own **clan**. We also know about **Kenaz** and **Teman**, who were the sons of Eliphaz and grandsons of **Esau**. They became the leaders of **their** own **clans**. But seven of these names are new to us and appear here for the first time in this chapter. **They** are **Clan Alvah, Clan Jetheth, Clan Elah, Clan Pinon, Clan Mibzar, Clan Magdiel and Clan Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom; according to their settlements in the land they occupied (36:40-43b).** Isaac's promises to **Esau** were being fulfilled.

The major problem with the eleven in this **clan** list of **Esau's** is its relationship, if any, to the fourteen names in **36:15-19**. There are only two names, **Kenaz** and **Teman**, common to both lists. Three solutions are possible. First, this list is an ad hoc creation without any historical value. Secondly, this list could be later than the previous one. And thirdly, this list is arranged genealogically, whereas the previous list is arranged geographically.

It is interesting that most of **the descendants** of **Esau** are included in the

genealogical lists of **First Chronicles 1:35-54**. Not only Moses, but also the chronicler who came much later, considered **them** important enough to include in the genealogical records of Isra'el. It was vital that there be a perpetual distinction between the descendants of Jacob and **Esau**, but **the Holy Spirit** perhaps would assure us by the inclusion of these names in the inspired Word of **God** that He is forever concerned about every single person.