

Vayishlach (And he sent)
Genesis 32:4-36:43

Let me introduce something to you that I find quite fascinating. Have you ever heard of the Hyksos kings? The Hyksos were mysterious people who appeared suddenly, as if from nowhere. Eventually they invaded Egypt and then reigned in that land of the Nile as Pharaohs. The Hyksos were in power during the enslavement of the Israelites. They brought to Egypt the chariot (iron), horses, and the composite bow. As a result, Egypt became a cruel and a warring nation. Rabbinic literature refers to the Hyksos as “the thorns”. Finally the Egyptians rebelled against them and as suddenly as they mysteriously came, they equally mysteriously dropped completely out of sight altogether.

Now why would the Hyksos be related to this week’s Torah portion? There are on-line studies that set forth the theory that the Hyksos were Edomites (Esau). Archeological evidence points to them being a Semitic people, closely related to Hebrews and Arabians, allied with the Canaanites. Is it possible that we could actually see the beginning of this reign of kings in this week’s lineage of Esau? We’re going to look for one of these Edomite Hyksos kings in a very unlikely place...the book of Job.

It is always exciting when you can tie together different books of the Bible. The book of Job always seemed to be a “stand-alone” book. Where’s the tie in with the Torah? Job was such a faith-filled man. Who was he, and when did he live?

Genesis 36:31 Now these are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the sons of Israel.³² Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom,.....³³ Then Bela died, and **Jobab** the son of Zerah of Bozrah **became king** in his place.

These verses reference the first two kings of Edom/Esau. Jobab became the second king. Jobab could be translated as “**Father Job**”. Let’s see if we can connect **Jobab** with the patient and suffering **Job** of the Scriptures.

A careful reading of the book of Job shows that even before his great testing, Job was a person of very high rank amongst his contemporaries. The first chapter tells of his great wealth:

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, fearing Elohim, and turning away from evil.² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.³ His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and **that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.**

Further on in the book of Job, we find that Job occupied and held a leading position amongst his people:

Job 29:2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when Elohim watched over me;³ When His lamp shone over my head, *And* by His light I walked through

darkness;⁴ As I was in the prime of my days, When the friendship of Elohim *was* over my tent;⁵⁷ "When I went out to the gate of the city, **When I took my seat in the square**;⁸ The young men saw me and hid themselves, And the old men arose *and* stood.⁹ "The princes stopped talking, And put *their* hands on their mouths; ...²¹ "To me they listened and waited, And kept silent for my counsel.²² "After my words they did not speak again, And my speech dropped on them.²³ "And they waited for me as for the rain, And opened their mouth as for the spring rain.²⁴ "I smiled on them when they did not believe, And the light of my face they did not cast down.

He sat "chief" and "dwelt as a king among the troops"

Job 29:25 "I chose a way for them and **sat as chief**, And **dwelt as a king** among the troops, As one who comforted the mourners.

All seemed to recognize Job's intellectual ability, his insight, and his knowledge. Job 29:25 refers to him as "**dwelling AS a king**", so he is not king at the time of his suffering, but it is clear that he is close to the king in honor and rank. After his distressing trial was over, we are told that Job was greater and more blessed than even before (Job 42:12). With that being the case, it would be no surprise that upon the death of Bela, the first king of Edom, Job would have been elevated to the kingship.

Now let's look at the evidence for Job being the Jobab of Genesis 36:

1. **Same country** – Job lived in the land of Uz (Job 1:1). Jobab was King of Edom, living in the city of Bozrah. However from Lamentations 4:21, we see that Edom dwelt in the land of Uz. Evidently Uz is the name of a large area, which included within it the land of Edom. It's kind of like saying we live in Iowa....then another time saying we live in the U.S.A.

Lamentations 4:21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, *You* who dwell in the land of Uz!

2. **Local Geographical Features** - Jobab lived at Bozrah, not far from the Dead Sea into which the Jordan River empties. Job, too mentions the Jordan River.

Job 40:23 "If a river rages, he is not alarmed; He is confident, though the **Jordan** rushes to his mouth.

3. **Lived About Same Time** - Jobab belongs to the fourth generation from Ishmael. Job speaks of "the troops of Tema" (Job 6:19). Tema was one of the tribes descended from Ishmael (Gen 25:15), thus Job also lived after the time of Ishmael. Job also speaks of the "companies of Sheba" (Job 6:19) who would be descendants of Sheba, a half-brother to Ishmael (Gen. 25:3).

4. **Contemporary Persons** - If Eliphaz, Esau's oldest son (Gen. 36:4) lived a normal life-span as common in the family and descendants of Abraham, we find that this Eliphaz would be an old man, about 100 years of age or more, before Jobab would become king. Job's chief friend was a man named, Eliphaz the Temanite. He was evidently an old man...he speaks of himself and his two companions as "aged men" (Job 15:10). Job's friend, Eliphaz, is also called "a Temanite". Eliphaz, Esau's son, was the father of Teman...thus the elder living with his son could easily become known as a "Temanite". Also take into account that some of the wisdom of Eliphaz (in Job) could easily have come from his grandfather Isaac.

Thus, as the kingdom of the Edomites became established, Job's enormous wealth would not be overlooked. It would put him in line for the kingship of the fledgling kingdom. Now again, why is this important? Because we see from this information that Job is from Esau. Esau is dominantly thought of as being against Israel. But what do we know of Job?

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was **Job**, and that man was **blameless, upright, fearing God**, and turning away from evil.

- תָּם - (tam) – blameless, complete
- יָשָׁר - (yasher) – upright
- יִרֵא - (yare) – God-fearer

Job 1:8 And הֵוֹדָהּ said to Satan, "Have you considered **My servant Job**? For there is no one like him on the earth, **a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.**"

Even הֵוֹדָהּ refers to Job as "**My servant Job**".

Further information on ancestor's of Job:

Father – Zerah (Gen 36:33)

Grandfather – Reuel (Gen 36:13)

Greatgrandfather – Esau (Gen 36:14)

Greatgrandmother – Basemath (Gen 36:14)

Who was Basemath? Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; (Gen 26:34).

Who were the Hittites? According to references:

Hittite = "descendant of Heth", the 2nd son of **Canaan**.

So...let's try to put it all together now...Job is a descendent of Esau and **ALSO** a descendent **Canaan, the cursed line of Ham**. Now....do you remember what was said to the Cananites back in Genesis 9?

Genesis 9:25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers."

²⁶ He also said, "Blessed be יהוה, The Elohim of Shem; And **let Canaan be his servant.**

Job understood the **servant role** under Shem. Even יהוה referred to Job as a **servant** - **Job 1:8**

And יהוה said to Satan, "Have you considered **My servant Job**? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Therefore, Job...from the **cursed** line of **Canaan** and the **hate-filled** line of **Esau**, still appears to us in the Scriptures as an example of what it means to be **blameless**. Only a handful of people in the scriptures are declared to be blameless.....Noah, Abraham, & Jacob. We are told several times in the New Covenant that we also are to "be perfect/blameless".

Another descriptive word for Job (Job 1:1) is **upright** (yashar - יָשָׁר). Notice anything familiar about the Hebrew letters? These letters make up the first three letters of the Hebrew word for Israel. Add to these letters El/God (אֱל) and you have defined Israel (יִשְׂרָאֵל) as the "upright of God"! Job, through his obedient, and submissive life had identified himself with the people of God. **AND HE WAS FROM BOTH THE CURSED AND HATE-FILLED LINEAGE!**

Our Heavenly Father does not leave ANYONE out of His Plan. Job, a Canaanite and an Edomite, is in our Scriptures as not only an example of patience, but as an example of blamelessness, uprightness, and proper fear of the Almighty. He is identified **with** Israel. The Father is looking for hearts that desire Him. His promises include the physical, but NO ONE is excluded from the spiritual. We can all be a part of Israel, "the upright of El".

Psalms 133:1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For **brothers** to dwell together in unity!

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle