

# ESAU vs. JACOB

This is a close look at who is said to be the Jews, and how this affects the identity of the people barely known as the Hebrew Israelites, or Children of Israel of the Bible.

We must look at who Yah has warned in Ezekiel 35<sup>th</sup> Chapter by the name of Mt. Seir, and we **must question**, has ALL of what Yah has said He would do been done; and has it come to pass this day?

## Ezekiel 35

### A Message for Edom

1 Again a message came to me from Yah: 2 "Son of man, turn and face Mount Seir, and prophesy against its people. 3 Give them this message from the Sovereign Yah: "I am your enemy, O Mount Seir, and I will raise my fist against you to destroy you completely. 4 I will demolish your cities and make you desolate. Then you will know that I am Yah.

5 "Your eternal hatred for the people of Israel led you to butcher them when they were helpless, when I had already punished them for all their sins. (Another version of verse 5)

5 "Because you maintained **an ancient hatred** <sup>(C)</sup> and handed over the Israelites to the power of the sword in the time of their disaster, the **time of final punishment**, <sup>(D)</sup> 6 therefore, as I live"—[this is] the declaration of Yah EL—"I will destine you for bloodshed, and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, it will pursue you.

**\*Note: The ancient hatred was the fight over the birthright between Esau and Jacob.\***

\* The time of final punishment can only come in reference to the 490 years spoken of in the book of Daniel, and we must not leave out the reference concerning 400 of the 490 years will be served in a different type of Egypt or land of slavery called Assyria or Amorites (Westerners) talked about in Genesis 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter. It is after the time or sentence on BOTH the Land of Israel AND her people is fulfilled, that immediately the Kingdom of Yah the Creator establishes itself on earth;

### Time of Final Punishment

\*We believe that the time of final punishment is a reference point for both past and future. In the past it is clearly shown in the book of Obadiah;

## Obadiah 1

1 The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Sovereign Yah says about Edom—We have heard a message from Yah: An envoy was sent to the nations to say, "Rise, let us go against her for battle"—

2 "See, I will make you small among the nations; you will be utterly despised.

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**3** The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks <sup>[a]</sup> and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'

**4** Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares Yah.

**5** "If thieves came to you, if robbers in the night—oh, what a disaster awaits you— would they not steal only as much as they wanted? If grape pickers came to you, would they not leave a few grapes?

**6** But how Esau will be ransacked, his hidden treasures pillaged!

**7** All your allies will force you to the border; your friends will deceive and overpower you; those who eat your bread will set a trap for you, <sup>[b]</sup> but you will not detect it.

**8** "In that day," declares Yah, "will I not destroy the wise in Edom, people of understanding in the mountains of Esau?"

**9** Your warriors, Teman, will be terrified, and everyone in Esau's mountains will be cut down in the slaughter.

**10** Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.

**11** On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.

**12** You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble.

**13** You should not march through the gates of my people in the day of their disaster, nor gloat over them in their calamity in the day of their disaster, nor seize their wealth in the day of their disaster.

**14** You should not wait at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives, nor hand over their survivors in the day of their trouble.

**15** "The day of Yah is near for all nations. As **you have done**, it will be **done to you**; **your deeds** will return upon your own head.

**16** Just as you drank on my holy hill, so all the nations will drink continually; they will drink and drink and be as if they had never been.

**17** But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and the house of Jacob will possess its inheritance.

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**18** The house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; the house of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau." Yah has spoken.

**19** People from the Negev will occupy the mountains of Esau, and people from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead.

**20** This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan will possess [the land] as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev.

**21** Deliverers will go up on <sup>[a]</sup> Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be Yah's.

Continuing from verse 5 above.....

**6** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Yah, since you show no distaste for **blood**, I will give you a **bloodbath** of your own. Your turn has come! **7** I will make Mount Seir utterly desolate, killing off all who try to escape and any who return. **8** I will fill your mountains with the dead. Your hills, your valleys, and your ravines will be filled with people slaughtered by the sword. **9** I will make you desolate forever. Your cities will never be rebuilt. Then you will know that I am Yah.

**10** "For you said, 'The lands of Israel and Judah will be ours. We will take possession of them. What do we care that Yah is there!' **11** Therefore, as surely as I live, says the Sovereign Yah, I will pay back your angry deeds with my own. I will punish you for all your acts of anger, envy, and hatred. And I will make myself known to Israel<sup>[a]</sup> by what I do to you. **12** Then you will know that I, Yah, have heard every contemptuous word you spoke against the mountains of Israel. For you said, 'They are desolate; they have been given to us as food to eat!' **13** In saying that, you boasted proudly against me, and I have heard it all!

**14** "This is what the Sovereign Yah says: The whole world will rejoice when I make you desolate. **15** You rejoiced at the desolation of Israel's territory. Now I will rejoice at yours! You will be wiped out, you people of Mount Seir and all who live in Edom! Then you will know that I am Yah.

**So the question remains today, who is Mt. Seir?**

**Seir:** NET AVS NIV NRSV NASB TEV

a mountain and adjoining land

a man from the highlands of Seir (OS); father-in-law of Esau

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hairy; goat; demon; tempest ( --> same as Seirath)

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## Seir [EBD]

**rough; hairy.** (1.) A Horite; one of the "dukes" of Edom ([Gen. 36:20-30](#)).

(2.) The name of a mountainous region occupied by the Edomites, extending along the eastern side of the Arabah from the south-eastern extremity of the Dead Sea to near the Akabah, or the eastern branch of the Red Sea. It was originally occupied by the Horites ([Gen. 14:6](#)), who were afterwards driven out by the Edomites ([Gen. 32:3; 33:14, 16](#)). It was allotted to the descendants of Esau ([Deut. 2:4, 22; Josh. 24:4; 2 Chr. 20:10; Isa. 21:11; Exek. 25:8](#)).



(3.) A mountain range (not the Edomite range, [Gen. 32:3](#)) lying between the Wady Aly and the Wady Ghurab ([Josh. 15:10](#)).

## The Land of Seir by [Wayne Blank](#)

Seir, from the Hebrew word pronounced *say-er*, meaning *rough* or *shaggy*, as in a he-goat (interestingly, the word *satyr* is based on a related Hebrew word) was the name given to a large area of the mountainous territory south of the southeastern end of the Dead Sea. After it became the possession of Esau (see the Fact Finder question below), Seir, variously spoken of as "the land of Seir" (e.g. Genesis 32:3 RSV) or "Mount Seir" (e.g. Genesis 14:6 RSV), was also known as Edom (see Edom on the map below).

## From The Land of "Cave Men" to "The Land of Esau"

In earliest times (prior to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as indicated in the example below), Seir was occupied by the Horites (from the Hebrew word pronounced *coe-ree*, meaning *cave men*), a people who lived in the abundant limestone caves in Seir.

"In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, that is, Zoar. And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim, that is, [The Salt Sea](#). Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and subdued the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim, and the Horites in their Mount Seir as far as Elparan on the border of the wilderness; then they

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turned back and came to Enmishpat, that is, Kadesh, and subdued all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazazontamar." (Genesis 14:1-7 RSV)

After the prosperous years spent with his uncle Laban (see the Fact Finder question below), the time came for Jacob to return home. Despite the time away, Jacob did not know what Esau would do, so Jacob sent gifts ahead in an attempt to appease his brother. Jacob knew that he was well protected, that he was being escorted by "God's army" (see below), so Jacob's attempt to keep Esau from attacking may have been intended to protect Esau's life as much as his own.

"Jacob went on his way and the angels of Yah met him; and when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's army!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now; and I have oxen, asses, flocks, menservants, and maidservants; and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.'" (Genesis 32:1-5 RSV)

As indicated in the verses above, Seir was by then known as "the land of Seir, the country of Edom," meaning that Esau, also known as Edom, was the ruler and possessor of Seir. Esau was not in need of anything from Jacob and he had apparently outgrown his rage against his brother (or he may have become aware of just how well-protected, by Yah, that Jacob was). Esau courteously invited Jacob to Seir; Jacob accepted, but only as a ruse. As soon as Esau was out of sight, instead of proceeding south to Seir, Jacob (who Yah renamed Israel) turned west toward the land that would be named after him, Israel. Both brothers had territories named after them.

"Let my noble pass on before his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle which are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."

So Esau said, "Let me leave with you some of the men who are with me."

But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my noble."

So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house, and made booths for his cattle; therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddanaram; and he camped before the city." (Genesis 33:14-18 RSV)

The connection between the land of Esau, Edom and Seir is plainly stated. From Esau came the Edomites.

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"So Esau dwelt in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom. These are the descendants of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir." (Genesis 36:8-9 RSV)

Centuries later, after the Exodus, the descendants of Esau were still the lawful owners of the land of Edom, a deed guaranteed by Yah who reminded the Israelites that "your brethren the sons of Esau" owned Edom (just as the people of Israel own Israel).

"Then Yah said to me, 'You have been going about this mountain country long enough; turn northward. And command the people, You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren the sons of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So take good heed; do not contend with them; for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as for the sole of the foot to tread on, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.'" (Deuteronomy 2:2-5 RSV)

"So we went on, away from our brethren the sons of Esau who live in Seir" (Deuteronomy 2:8 RSV)

**Fact Finder:** What happened between Jacob and his brother Esau that caused Jacob to flee from the land of Israel? Where did Jacob go to escape Esau's wrath?

See [Jacob and Laban](#)

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## The Births of Esau and Jacob

### Genesis 25:

**19** This is the account of the family of Isaac, the son of Abraham. **20** When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban the Aramean.

**21** Isaac pleaded with Yah on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. Yah answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins. **22** But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask Yah about it. "Why is this happening to me?" she asked.

**23** And Yah told her, "The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son."

**24** And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins! **25** The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau.<sup>[b]</sup>

**26** Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel.

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## Esau Sells His Birthright

### Genesis 25:

**27** As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home. **28** Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

**29** One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. **30** Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!" (This is how Esau got his other name, **Edom**, which means "red.")

**31** "All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son."

**32** "Look, I'm dying of starvation!" said Esau. "What good is my birthright to me now?"

**33** But Jacob said, "First you must swear that your birthright is mine." So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.

**34** Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.

### Genesis 27

#### Isaac Gives Jacob His Blessing

**1** Isaac had become old. His eyes were so weak he couldn't see anymore. One day he called for his older son Esau. He said to him, "My son."

"Here I am," he answered.

**2** Isaac said, "I'm an old man now. And I don't know when I'll die. **3** Now then, get your weapons. Get your bow and arrows. Go out to the open country. Hunt some wild animals for me. **4** Prepare for me the kind of tasty food I like. Bring it to me to eat. Then I'll give you my blessing before I die."

**5** Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. Esau left for the open country. He went to hunt for a wild animal and bring it back.

**6** Then Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I heard your father speaking to your brother Esau. **7** He said, 'Bring me a wild animal. Prepare some tasty food for me to eat. Then I'll give you my blessing before I die. Yah will be my witness.' "

**8** Rebekah continued, "My son, listen carefully. Do what I tell you. **9** Go out to the flock. Bring me two of the finest young goats. I will prepare tasty food for your father. I'll make it

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just the way he likes it. **10** I want you to take it to your father to eat. Then he'll give you his blessing before he dies."

**11** Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "My brother Esau's body is covered with hair. But my skin is smooth. **12** What if my father touches me? He would know I was trying to trick him. That would bring a curse down on me instead of a blessing."

**13** His mother said to him, "My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say. Go and get the goats for me."

**14** So he went and got the goats. He brought them to his mother. And she prepared some tasty food. She made it just the way his father liked it.

**15** The clothes of her older son Esau were in her house. She took the best of them and put them on her younger son Jacob. **16** She covered his hands with the skins of the goats. She also covered the smooth part of his neck with them.

**17** Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

**18** He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," Isaac answered. "Who is it?"

**19** Jacob said to his father, "I'm your oldest son Esau. I've done as you told me. Please sit up. Eat some of my wild meat. Then give me your blessing."

**20** Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "Yah your God gave me success," he replied.

**21** Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son. I want to know whether you really are my son Esau."

**22** Jacob went close to his father. Isaac touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob. But the hands are the hands of Esau."

**23** Isaac didn't recognize him. His hands were covered with hair like those of his brother Esau. So Isaac blessed him. **24** "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," Jacob replied.

**25** Isaac said, "My son, bring me some of your wild meat to eat. Then I'll give you my blessing."

Jacob brought it to him. So Isaac ate. Jacob also brought some wine. And Isaac drank. **26** Then Jacob's father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son. Kiss me."

**27** So Jacob went to him and kissed him. When Isaac smelled the clothes, he gave Jacob his blessing. He said, "It really is the smell of my son. It's like the smell of a field that Yah has blessed.

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**28** May God give you dew from heaven. May he give you the richness of the earth. May he give you plenty of grain and fresh wine. **29** May nations serve you. May they bow down to you. Rule over your brothers. May the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who call down curses on you be cursed. And may those who bless you be blessed."

**30** When Isaac finished blessing him, Jacob left his father. Just then his brother Esau came in from hunting. **31** He too prepared some tasty food. He brought it to his father. Then Esau said to him, "My father, sit up. Eat some of my wild meat. Then give me your blessing."

**32** His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I'm your son," he answered. "I'm your oldest son. I'm Esau."

**33** Isaac was shaking all over. He said, "Then who was it that hunted a wild animal and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came. I gave him my blessing. And he will certainly be blessed!"

**34** Esau heard his father's words. Then he began crying loudly and bitterly. He said to his father, "Bless me! Bless me too, my father!"

**35** But Isaac said, "Your brother came and tricked me. He took your blessing."

**36** Esau said, "Isn't Jacob just the right name for him? He has cheated me two times. First, he took my rights as the oldest son. And now he's taken my blessing!" Then Esau asked, "Haven't you saved any blessing for me?"

**37** Isaac answered Esau, "I've made him ruler over you. I've made all of his relatives serve him. And I've provided him with grain and fresh wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?"

**38** Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau sobbed loudly.

**39** His father Isaac answered him, "You will live far away from the richness of the earth. You will live far away from the dew of heaven above. **40** You will live by the sword. And you will serve your brother. But you will grow restless. Then you will throw off the heavy load he put on your shoulders."

### Jacob Runs Away to Laban

**41** Esau was angry with Jacob. He was angry because of the blessing his father had given to Jacob. (The ancient rivalry or fight over the birthright) He said to himself, "My father will soon die. The days of sorrow over him are near. Then I'll kill my brother Jacob."

**42** Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said. So she sent for her younger son Jacob. She said to him, "Your brother Esau is comforting himself with the thought of killing you."

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**43** "Now then, my son, do what I say. Go at once to my brother Laban in Haran. **44** Stay with him until your brother's anger calms down. **45** Stay until your brother isn't angry with you anymore. When he forgets what you did to him, I'll let you know. Then you can come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

**46** Then Rebekah spoke to Isaac. She said, "I'm sick of living because of Esau's Hittite wives. Suppose Jacob also marries a Hittite woman. If he does, my life won't be worth living."

## Joshua 24:4

and to Isaac I gave Jacob and **Esau**. I assigned the hill country of Seir to **Esau**, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.

## Jeremiah 49:10

But I will strip **Esau** bare; I will uncover his hiding places, so that he cannot conceal himself. His children, relatives and neighbors will perish, and he will be no more.

## Malachi 1

**1** An oracle: The word of Yah to Israel through Malachi. <sup>[a]</sup>

### Jacob Loved, Esau Hated

**2** "I have loved you," says Yah. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Yah says. "**Yet I have loved Jacob, 3 but Esau I have hated**, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

**4** Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what Yah Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of Yah. **5** You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is Yah -even beyond the borders of Israel!'"

**This portion is footnotes explaining why we can not serve Yah in this wilderness with sacrifices. The very foods we would eat at our Holy Days are contaminated by Gentiles, and is not fit for the special Holyday Observances. To do so would place you in the same position of Cain when he offered a sacrifice from the ground, when Yah had cursed the ground because of Adam's sin. Cain's sacrifice WAS NOT accepted by Yah!**

**Blemished Sacrifices** Malachi 1: 6 continued.....

**6** "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says Yah Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name." "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'"

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**7** "You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that Yah's table is contemptible. **8** When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says Yah Almighty.

**9** "Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"-says Yah Almighty.

**10** "Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says Yah Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. **11** My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says Yah Almighty.

**12** "But you profane it by saying of Yah's table, 'It is defiled,' and of its food, 'It is contemptible.' **13** And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says Yah Almighty. "When you bring injured, **crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?**" says Yah. **14** "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then **sacrifices a blemished animal to Yah**. For I am a great king," says Yah Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations.

Food was an important part of the Festival Holy Days of Hebrews. The food was considered sacrificed when you brought the food for the celebration, so if it was unclean you made others to sin because of violating the Levitical 11<sup>th</sup> chapter laws on food, and also according to Hebrew laws, certain parts of the animals were given to Yah only!

### [Leviticus 8:16](#)

And he took all the fat that was upon the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two **kidneys**, and their fat, and Moses burned it upon the altar.

## Deuteronomy 14

### Clean and Unclean Food

**1** You are the children of Yah your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead, **2** for you are a people holy to Yah your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, Yah has chosen you to be his treasured possession.

**3** Do not eat any detestable thing. **4** These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat, **5** the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope and the mountain sheep. <sup>[a]</sup> **6** You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud. **7** However, of those that chew the cud or that have a divided hoof you may not eat the camel, the rabbit or the hyrax. Although they chew the cud, they do not have a divided hoof;

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they are ceremonially unclean for you. **8** The pig is also unclean; although it has a divided hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses.

**9** Of all the creatures living in the water, you may eat any that has fins and scales. **10** But anything that does not have fins and scales you may not eat; for you it is unclean.

**11** You may eat any clean bird. **12** But these you may not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture, **13** the red kite, the black kite, any kind of falcon, **14** any kind of raven, **15** the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk, **16** the little owl, the great owl, the white owl, **17** the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant, **18** the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat.

**19** All flying insects that swarm are unclean to you; do not eat them. **20** But any winged creature that is clean you may eat.

**21** Do not eat anything you find already dead. You may give it to the foreigners residing in any of your towns, and they may eat it, or you may sell it to any other foreigner. But you are a people holy to Yah your God.

Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

### Tithes

**22** Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. **23** Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of Yah your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere Yah your God always. **24** But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by Yah your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where Yah will choose to put his Name is so far away), **25** then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place Yah your God will choose. **26** Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of Yah your God and rejoice. **27** And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

**28** At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, **29** so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that Yah your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

### Hosea 9

#### Hosea Announces Israel's Punishment

**1** O people of Israel, do not rejoice as other nations do. For you have been unfaithful to your Yah, hiring yourselves out like prostitutes, worshiping other Gods on every threshing floor.

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2 So now your harvests will be too small to feed you. There will be no grapes for making new wine. 3 You may no longer stay here in Yah's land. Instead, you will return to Egypt, and in Assyria you will eat food that is ceremonially unclean. 4 **There you will make no offerings of wine to Yah. None of your sacrifices there will please him. They will be unclean, like food touched by a person in mourning. All who present such sacrifices will be defiled. They may eat this food themselves, but they may not offer it to Yah.** 5 **What then will you do on festival days? How will you observe Yah's festivals?**

### 2 Kings 17:33 (New Living Translation)

**33** And though they worshiped Yah, they continued to follow their own gods according to the religious customs of the nations from which they came.

**2 kings 17:40** But the people would not listen and continued to follow their former practices. **41** So while these new residents worshiped Yah, they also worshiped their idols. And to this day their descendants do the same.

These are the Jews as it is to this very day.