

# Who is Edom? Continued...

By Rabbi Levi bar Ido /B'nai Avraham

Before Mashiach returns, a world government patterned after the ancient Roman Empire must be set up among the *goyim*. It is being put together in our day.

- “Rabbi Hama bar Hanina said: The son of David will not come until the despicable *Roman government* will be utterly wiped out from Yisrael, for the verse states (Yeshayahu 18:5): ‘For before the harvest, when the blossom is past, and the bud is ripening into young grapes, he shall cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and remove and cut down the branches.’ Rabbi Hana bar Hanina understands the word translated here as ‘sprigs,’ as a reference to the *despicable government of Rome*. *Only after that government is cut off will the final redemption come*, for the verse that follows states (Yeshayahu 18:7): ‘In that time will a present be brought to the YHWH of hosts, by a people tall and smooth.’
- “Rabbi Ze’eiri said in the name of Rabbi Hanina: ‘The son of David will not come until the arrogant of spirit are utterly wiped out from Yisrael, for the verse states (Zephaniyah 3:11): ‘On that day you shall not be ashamed for all your doings, in which you have transgressed against me; for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no more be haughty in my holy mountain.’ And the next verse states (Zephaniyah 3:12): ‘And I will leave in your midst a poor and lowly people, and they shall trust in the name of the YHWH’” (p.16).

The despicable government is understood by the ancient sages as referring to Roman that is despicable and despises Yisrael. “Rashi and Ramah understand the expression to mean ‘sovereignty of little value.’ The Mashiach will not come until the last vestiges of sovereignty and self-rule, meager as they might be, are utterly wiped out from Yisrael” (“Notes,” p.16).

## The Talmud:

- “Rabbi Simlai said in the name of Rabbi Elazar the son of Rabbi Shimon: The son of David will not come until all the judges and officers are wiped out from Yisrael, and the last vestiges of Jewish self-rule disappear.”

## Under “Notes”:

- “Some understand that Rabbi Simlai means to say that the Mashiach will not come until the wicked judges and officers of Yisrael are utterly wiped out, for their sins and wicked deeds cause the exile to continue so long.”

Louis Ginzberg in *Legends of the Jews* gives us information concerning Esau, linking him and his seed to Rome. According to tradition, Rebekah suffered such pain during her pregnancy that she went to Shem and pleaded with him to inquire of Elohim concerning the cause of her distress.

- “And Shem replied: ‘My daughter, I confide a secret to thee. See to it that none finds it out. Two nations are in thy womb, and how should thy body contain them, seeing that the whole world will not be large enough for them to exist in it together peaceably? Two nations they are, each owning a world of its own, the one the Torah, the other sin. From the one will spring Solomon, the builder of the Temple, from the other Vespasian, the destroyer thereof’” (*Legends, 1968, vol. 1, page 314*)

The Mother of all persecution and religious apostasy has its home in Rome. Rome fulfills the words of Edras that ‘Esau is the end of this age, and Ya’akov is the beginning of the one that follows.’

- “They [Esau and Ya’akov] will never be in the same estate. Esau will vaunt elohims, while Ya’akov will have Kings. They, Yisrael and Rome, are the two nations destined to be hated by the entire world. One will exceed the other in strength. First Esau will subjugate whole world, but in the end Ya’akov will rule over all” (*Legends, vol. 1, page 314*)
- “Elohim will call out to the Mashiach: "Roar at this monster that devours the fat of the nations, that justifies its claims for recognition through being a descendant of Avraham by his grandson Esau, the nation that forgives all for the sake of money, that kept Yisrael back from the study of the Torah, and tempted them to deeds that are in accord with the wishes of Satan” (*Legends, vol. 3, page 167*)

Esau was significant in Rome. No doubt that “Rome” in a very real sense epitomizes the “way of Esau.” *The Book of Yasher* connects Esau’s seed with the Romans.

- “And the children of Chittim [Cyprus, Phoenicia, Rome] saw the valor of Zepho [a valiant descendant of Esau], and the children of Chittim resolved and they made Zepho king over them . . . . Zepho reigned over the whole land of Chittim *and over the land of ITALIA* 50 years” (*p.186*).

The Rome-Esau connection is verified time and time again in various writings. The children of EDOM or ESAU intermarried with the Italians and *they became ONE PEOPLE*. Esau is identified as the people of Italy, the Romans, and the source of religious apostasy.

According to prophecy, the rivalry between Esau’s and Ya’akov’s seed was to characterize the ongoing relationship of these two people throughout time. Finally, the “age of Esau” -- this present world – will be replaced by the “age of Ya’akov”. *The Book II Esdras* in the Apocrypha states:

- ““What will mark the parting of the times? Or when will the end of the first or the beginning of the second be?” And he said to me, ‘From Avraham to Avraham, for from him sprang Ya’akov and Esau, but *Ya’akov’s hand held Esau’s heel from the beginning. For ESAU IS THE END OF THIS AGE, AND YA’AKOV IS THE BEGINNING OF THE ONE THAT FOLLOWS*. For the beginning of a man is his hand and the end of a man is his heel” (*II Esdras 6:7-10*).

In the book *The Other Bible Code: Ancient Hebrew Revelations about Events of Our Time*, written by H. M. Davidson it says:

- “In many ancient Hebrew and Aramaic writings, Rome – and obscure Italian village which emerged as an early hub of Western civilization and economic power – is identified as an early extension of the Esau/Edom personality” (*p.6-7*). The Babylonian Talmud, a treasure of information, identifies Esau/Rome’s scheming against the sons of Ya’akov as not just a plot or scheme, but as a country: Germany! (*Babylonian Talmud, Megillah, 6a*).

Rome is the earliest post-Biblical extension of Esau and his descendants. If it was compared to a tree, then Esau would be the “root,” and Rome would be the major branch from that tree’s root.

The eighteenth century Lithuanian rabbi, Elijah ben-Solomon Kramer, known as the “Genius of Vilna,” Davidson writes:

- “Argued that *half of the nations of the contemporary world are branches of the Esau/Edom/Rome tree*” (*Davidson, page 37*).

The sixteenth century Rabbi Yehuda Lowe, the “Maharal,” argued that characteristics which ancient Jewish writings attribute to Esau/Rome can be used to:

- “Identify the contemporary groups of nations which today bear the torch of Esau/Edom/Rome” (*ibid.*).

Thus we see that “Euro-Western civilization may be regarded as a BRANCH OF THE ESAU/EDOM/ROME TREE”, he explains:

- “And the *mind*-set of the contemporary West also suggests a kinship with Esau/Edom/Rome.”

European and Western civilization is the beneficiary of the culture of Rome, with similar institutions, government, and laws. Also, like ancient Rome, modern Europe/America, and the Western world enjoy largely unchallenged military, economic, and political dominance over most of the world, and a disproportionate part of the world’s wealth.

Says Davidson,

- The West champions democracy, freedom, opportunity. Most people in the Western nations cheer these concepts, but these principles are not of themselves intrinsically good! A society consisting of thieves and crooks, even though it has a “democratic” government, will still be evil. Democracy and decency are not identical. Iraq today has “democracy” but is filled with hatred, conflict, and is on the verge of Civil War due to disagreeing factions of Islam battling each other for supremacy. According to ancient Jewish sages, the essence of Esau/Edom/Rome was its emphasis on *outward form and appearance* over intrinsic goodness. Good manners took precedence over good morals. Etiquette over ethics. Judicial process and procedure over justice. System over substance” (*p.39*).

Ancient Rome was the center of civilization during its day – a mega city which was the financial center of the world. Its legacy, today, which would symbolically be called “Rome,” would be New York City in the USA—an attraction for powerful people, wealth, politics, and business.

Davidson adds on *page 40*:

- “In today’s world, the city of New York has no equal as a financial hub. Many of the world’s most influential companies are based in New York and it is in New York that their shares are traded. The adage, ‘When Wall Street sneezes, the rest of the world catches the flu,’ captures the essence of New York’s financial hegemony over the rest of the world” In addition, he says, “the presence of the United Nations in Manhattan underscores New York City’s status as an unparalleled magnet for dignitaries from across the globe, much as Rome was in ancient days.”

In *Tehillim 140:9*, we read, “Grant not, O YHWH, the desires of the wicked man; further not his plotting – lest they be exalted.” In the *Babylonian Talmud*, in a commentary on *Tehillim 140:9*, the wicked man in this verse is identified as one of Esau’s later day manifestations – namely, Rome. Yisrael pleads with Elohim to withhold the desires of “Rome” and to stop Rome’s plotting against Yisrael.

The whole world today seems to be plotting against Yisrael. The “Road Map to Peace,” which threatens Yisrael’s future, is evidence of a conspiracy to eliminate the Jewish state, in favor of Arab oil, on which the world’s and the USA’s whole economy depends.

In the same passage from *the Talmud*, Esau/Rome’s plotting is identified with or connected with Germany (*Babylonian Talmud, Megilla 6a, H. M. Davidson, page 7*).

Germany has been a root of anti-Semitism in the twentieth century. Hitler’s pogroms, and his “final solution,” which led to the deaths of six million European Jews, was not an isolated episode. German resentment toward the Jews was historic, and today remains against the state of Yisrael. The Germans, as a leader in the European Union, are strong advocates of the deceitful “Road Map to Peace.” Germany has long been a very powerful advocate of the Arabic lobby and the Palestinians.

Says Davidson:

- “The Talmud continued that Ya’akov/Yisrael feared that if Germany and Rome were to end their mutual antagonism (as we see in the world, today, with Germany being a part of the “Western Alliance” and NATO) and combine forces, they would set forth to ‘destroy the world’” (page 8).

Elohim warned the Yisraelites to never forget the attack of the Amalekites, when they left Egypt under Moshe. Elohim said:

- “Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey out of Egypt, how he attacked you on the way, when you were faint and weary, and struck down all who lagged behind you; he did not fear Elohim”

The Jewish and Yisraelite struggle against Amalek was not a one-time affair, but was to continue through history. Amalek was to be blotted out, but it never happened. A descendant of Amalek during the Persian Empire. An Amalekite by the name of Haman, viceroy to the king, sought to kill every Jew in Persia. (Esther 3:13).

Likewise, Germany, in the twentieth century, fulfilled the same role. Germany is a contemporary state with a strong Amalekite/Esau inspiration, as well as being populated by many Assyrians, who anciently fought against Yisrael.

Hitler succeeded in annihilating one third of the Jews alive during World War II. In Jewish thought, there is a German-Amalekite connection.

The Talmud warned that another “Haman” would arise in the future. In a section dealing with the End of Days, and the coming of the Mashiach, we read:

- “If the people of Yisrael fail to repent on their own, the Holy One, blessed be He, will set a king over them *whose decrees are as harsh as those of Haman*, and the people of Yisrael will repent against their will, and He will restore them to good” (Sanhedrin 97B, vol.21, p.13).

This prophecy was fulfilled by Adolf Hitler, who, like Haman, sought the total annihilation of the Jews. The Holocaust woke up millions of Jews who during and after World War II sought sanctuary by fleeing to Palestine, their original homeland.

Was the Nazi Holocaust prophesied in Scripture? Interestingly, a passage in the Book of Esther describes the execution of Haman’s “ten sons.” A look at the names of Haman’s ten sons reveals – three Hebrew letters are written very small in the Hebrew text – the Hebrew equivalents of T (tau-ט), Sh (shin-שׁ), and Z (zayin-ז); and one, the Hebrew equivalent of V (vav-ו), is written exceptionally large! (Esther 9:7-9). Why was this written in this coded message?

Says Davidson,

- “Such an oddity should draw attention. The ancient Hebrews understood that an enlargement or contraction of Biblical letters is always significant.” In the Hebrew alphabet, every letter has a numerical value. In the case of the text in Esther, the three small letters have the numerical value as follows: T = 400, Sh = 300, Z = 7, for a total of 707. The numerical value of the large letter Vav is 6.

Here is where it gets remarkable! The date on which Hitler's ten henchmen during World War II were hanged, even as Haman's sons were hanged, was October 16, 1946 – a date that coincided with the 707<sup>th</sup> year of the sixth millennium of the Hebrew calendar – the Hebrew year 5707. Notice – the large “Vav” refers to the Jewish millennium – “5.” The “707” refers to the century and year. The execution date that year fell on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Tishri – the day of Hoshana Rabbah, the seventh day of the Feast of Sukkoth. That date, in Jewish tradition, is identified as the one day of the year picturing the “Judgment Day” of the nations of the world!

A reporter for *Newsweek* magazine, at the time, wrote about the execution of Julius Streicher, one of Hitler's Nazi henchmen. As he faced his execution we read in *Newsweek*:

- “Only Julius Streicher went without dignity. He had to be pushed across the floor, wild-eyed and screaming: ‘Heil Hitler!’ Mounting the steps, he cried out: ‘and now I go to G-d!’ He stared at the witnesses facing the gallows and shouted, ‘Purim-fest, 1946!’ (*Newsweek, October 26, 1946, page 45*).

The hanging of the ten henchmen of Adolf Hitler in 1946 was a mysterious repeat of the hanging of the ten sons of Haman on the day of Purim, in 510 B.C.E. Hitler, like Haman, sought to annihilate all Jews. And like Haman, he died a terrible death, and his ten henchmen were hanged just like Haman's sons.

Let us go forward to the year 2006. The world is engaged in the war against worldwide terrorism. It is a war pitting the Muslim world against the Christian world. It involves terrorist groups and their Arab supporting nations – the Middle Eastern “axis of evil.”

In a prophecy found in *Yeshayahu 21*, Elohim condemns the Arab nations for their treachery, perfidy and cruelty.

- “As whirlwinds in the Negeb sweep on, it comes from the desert, from a terrible land. A stern vision is told to me; the betrayer betrays, and the destroyer destroys” (*Yeshayahu 21:1-2*)

It is a scene of destruction. Yeshayahu cries out, “Therefore my loins are filled with anguish; pangs have seized me, like the pangs of a woman in labor . . . My mind reels, horror has appalled me; the twilight I longed for has turned for me into trembling” (*Yeshayahu.21:3-4*).

This is a prediction concerning the Desert – Arabia – and its inhabitants, the Dedanites, Tema, and the warriors of Kedar (*verses 13-16*).

Writes Davidson,

- “An ancient Jewish sage, culling from the insights into this chapter which he had received from earlier generations, states that the Arabs will wage an unprecedentedly heavy ‘*war of confusion*’ in the End of Days – and that the scene of this war will be ‘a great city.’ Furthermore – the ancient sage continues – this episode will trigger events which will lead to the coming of the Mashiach and the Final Redemption of the world” (*p.41*).

A “war of confusion” suggests a war where the enemy is hard to identify – as terrorists, who disguise themselves, and go underground, and strike by craftiness. The term “a great city,” says Davidson, in ancient Hebrew literature, is “almost invariably a coded reference to Rome or its successor” (*ibid.*).

Thus here we are reading about “terrorism,” a war where your enemies are not obvious – and a “great city” – a modern day “Rome.” Does this not sound similar to the events of 9-11?

*The Zohar*, an ancient Hebrew commentary, in its section on the book of Bemidbar, gives details of devastation which would shake “Rome,” in the End of Days. Davidson adds:

- “Amplifying the prophecy of Bil’am, the Zohar predicted that on a certain calendar date the future Rome will suffer the tumbling of three high buildings or ‘strongholds’ [Aramaic: *shoorin eelaeen*], and that this event will be among the factors triggering the process which will lead ultimately to the coming of the Mashiach” p.42).

On 9-11, not only the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center collapsed after being flown into by hijacked airliners, but a third 47-story skyscraper, part of the same complex, also tumbled to the ground, at 5:20 pm, the very same day. The Zohar predicted this tremendous event would occur on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Elul, in its most recognized edition. However, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Genius of Vilna stated the text was off by two days – that the most correct version of the Zohar reads that this devastation would occur on Elul 23. **September 11, 2001, was the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Elul!**

**Once again we see a Rome/Esau/Edom connection in Scripture and other sources!**