

Igbo Torah Thoughts

Parashah #8 Vayishlach: He Sent

Gen. 32:4-36:43, Oba. 1

Rabbi Yehudah "Tochukwu" ben Shomeyr

**Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands; And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape... And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost. –Gen. 32:7-8, 33:2**

In Igboland an Igbomans compound is divided into camps or bands, each wife (if the Igboman was a polygamist, as it was before the white man) with their respective obi (home) where they and their children live.

We see Jacob divide his camp up in the exact same way.

**And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us: But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised; - Gen. 34:14-15**

Because Igbos circumcise their male children on the 8<sup>th</sup> day they also did not intermarry with other African tribes unless they too became circumcised and thus become a part of the Igbo People.

**But Deborah, Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth. –Gen. 35:8**

In Igboland certain trees are used as grave markers just as it was in this verse. On the compound of Obu-Gad in Aguleri an Igbo king is buried under such a tree.

**Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. – Gen. 36:8**

It is believed by some that the Idoma (Edoma) may be descendants of Esau. Whether this is true or not, more research is needed to fully confirm or debunk this supposition. Point being, every people has its place and territory which God has given them.

The Book of Obadiah deals with a prophetic oracle concerning the punishment of Edom (Esau's Line), who epitomizes fraternal betrayal and how God will not let such a thing go unpunished. Igbo descendants of Jacob through Gad must take heed lest they betray their own people by believing others who deny their Hebraic heritage. But we will see such "Esau's" such "Edomites" shall not prevail.

**And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it. –Oba. 1:18**

In Romans 9:13 Igbos (Hebrews via Jacob and Gad) should take pride in their Hebraic heritage and not fall for the doctrine and propaganda of the "Esau's" who wish to betray and tear down the Igbo People and lower them to just another pagan people of Africa.

**As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. – Rom. 9:13**

SHABBAT SHALOM! IGBO KWENU!

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