

# Genesis 36:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these are the children of Zibeon; both Ajah, and Anah: this was that Anah that found the mules in the wilderness, as he fed the asses of Zibeon his father.

## Analysis

---

**And these are the children of Zibeon; both Ajah, and Anah: this was that Anah that found the mules i...** This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

## Historical Context

---

The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. How should this truth about Edomite Kings shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְאֵלֶּה	בְּנֵי	לְצִבְעֹן	וְאֵי	עֲנָה	וְאֵלֶּה
H428					H1931
	And these are the children	of Zibeon	both Ajah	and Anah	
	H1121	H6649	H345	H6034	
וְאֵלֶּה	אֲשֶׁר	מָצָא	אֶת	הַחֲמֹרִים	בַּמִּדְבָּר
and Anah	H834	that found	H853	the mules	in the wilderness
H6034		H4672		H3222	H4057
					H7462
אֶת	הַחֲמֹרִים	לְצִבְעֹן	אָבִיו:		
H853					
	the asses	of Zibeon	his father		
	H2543	H6649	H1		