

We have already seen that some of the heads of tribes or dukes of this race were contemporaries of Abraham. Their ancestor Seir, and that other ancestor Hori, mentioned in Gen. xxxvi. 30, who cannot be the son of Lotan, take us back to an older period still. In Abraham's time they were of sufficient importance to attract the attention of Chedorlaomer, and dwelt at no great distance from the cities of the plain, "the opulent Pentapolis of the Jordan." They are classed with the Rephaim, the Zuzim, the Emim and the Avim, whom there is strong reason for making Japhetic peoples connecting with Riphath, Javan, &c., more especially as their names do not occur among the tribes of Ham. They represent a second wave of population moving westward from Babel, the first being a purely Hamitic stock that had passed over Jordan and probably into Egypt, in both of which regions they soon became the serfs of a nobler race. The Shemites, with the exception of Abraham and his family, still kept to their ancient seat. Esau, a proud and warlike man, was not ashamed to ally himself with a Horite princess. He seems, indeed, to have entered upon this alliance on unequal terms, inasmuch as certain of the dukes of Esau (Gen. xxxvi. 40), Timnah, Alyah, Aholibamah, bear Horite names, while no Horite duke bears the name of an Edomite. It is also to be noted that two of these are the names of females, although they stand at the head of the list of the Aluphim or dukes. In ancient times for a woman to give her name to a family was a mark of high honour, and such, undoubtedly, was the position that the Horite element occupied in the Edomite family. Obadiah iii. is often quoted as a passage which proves the Horites to have been troglodytes, inasmuch as the Edomites, who supplanted them, are there described as dwelling "in the clefts of the rock;" but who will dare to call the proud, free and warlike Edomites cave-dwellers? A better name should be found for those whose skill and marvellous industry fashioned the palaces of Petra, leaving marks of a high civilization, that nothing but a great convulsion of nature can efface, whether they be Edomites or the sons of Hori. These troglodytes, if men will call them so, were a great people. It is interesting to observe that Josephus calls the descendants of Abraham by Keturah by the same name, and yet represents them, quoting the words of an ancient historian, as the conquerors of Egypt and founders of the Assyrian Empire.²

² Josephi Antiq. Lib. I. Cap. 15.