

מסכת לבוש דף ע

DAF YOMI4 Kids

Inside the Daf

The ancient עַמּוֹנִי (Ammonite) and מוֹאָבִי (Moabite) tribes were especially cruel and heartless. The Torah tells us that when the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל (Children of Israel) were thirsty and famished upon their journey through the desert, the Ammonites and Moabites refused to greet them with bread and water.

Because of this unusual cruelty, Ammonites and Moabites are never allowed to convert to Judaism.

But this is the rule only for *male* Ammonite and Moabite converts. A female Moabite and Ammonite is allowed to convert to Judaism.

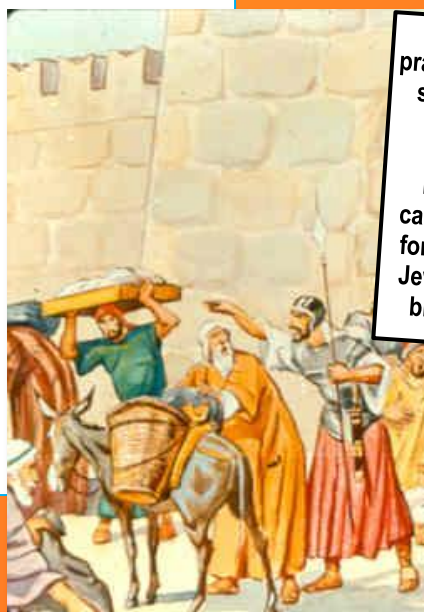
Why are the women allowed to convert? The גְּמָרָא gives two reasons.

- 1) It was common practice for women to stay in their tents. Therefore, the Ammonite and Moabite women cannot be punished for not greeting the Jewish people with bread and water.
- 2) The Torah says that only an "עַמּוֹנִי" (Ammonite man) and "מוֹאָבִי" (Moabite man) may not convert. It does not say that an "עַמּוֹנִית" (Ammonite woman) and "מוֹאָבִית" (Moabite woman) may not convert.

A מְדוּתָה Moment

"We are told to be thankful for having the מִצְוֹת (commandments) of the Torah. How can we do this?" asked Shragy.

"The גְּמָרָא tells us," explained his teacher, "that when King David read the Torah, he noticed that Hashem had saved his kingdom going back to the time of לוֹט (see above, 'The Women Ammonites and Moabites'). We, ourselves, should appreciate how much there is in the Torah that improves our lives. If we pay attention, we can notice many commandments that benefit mankind and ourselves!"



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The Women Ammonites and Moabites

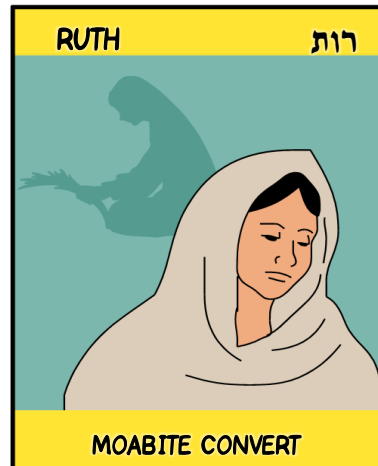
Not only are female Moabites and Ammonites allowed to convert to Judaism, but some of the most important Jewish women in history were Moabite and Ammonite converts!

רוּת (Ruth) is probably the most famous convert in Jewish history. She was a Moabite and became the great-grandmother of דָּוִד המֶלֶךְ (King David).

נְעֻמָּה (Naamah) was an Ammonite convert and the wife of שְׁלֹמֹה המֶלֶךְ (King Solomon). She was the mother of רְחָבֹעַם (Rehoboam) who became the king of Judah.

Had the Torah not allowed female Ammonites and Moabites to convert, King David and his kingdom would never have come to be!

In fact, Hashem made sure that King David and his kingdom would come to be way back when the cities of עֲמוֹרָה and סְדֹם (Sodom and Gomorrah) were being destroyed. At that time, לוֹט (Lot) escaped destruction with his two daughters...the mothers of the Ammonite and Moabite tribes!



Did You Know...

When someone sought to challenge the rule that a female Ammonite and Moabite may convert, יְהוָה girded his sword and said, "Whoever does not accept this rule shall be pierced by this sword!"

Games

CROSSOUT

Cross out every second letter (starting from the outside) You'll find how we know that women Ammonite and Moabite converts are allowed



Review Questions – יבמות דף ע"ז

1. Explain why a female Ammonite or Moabite may convert to Judaism.
2. Name an important Ammonite and Moabite convert.
3. What did יְהוָה do when he saw a rule being challenged?