

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce

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פרשת פי תצא

Marriage: The tie that binds. It is the building-block of any nation and the foundation for its growth. Yet Torah restricts whom the children of Avraham may marry - even among those who share their own faith. The Torah tells us that neither an Ammonite nor Moabite male may marry into the direct descendants of Avraham.

True they may marry other converts, but they can never enter a direct union with descendants of Klal Yisrael.

The Torah tells us the reason for this restriction. "*On the fact that they (Ammon) did not greet you with bread and water as you left Egypt and for employing (Moab) Bilaam the son of Pe'or to curse you*" (Devarim 23:4-5)

One must truly wonder: according to the Torah, anyone is allowed to become a Jew. It requires acceptance of the mitzvos and the responsibilities that Yiddishkeit entails. Yet the Torah it seems, has great reason to disallow males who descend from the nation of Ammon and Moab from marrying direct descendants of Avraham. Surely it is solely not the refusal of bread and water or the employing of a sorcerer to curse the Jews. After all, the Egyptians enslaved the descendants of Yaakov, nevertheless, Egyptian converts may marry Jews - albeit after three generations of waiting. Even converted descendants of our enemy Esav may marry the children of his nemesis brother Yaakov. What then is the inherent evil trait of Ammon and Moab that disallows their union with Avraham?

A brilliant young student entered the portals of Yeshiva Torah Voda'ath in the 1940s. Hailing from a distinguished rabbinic family which instilled within him a creative mind, he questioned some of the arcane dormitory rules and restrictions that were imposed with boys of less character in mind.

But rules, said the dormitory counselor, are rules and he wanted to have the young student temporarily expelled until he would agree to conform. An expulsion of that sort would have left the young man (who lived out of town) no alternative but to leave the Yeshiva.

They brought the matter before the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetzky. "True," he said, "rules are rules, but I owe this young man something." The dorm counselor looked stunned.

"In the 1800s this boy's great-grandfather helped establish the kollel at which I would study some decades later. I owe his family a debt of gratitude. If the rules disallow his stay in the dormitory, then he will sleep in my home."

An essential trait of the Jewish people is gratitude. The children of Avraham are instilled with it, whether it be gratitude to Hashem or his mortal messengers. However, it seems that Ammon and Moab have no sense of gratitude. Their forebear was Lot, Avraham's nephew who raised Lot and was saved him during a vicious war. Avraham taught Lot the spirit of hospitality and helped establish him in life. Yet Lot's children, Ammon, and

Moav, showed no gratitude. In fact, they were eager to destroy Avraham's children - both physically and spiritually. There can be no fusion of those two traits.

We can handle enemies. When an Edomite or Egyptian accepts the faith he can become a true partner in every aspect that bonds Jews - even marriage. But in the harmony of the Jewish family, in the building the future of our nation, there is no room for ingrates.

Moabite women however, are exempt from the ban. It seems that they had no control over the decisions. How interesting it is to note that the Moabite convert, Ruth, the woman who showed tremendous gratitude toward her mother-in-law was the precedent-setting example that lifted the ban on Moabite-women converts.

Those actions of gratitude and understanding ultimately led to the birth of King David the forebear of Moshiach.

Good Shabbos

Adapted from Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by Leon & Malka Jakubovic on the occasion of the aufruf of their son Abi. Mazel Tov to the Leon & Malka Jakubovic and David & Goldie Richler on the aufruf and upcoming marriage of their son and grandson Abi to Sarah Rosenbaum. Mazel Tov to the Jakubovic and Rosenbaum families.

Please Note: There will be no Kids program for the duration of the summer.

Shabbos Schedule

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 6:35 pm/8:05 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Pirkei Avos Shuir: 7:00 pm

Maariv/Motzai Shabbos: 9:08 pm

Candle Lighting: 8:02 pm

Zman Krias Shema: 9:53 am

Mincha/Shalosh Seudos: 7:50 pm

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Seating

To reserve seats for Rosh Hashanah and/or Yom Kippur please let us know the number of seats needed and for which days of Yom Tov (i.e. First Day Rosh Hashana, Second Day Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur).

Please Contact:

For Men: Email Ben Chinn at benzchinn@gmail.com or Michael Harris at harrism@metrotextiles.ca

For Women: Email: Malka Jakubovic at jakubovic@rogers.com

The deadline for seats is Wednesday, August 28, 2013.

We would like to invite the community to join us for Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos Parshas Ki Setzei

Guest Speaker: Rav Chaim Ilson

About the Speaker

Rav Ilson is one of the foremost Talmidim of the late Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik. He also shared personal relationships with Rav Shneur Kotler, Rav Yeruchem Gorelick, Rav Nissan Alpert, Rav Yisroel Zev Gustman, and Rav Elazar M.M. Shach.

To sponsor a Kiddush or Shalosh Seudos please email kiddush@agudahsouth.com or contact Leon Jakubovic.

All those wish to submit cholim can email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one the gabbaim.

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