

Grand Blessing for Ruth

Part 3: Prior Israelite-Moabite Interactions

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What We Will Learn

- Moabites and Ammonites
- Descendants of Abraham's nephew, Lot
- By abominable sexual encounter between Lot and his daughters
- But God did not condemn them
- Assigned them territories
- Instructed Israelites to respect territorial rights of Moabites and Ammonites

What We Will Learn cont'd

- Moabites and Ammonites
- Prohibited from Israelite Assembly
 - Did not extend friendship to Israelites
 - Tried to curse them, instead
 - Worshiped other gods
 - Seduced Israelites to worship their gods
- Genesis, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Judges

Moabites—Descendants of Lot

- Lot and two daughters lived in a cave
- Isolated from other humans
- After destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- Daughters drugged Lot with alcohol
- To sleep with him
- Both became pregnant by father Lot
- Genesis 19:30-36

Genesis 19 (NIV)

30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.

31 One day the older daughter said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children—as is the custom all over the earth.

Genesis 19 (NIV)

32 Let's get our father to drink wine and then sleep with him and preserve our family line through our father.”

33 That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and slept with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

Genesis 19 (NIV)

34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, “Last night I slept with my father. Let’s get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep with him so we can preserve our family line through our father.”

Genesis 19 (NIV)

35 So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went in and slept with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

36 So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

Moabites—Descendants of Lot cont'd

- Each daughter gave birth to a son
- First daughter named her son Moab, father of the Moabites
- Second daughter named her son Ben-Ammi, father of the Ammonites
- Genesis 19:37-38

Genesis 19 (NIV)

37 The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today.

38 The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.

Territorial Rights for Descendants of Esau and Lot

- God declared territorial rights
- For descendants of Esau
- And for descendants of Lot
 - Moabites and Ammonites
- Instructed Israelites
- To respect the territorial rights
- Deuteronomy 2:2–6, 8–9, and 16–19

Deuteronomy 2 (NIV)

2 Then the Lord said to me,

3 “You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north.

4 Give the people these orders: ‘You are about to pass through the territory of your relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful.

Deuteronomy 2 (NIV)

5 Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own.

6 You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.””

Deuteronomy 2 (NIV)

8 So we went on past our relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We turned from the Arabah road, which comes up from Elath and Ezion Geber, and traveled along the desert road of Moab.

9 Then the Lord said to me, “Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.”

Deuteronomy 2 (NIV)

16 Now when the last of these fighting men among the people had died,

17 the Lord said to me,

18 “Today you are to pass by the region of Moab at Ar.

Deuteronomy 2 (NIV)

19 When you come to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them to war, for I will not give you possession of any land belonging to the Ammonites. I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.

- God intended descendants of Abraham and Lot to live in separate territories
- As neighbors respecting each other's territorial rights

Israelites Seduced by Moabites

- Israelite men indulged in Moabite women
- Worshiped their god, Baal of Peor
- God ordered the offenders killed
- Released a plague among Israelites
- Killed 24,000
- Moabites—source of temptation for Israelites
- Numbers 25:1–18 [Not read in session]

Occasional Friction: Israelites and Moabites

- King of Moab, Balak
- Uncomfortable with arrival of Israelites
- Near his territory
- Invited diviner Balaam
- To put a curse on them
- Balaam blessed the Israelites instead
- Numbers 22–24 [Selections read in session]

Numbers 22 (NKJV)

6 Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

- Balak invited Balaam to curse Israelites because he was afraid of them

Numbers 24 (NKJV)

- But Balaam blessed the Israelites instead

10 Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times!

Occasional Friction: Israelites and Moabites cont'd

- Moab conquered Israel
- Ruled Israel for 18 years
- Israelite Ehud killed Eglon, king of Moab
- Led Israel to victory over Moab
- Israelites subdued the Moabites
- Enjoyed 80 years of peace thereafter
- Judges 3:12–30 [Not read in session]

Banned from the Assembly

- Moabites and Ammonites
- Banned from congregations of Israelites
 - Denied hospitality to Israelites
 - Invited Balaam to curse them
 - When they came out of Egypt
 - Were a source of temptation for Israelites
- Deuteronomy 23:3–6

Deuteronomy 23 (NKJV)

3 “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever,

4 because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

Deuteronomy 23 (NKJV)

5 Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you.

6 You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

What We Learned

- Moabites are descendants of Lot
- From sexual encounters with his daughters
- But God did not condemn them
- Assigned them territory
- Protected their territorial rights

Do not judge, or you too will be judged
[Matthew 7:1]

What We Learned

- Moabites were banned
- From Assembly of Israelites
- Respect their territorial rights
- But do not seek their friendship
- Or intermingle with them
- They are unfriendly
- And a source of temptation