

**Yisro- Rav Moshe Feinstein, Zt'l on  
Yisro's Conversion and Finding his True Mission  
By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh**

The Parsha opens up with the fact that Yisro heard all that Hashem did for Am Yisroel and that they were taken out of Mitzrayim. In the beginning of the Parsha, Rashi quotes the Gemara in Zevachim 116A that discusses exactly what Yisro heard and why he wanted to come Moshe his son-in-law. Rashi quotes two of the opinions, the splitting of the Yam Suf and the war with Amalek. Rav Moshe Feinstein Asks the Following. We can understand the significance of Am Yisroel being taken out of Mitzrayim. After all this entailed many miraculous occurrences such as the ten plagues that each plague proved, in its own way, Hashem's control over nature. The splitting of the Yam Suf was perhaps the most dramatic because it was more public and the entire army of Mitzrayim was lost. But what was so significant about the War with Amalek? Nations have wars with each other all of the time and we generally do not see it as anything unusual.

Rav Moshe Feinstein, Zt'l, answered the question in the following manner. Generally, we do not go out of our way to seek converts. We certainly do not actively proselytize as some segments of Christianity are known to do. For sure, we do not believe that all those who do not join our religious community are condemned to eternal suffering as many other religions preach. Rather, if Non-Jews do not want to worship idols and keep their seven Mitzvos they receive their portion in the world to come. So from all of the events that took place regarding Mitzrayim Yisro understood Hashem's greatness and that that Hashem alone is to be worshipped. However, when Yisro saw that Amalek attacked Am Yisroel such a short time after the splitting of the Yam Suf, Yisro reached a new understanding of his place in life. At the time of the parting of the Yam Suf, the entire world was petrified of Am Yisroel, Hashem's nation. It seemed that no one would dare start up with us. Yet, such a short time later Amalek decided to attack us against any better judgment. At that point, Yisro saw that a life without Torah is meaningless. Without the discipline of the Torah, a human being can see the greatest miracles and the greatest revelations of Hashem's power and yet remain completely unchanged internally. Yisro realized that only by joining Klal Yisroel and living a life guided by the Torah could he accomplish his true mission in this world.