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Conversion to Judaism in Jewish law

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PREFACE

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The only militant effort at conversion to Judaism occurred during the period of the Maccabees (165-125 B.C.E.), when the Idumeans were forced to become Jews. Subsequently in the Roman Empire we sought converts through persuasion. Some historians feel that the Jewish communities of the Roman Empire consisted of more converts than of born Jews. In addition, many people were attracted to Judaism but never officially joined the Jewish People. These individuals called *Yivri Adomi* or *Goyi Tordot* were loosely identified with Judaism and sympathetic to its ideas. The number of such individuals in the Roman Empire as well as the size of the Jewish population in the Roman Empire remains an area of scholarly disagreement.