

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 106**

**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR THE CORRECTION
OF THE SIN OF THE SPIES**

**“LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALL THE
MITZVOT OF THE TORAH” (SIFRE, PARASHAT REE)**

LEARN THE LESSON AND DO NOT FOLLOW ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SPIES

**RAV TZVI YEHUDA KOOK: ERETZ YISRAEL IS NOT
MERELY OUR GEOGRAPHICAL HOMELAND, BUT A
FOUNDATION OF TRUE TORAH OBSERVANCE.**

"Our Sages have clearly explained the value of Eretz Yisrael to the Torah and the mitzvot, stating that the precept of living in Israel is equal in scale to all of the commandments in the Torah. This is an awesome pronouncement. Obviously, this emphasis does not come to render all other precepts superfluous. Every precept is an integral part of the overall 613 commandments. However, the mitzvah of living in Israel is not just an ordinary commandment. It is an all-encompassing precept - the fundamental prerequisite for Am Yisrael to be able to function as a nation. For the genuine keeping of the Torah is only in Eretz Yisrael. In every other place, the commandments are imposed as a way of reminder, so that when we return to Israel, we will know how to keep them. (Sifre, Ekev, 11:18. And, Rashi, Deut. 11:18. Also, Ramban, there)

Rav Tzvi Yehuda based this on a Sifre, which Rashi quotes in his commentary on the Torah: Even though I am exiling you from Israel to outside the Land, distinguish yourself with the commandments, so that when you return, they will not seem new in your eyes. Rashi comments: "This is like a king who became angry at his wife, and sent her back to her father's house. He said to her, 'Wear your jewelry so it won't seem new to you when you return to the palace.' Thus HaKadosh Baruch Hu says to Israel: 'My sons, distinguish yourselves with precepts so that when you return, they won't be new to you.' This is what Jeremiah said, Set up waymarks for yourself, make yourself signposts. (Jeremiah, 31:20) These are the mitzvot which Israel is commanded. ,, (Sifre, Ekev, 11:18. And, Rashi, Deut. 11:18. Also, Ramban, there)

The true, intended, place for the mitzvot is in Eretz Yisrael. Their purpose in Galut is to keep us attached to the Torah, so that when we return to Israel, the performance of the commandments won't seem unfamiliar and new. This teaching of the Sages emphasizes that Eretz Yisrael is not merely our geographical homeland, but a foundation of true Torah observance.

(From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

**PLEASE HASHEM SAVE US FROM THE SIN OF THE SPIES WHO SPOKE LASHON
HARA AGAINST ERETZ ISRAEL. LET US CORRECT THE SIN OF “THEY DESPISED
THE DESIRABLE LAND” (TEHILLIM 106) FOR IN THIS WAY WE BRING CLOSER
THE COMPLETE GEULA WHEN YOUR NAME WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THE
WORLD AND YOUR NATION ISRAEL SHALL BE EXALTED AND YOUR BEIT HA
MIKDASH REBUILT MAY THIS BE SOON IN OUR DAYS, AMEN YEHI RATZON**