

**BS`D**  
**ERETZ ISRAEL**  
**BULLETIN 11**

*"DWELLING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS EQUIVALENT TO  
ALL THE MITZVOT OF THE TORAH" (SIFREI, PARASHAT REE)*

**HASHEM'S NAME IS SCORNE**  
**AND DESECRATED**  
**WHEN JEWS ARE IN EXILE**

"And when they came to the nations, into which they came, they profaned My Holy Name, in that men said of them, These are the people of the Lord, and they have gone out of His land." (Ezekiel, 36:20)

When the Jews are in exile, Judaism and Torah are scorned. The "Chosen People" become persecuted, downcast victims, despised by all of the nations. G-d's Name is desecrated. In the eyes of the gentiles, the once mighty G-d of Israel lacks the strength to safeguard His people in His land. (Ibid, Rashi)

What a (great) mitzvah it is to desire to go to Eretz Israel! The Shelah ha Kaddosh and Sefer Yereim teach that a person should constantly have in his heart a desire and love for Eretz Israel, as it is written, "And your eyes and your heart shall be there all the days." (Based on I Melachim 9:3) If a man has all that he desires, he should always remember that he is lacking something, because he is not in Eretz Israel... He should be sad about that, for the most important thing is missing (Yeaarot Devash, beginning of Derashah 14.)

This explains the words of our mentor, the Or HaChayim. He writes that Israel's leaders throughout the generations will be held responsible for the fact that we are still in exile, because they should have inspired the Children of Israel to love Eretz Israel. (Or HaChayim, VaYikra 25:25)

Therefore, my friends and brothers, do not pay any attention to those who slander the Land, even if they are truly righteous. For, I mentioned above that the brilliant mentor of Eretz Israel, R. Yosef Chayim Sonnenfeld z"l, derived from the words of the Shelah that even tzaddikim can be spies. Realize that all those who oppose aliyah and the building and resettlement of the Land belong to the camp of the spies. But, all those who choose aliyah belong to Yehoshua and Calev's camp.

Rabbi Ysachar Shlomo Teichtel ZTKL    Em ha Banim Semecha

*Please Hashem, Be good to Me according to Your will, and grant me with compassion and kindness and as a free gift, that I will soon merit to come to Eretz Israel, to the Eretz ha Keddosha, the Land our forefathers inherited, the Land which all the authentic Tzaddikim, wished with all their soul and desired to be there, and most of them came there... (Tefillah of Rebbe Nachman of Bresslov)*