

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 123**

**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
“IF THE LAND OF ISRAEL GIVES FORTH HER FRUITS IN
ABUNDANCE, THIS IS NOT JUST COINCIDENCE”**

"We find with our Sages, may their memory be for a blessing, a very clear definition of the end of Galut. (Sanhedrin 98^a) In the Gemara, after a full page of reckonings and mystical calculations, a very obvious indication appears. It is a verse from the book of Ezekiel: But you O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they will soon be coming.(Ezekiel, 36:8.) Rashi comments that there can be no surer sign of the End of the exile than this.(Sanhedrin 98^a)

There are two parts to this verse. First, the Land, which for so many years lay desolate, is Divinely commanded to give forth its fruits not to the gentile nations, but to the nation of Israel. This abundant harvest is connected to the ingathering of the exiles, the second phase of the verse, For they will soon be coming.(Ezekiel, 36:8.)

These two phenomena are clearly happening in our time. History bears witness to the desolation which, for nearly two thousand years, characterized the Land of Israel. In a famous letter to his son, soon after his Aliyah to Israel, the Ramban mourns over the destruction of the Land, and the even greater devastation of Jerusalem. Also, lehavdil, the American writer, Mark Twain, notes in "Innocents Abroad," the diary he kept on a visit to Israel, that the roads were more rocky than the hillsides, and he describes the unusual poverty of the land. Eretz Yisrael was conquered again and again, but only when her children returned, did she bring forth her fruit.

Interestingly, it wasn't the flourishing of Israel's spiritual life, seen in the Baal Tshuva movement, and the establishment of new Yeshivot throughout the Land, which Rav Tzvi Yehuda emphasized when he spoke about Geula. Instead, he pointed to the agricultural boom, in the down-to-earth harvest of oranges, bananas, and grapes, which the Gemara says is the surest sign of the Exile's end.

"The ingathering of the exiles, and the rebirth of the Land, are two sides of the historic, Divine prophecy which is unfolding now, in our very midst, and through our actions." "If the Land of Israel gives forth her fruits in abundance, this is not just coincidence. (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