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**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 124**

**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**

**POSSESSING THE LAND IS A MITZVAH, AND THE  
OPPOSITE IS A REBELLION AGAINST HASHEM**

"It is well known that the Ramban established a fundamental Halachic ruling that living in the Land of Israel, and conquering the Land, are commandments of the Torah which apply in every age. (Ramban. Supplement to the Sefer HaMitzvot of the Ramban, Positive Command # 4) Among the supporting verses he cites is the verse, "Rise and possess". The Ramban emphasizes that this is the language of a command. In contrast to this, the rejection of the precept, Go up and possess, is a rebellion against Hashem. ("And the proof that this is a commandment is this: They were told to go up in the matter of the Spies, Go up and conquer as Hashem has said to you. Don't fear, and don't be discouraged. And it further says: And when Hashem sent you from Kadesh Barnea saying, Go up and possess the Land which I have given you. And when they didn't go up, the Torah says: And you rebelled against the word of G-d, and you didn't listen to this command." Ramban. Ibid.)

"And when the Lord sent You from Kadesh Barnea, saying, Go up and possess the Land which I gave you, and you rebelled against the Lord your G-d, and you did not believe in Me, and did not listen to My voice". (Deut. 9:23)

They didn't listen to Hashem in conquering and possessing the Land. Possessing the Land is a mitzvah, and the opposite is a rebellion against Hashem."

Rav Tzvi Yehuda wanted the lesson of the Spies to be clear. The Torah is eternal. The Torah doesn't change. What was true in the time of Moshe Rabenu is true for us today. The Spies rebelled against Hashem by refusing to obey His command to go up and conquer Israel. The lack of Emunah, which their mutiny expressed, (Devarim 1:32) was a sin far greater than the sin of the golden calf, where only three thousand people were punished. (Exodus 32:28. And see, Kuzari, 1:97) Because of the sin of the Spies, the entire generation of men perished in the wilderness. This great wrongdoing was not limited to the masses, but included the Gedolim of Israel, as Rav Chaim Luzzato explains in Mesillat Yesharim: "They feared a lessening of their honor, lest, upon entering the 'Land, they would no longer be princes of Israel, and others would be appointed in their place. (Mesillat Yesharim, Chapter 11, on Honor. And Zohar, Numbers, 158A) (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**