

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 137**

**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

THE RAMBAM, WHO DIDN'T INCLUDE LIVING IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL IN THE LIST OF 613 MITZVOT, BEHOLD, THIS ISN'T BECAUSE IT HAS LESS VALUE THAN THE OTHER MITZVOT; RATHER IT IS ABOVE THE USUAL VALUE. AND ALSO BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE UNDERLYING FOUNDATIONS OF SEFER HAMITZVOT, PRECEPTS WHICH ENCOMPASS ALL OF THE TORAH AREN'T INCLUDED IN THE LIST.” (L'NETIVOT YISRAEL, PART 1, P.117, HARAV TZVI YEHUDA HACHOHEN KOOK. JERUSALEM, 5727)

The Rambam, in his classic work of Halacha, the Mishna Torah, makes the obligation of living in Land of Israel quite clear. In the Laws of Kings and Their Wars, Chapter Five, he details the prohibition against leaving the Land of Israel to dwell outside of the Land, describes the great love the Sages have for the Land, and quotes the Gemara in Ketubot 110B which states: In all times, a Jew should live in the Land of Israel, even in a city where most of the residents are idol worshippers, and not live outside of the Land, even in a city where most of the residents are Jews. (Rambam, Laws of Kings, 5:2)

Also, in the Laws of Marriage, the Rambam rules that in a case where the husband wants to go on Aliyah to Israel, and the wife does not, the Beit Din forces her either to go (even if their Aliyah means leaving a place where the majority of residents are Jewish to live in a city in Israel where the majority are gentiles); or to agree to a divorce without receiving her Ketubah (dowry). (Rambam, Laws of Marriage, 13:19)

This decision is stated in the Shulchan Aruch Even HaEzer, 75:3. There, the Pitchei Tshuva, a compilation of all of the Poskim who decide Torah law, quotes the Ramban's ruling that the commandment to live in Eretz Yisrael applies in all generations, and furthermore emphasizes that all of the Poskim, both Rishonim and Achronim (early and later Halachic authorities) agree.(Pitchei Tshuva, there, sub-section 6)

(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