

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 138**

**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 question why the Rambam does not list living in Israel as one of the 613 precepts is more of a philosophical inquiry than a Halachic one, for, as Rav Tzvi Yehuda stressed, the appearance, or non-appearance, of a precept on the list has, by itself, no Halachic significance, for the commandments, and the obligation to do them, comes from the Torah, and not from the varying lists. The lists don't determine which precepts we do - the Torah does. There are instances where commandments do not appear on the list, because they are commandments which encompass all of the Torah, as the Rambam himself explains in his introduction to Sefer HaMitzvot; or because they derive from Rabbinic decree; or because they were not practiced at the time of the list. When answering this question, Rav Tzvi Yehuda would clarify the Rambam's methodology to the enumeration of precepts on his list, as set forth by the Rambam in his introduction

Dwelling in Israel is an encompassing commandment. (The precept of living in Israel is equal in weight to all of the precepts of the Torah. Sifre, Reah, 12:29) Because of this, the Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh wrote, 'For living in Israel is a mitzvah encompassing all of the Torah.' (Ohr HaChaim, on Deuteronomy, 30:20.)

(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**