

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 139**

**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)

In the introduction to the Sefer HaMitzvot of the Rambam, Rule Four states, "Commandments which affect all of the mitzvot of the Torah are not included (in the list.)" As an example, he mentions the Torah command, You shall be holy (Leviticus, 19:2) which he explains as" meaning to keep all of the Torah, and therefore, he does not list it as a separate command. So too with the mitzvah of living in Eretz Yisrael. It is an all-encompassing mitzvah, not simply because over a third of the precepts can only be performed in the Land of Israel, and therefore, obviously, one must live in Israel to truly keep all of the Torah. Living in Israel is more than this. It is a mitzvah which all of the Torah depends (Mishna, Rosh HaShana, 1:3-3:1), above and beyond the precepts specific to the Land. Not only did the Rambam think living in Israel is a Torah commandment, he believed it to be a major foundation of our faith, and a pillar of all of the Torah. (Rambam, Sefer HaMitzvot, Positive Commandment 153)

The Rambam emphasizes the centrality of Eretz Yisrael to Torah in Sefer HaMitzvot, concerning the positive precept of the Sanctification of the New Month. (Rambam, Sefer HaMitzvot, Positive Commandment 153) In a lengthy discussion, he makes it clear that it is the Jews of the Land of Israel who constitute the Jewish nation. Even if the majority of Jews are exiled from the Land, it is not the Torah centers outside of the Land which make up the heart of the nation, but the Jewish peasants who live in Eretz Yisrael. This is illustrated by the calculation of the Jewish calendar, which can only be established by the Jews in Israel, irrelevant of their status in Torah. (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