

BS`D
ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 14

*"DWELLING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS EQUIVALENT TO
ALL THE MITZVOT OF THE TORAH" (SIFREI, PARASHAT REE)*

**THE SIN OF PERPETUATING COMMUNITIES IN
IMPURE LANDS**

"And when they came to the nations, into which they came, they profaned My Holy Name, in that men said of them, These are the people of the Lord, and they have gone out of His land." (Ezekiel, 36:20) When the Jews are in exile, Judaism and Torah are scorned. The "Chosen People" become persecuted, downcast victims, despised by all of the nations. G-d's Name is desecrated. In the eyes of the gentiles, the once mighty G-d of Israel lacks the strength to safeguard His people in His land. (Ibid, Rashi)

The Meshech Chochmah, written by the Ohr Somayach, Rav Meir Simcha HaCohen from Dvinsk, states that, "If a Jew thinks that Berlin is Yerushalaim... then a raging storm wind will uproot him by his trunk... a tempest will arise and spread its roaring waves, and swallow, and destroy, and flood forth without pity. (Meshech Chochmah, P.191-2)

These matters were stated by our Rabbis years before the Holocaust. The Netziv, Rav Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, writes the following in his Hagadah, on the verse, And G-d brought us out with a strong hand, - "The Jews who didn't want to leave Egypt died in the three days of darkness. (Four-fifths of the Jews in Egypt died in the plague of darkness. Rashi, Exodus, 13:18) And we must remember all of this in our time also, when many Jews deny our future redemption, may it come soon, but Hashem will reign over us with a strong hand."

From The Vilna Gaon, his student writes in Kol HaTor, Ch.5: "Many of the sinners in this great sin of, 'They despised the cherished land,' and also many of the guardians of Torah, will not know or understand that they are caught in this sin of the Spies, that they have been sucked into the sin of the Spies in many false ideas and empty claims, and they cover their ideas with the already proven fallacy that the mitzvah of the settlement of Israel no longer applies in our day, an opinion which has already been disproved by the giants of the world, the Rishonim and Achronim."

Please Hashem, Be good to Me according to Your will, and grant me with compassion and kindness and as a free gift, that I will soon merit to come to Eretz Israel, to the Eretz ha Keddosha, the Land our forefathers inherited, the Land which all the authentic Tzaddikim, wished with all their soul and desired to be there, and most of them came there... (Tefillah of Rebbe Nachman of Bresslov)