

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 168**

**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
ONE OF THE REASONS THAT ISRAEL HAS A SECULAR
STATE TODAY IS THE FAILURE OF THE RELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY TO MAKE *ALIYAH***

- 1- A lack of knowledge and misinformation has led some people to believe that the *Gedolim* opposed Zionism and the settlement of *Eretz Yisrael*. This is not true. While some Torah giants were antagonistic to the Zionist cause, many of equally great stature supported Zionism. The majority remained either undecided, or unwilling to disclose their opinions.
- 2- The *Ohr Somayach* noted that nations of the world had nullified the "Three Oaths," in allowing the Jewish people to return to Israel, and that the *mitzvah* of making *Aliyah* to Israel had returned in full force
- 3- Although the *Chofetz Chaim* was vehemently opposed to the anti Orthodox spirit of the secular Zionists, he was committed to the *Aliyah* of religious Jews.
- 4- One of the reasons that Israel has a secular State today is the failure of the religious community to make *Aliyah*
- 5- Even *Gedolim* make occasional mistakes. The Torah takes this possibility into account by providing a special sin offering in a case where the majority of the Great Sanhedrin makes an error in deciding a law, which causes the congregation to sin.
- 6- The effect of the sin of the Spies still exists in the nation, and even Talmidei Chachamim can be influenced by it.
- 7- Many Torah leaders believed that the redemption would miraculously occur all at once. They didn't accept that the redemption is a process which develops gradually, in a natural way, over a course of time, and thus they rejected the way Hashem was bringing back the exiles to Zion.
- 8- When the Rebbe of Belz came on *Aliyah* to Israel he admitted that his community had erred in their failure to come to Israel sooner.
- 9- HaRav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook said that if there were doubts at the beginnings of the Zionist movement, now there are no doubts. It is increasingly clear that those who supported the return to Zion were right.
- 10- The centrality of *Eretz Yisrael* to Jewish life and Torah can readily be overlooked, even by a *Talmid Chacham*, if he is estranged from the deeper aspects of Torah. For this reason, it is important to study the *Kuzari*, the writings of the Maharal, and the book, *Orot*. (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