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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 174**

**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

**A PHILOSOPHY OF PASSIVITY AROSE. WE WERE TO PRAY AND
WAIT, AND THE MASHIACH WOULD DO ALL OF THE WORK
WHEN HE CAME. THE REDEMPTION WAS VIEWED AS
SOMETHING THAT WOULD OCCUR ALL AT ONCE, AND BE
COMPLETE FROM THE START, AND NOT AS AN UNFOLDING
PROCESS THAT GREW TO COMPLETION WITH TIME.**

When the Zionists began to show initiative and take matters into their own hands to bring the exile to an end, proponents of this passive, we-can't-do-anything school of thought, rose up in protest. We were to wait until Mashiach arrived, and he would bring us to Israel. (Shivat Zion, Part 2, Pg.41. Rabbi Eliahu Griedotz, a close student of Rabbi Akiva Eiger, writes: "Due to our great iniquity, many err in thinking that they will be sitting enjoying themselves at home when, suddenly, the gates of mercy will open, and miracles shall occur upon heaven and earth, actualizing all of the prophecies, and they shall then be invited to come forth from their dwellings. The truth of the matter is not so)

Passionate arguments and theories opposing Zionism rested on this point of view. More often than not, the Mishne Torah of the Rambam was quoted in support of this view, yet the very same Rambam wrote the following in his famous Letter of Forced Conversion:

"However, those who seduce themselves and say that they will stay in their places until the Messianic king comes to the lands of the West, and then they will depart and go forth to Jerusalem - I don't know how the decree of destruction will be stayed from them. Rather, they are transgressors, and they cause others to sin. For there is no set time for the coming of the Mashiach on which to depend, saying that he is close or far. The obligation of the commandments is not dependent on the coming of the Mashiach. Rather, we are to busy ourselves with Torah and precepts, and to strive to fulfill everything we can. However, if a man will stay in a place where he sees the Torah is waning, and where the Jewish people will be lost with the passage of time, and where he cannot stand by his faith, and say, 'I will stay here until Mashiach comes, and survive where I am - this is nothing
(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**