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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 175**

**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

Which Jewish community in the Diaspora doesn't face the potential danger which the Rambam describes in his letter, that with the passage of time, both Torah, the religion, and Jewish life will be threatened?

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 but an evil heart and a great loss, and a sickness of reasoning and spirit. This is my opinion, and Hashem knows the truth."

Which Jewish community in the Diaspora doesn't face the potential danger which the Rambam describes in his letter, that with the passage of time, both Torah, the religion, and Jewish life will be threatened? One has to search far and wide for a thriving Jewish community outside the Land of Israel whose roots go back more than one hundred and fifty years. Where are the once great religious centers of Russia, of Europe, of North Africa, or Spain? Sometimes, it was the Jews who were annihilated. In other places, like Russia, the religion was destroyed. In many places, both the Jews and Judaism were wiped out.

Today, throughout America, many of the once prominent Jewish communities are slums. Buildings which once housed synagogues have been converted to churches. Assimilation in America is more than sixty percent. In Europe and South America, it is even higher. In spite of a few, isolated Torah communities, the Torah in all of these countries is waning. In contrast to this, the study and observance of Torah in Israel is on the increase, and assimilation hardly exists.

(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