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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 195**

**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

**“IN THE THIRTY-ONE YEARS SINCE MY ARRIVAL MORE
CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS
THOUSAND YEARS COMBINED”**

IN A LETTER dated I Elul, 5603 (1903) to his brother, R' Shmuel, a community Leader in Ostrah, Moravia, R' Chaim wrote: "In the thirty-one years since my arrival more changes have taken place than in the previous thousand years combined. More than a thousand Jewish houses have been built here. The Holy City itself has expanded and buildings have been built in Jerusalem more beautiful than we ever dared hoped. Railway construction is progressing further and further; new settlements are springing up; areas ruled by desolation and emptiness for countless generations have now clothed themselves in life and growth. Everywhere, there are verdant gardens and blossoming orchards stretching into the distance. Is it possible not to see the hand of Divine Providence in all this? We must labor in the resettlement of the land with trust in G-d Who gave us His holy Torah. Certainly, if we are faithful to the Torah, we will merit to live here securely and we will always find mercy, kindness and grace ..."

In 1929, R' Chaim wrote: [not long ago] G-d stirred the spirits of some treasured few to fulfill the mitzvah of inhabiting Eretz Israel by tilling the land, eating its crops and fulfilling the mitzvos specific to Eretz Israel. With G-d's help, settlements have been established in Judea and the Galilee in which it is a sheer delight to walk and give praise and acknowledgment to the 'Restorer of the widow's property' (Proverbs 15:25).

....R' Chaim would be filled with joy and happiness whenever he discussed the new settlements. Although he was deeply disturbed by the lack of Torah observance on the part of some of the settlers, he nevertheless believed that it was important to rejoice and praise G-d for any new Jewish settlement. Often, R' Chaim would hear the complaints of those grieved by the fact that many returnees to the land had abandoned the entire Torah except for the mitzvah of rebuilding Eretz Israel, which, admittedly, they performed with great self-sacrifice. He would comfort them saying: "It is my hope that in the merit of this mitzvah which they fulfill with such sacrifice, they will repent and return to the fold of Torah and faith." FROM SEFER HA ISH AL HA CHOMA

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