

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 205**

**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

**THE SEFER HACHINUCH (PRECEPT 529. 40) EXPLAINS
THE COMMANDMENT NOT TO BE AFRAID IN WAR:**

"Not to be afraid or terrified in war - this prohibits us from being terrified or frightened by our enemies in wartime, or to flee from them. Rather, we are obligated to overcome them, to strengthen ourselves and face them, and on this it is said, 'Do not be terrified because of them.' The foundations of the precept are that every man in Israel put his trust in Hashem, and not to be frightened for himself in a situation where he can bring honor to Hashem, Blessed Be He, and His nation." Tragically, we have not always succeeded in keeping this mitzvah. The greatest failure occurred with the Spies who were sent into Eretz Yisrael to scout out a strategy for conquering the Land. Their fear upon encountering the giants in Hevron, and the fear which their evil report instilled in the nation, was a catastrophe which caused the death of their whole generation. Their crisis of faith still haunts us today: "And they spread an evil report of the Land which they had spied out for the Children of Israel, saying, The Land through which we have gone to spy it out is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature... and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. And all of the congregation lifted up their voice and cried; and the people wept that night." Numbers, 13:32 - 14:1

Because the Jewish people wept for no reason that night, G-d gave them a reason to weep on that very same night throughout all of the Exile. That night, our Rabbis tell us, was the Ninth of Av, the day on which both the First and Second Temples were destroyed. Only Joshua and Caleb displayed the great faith in G-d which the mission demanded, saying: "The Land which we pass through to spy it out is an exceedingly good land. If the L-rd delight in us, then He will bring us into this Land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. Only rebel not against the L-rd, nor fear the people of the Land, for they are bread for us, their defense is departed from them, and the L-rd is with us - fear them not." 46 Because of their faithfulness to G-d and their valor, Joshua and Caleb were privileged to enter the Land, whereas all of the other men of their generation died during the forty-year punishment in the wilderness. Numbers, 13-14

**FROM WAR AND PEACE, THE TEACHINGS OF RAV AVRAHAM YTZCHAK
HAKOHEN KOOK ZTKL**

**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**