

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 210**

**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**

**THIS EARLY DESIRE FOR AN INDEPENDENT JEWISH STATE MAY STILL BE FAR FROM THE TORAH IDEAL, BUT IT IS ALSO A FAR CRY FROM THE ASSIMILATIONISTS' DREAM. THE ZIONISTS WANT TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT JEWISH NATION, NOT TO DISAPPEAR.**

In the darkness of the terrifying war, in the midst of pogroms, beatings, exile, and starvation, at a time when Yeshiva students barely have food, Rabbi Kook sees the Redemption of Am Yisrael. Behind the Zionist movement, behind Herzl, the Basel Congress, ideologies, speeches, personalities, and deeds, Rabbi Kook understands that the inner soul of Israel, its driving force of redemption, is pushing through. He sees Hashem's Will for His people taking expression. He sees prophecy coming to light. G-d has decided. The time has come for the people of Israel to return home. The time has come for Israel to rediscover herself as a nation. The passivity of past generations is giving way to a spirit of endeavor, building, and sacrifice. Great new souls are appearing on the stage of Jewish history. The life of the ghetto no longer satisfies. A generation arises demanding national rebirth.

It is important to place this vision of Redemption in its historical context. It is the time of the "Jewish problem." What is to be done with the miserable, downtrodden Jews? Many voices recommend assimilation as the ideal solution. If the Jews become goyim, the problem will go away. Others, at the First Zionist Congress at the turn of the century, decide to unite and form a Jewish political entity. This early desire for an independent Jewish State may still be far from the Torah ideal, but it is also a far cry from the assimilationists' dream. The Zionists want to build an independent Jewish nation, not to disappear.

Many of Rabbi Kook's contemporaries, and many critics of Israel today, failed to see what Rabbi Kook saw when they looked at the Zionist movement. They saw only its secular aspect. They looked only at its outer appearance and not deep into its core. They saw only the present, and not the stages which would come to expression in the future. Many Torah leaders demanded that the Redemption of Israel be completely holy from its conception. They wanted it to appear miraculously - overnight. Their eyes only focused on' what Zionism lacked. Rabbi Kook saw what it contained.

**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**