

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 228**

**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

**From the writings of Rabbi Meir David Kahane Ztkl
THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL
STAND IN UNIQUE UNITY, ONE CANNOT BE
SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER.**

For the Christian, there is no one single land that lies at the center of his aspirations and imposes a religious obligation to dwell there. For the Muslim or Buddhist or Hindu there is no one particular country that is set aside—not only as a sacred place for a pilgrimage, but also as a mandatory place in which to live. The Jew, as in so many other things, is different.

Despite attempts by those who have reformed Judaism in so many other ways, to mutilate, bury, and ignore it, the fact remains that for the Jewish people and the Jewish faith, from its very beginnings, Eretz Yisrael—the Land of Israel—has remained central to Judaism as a place where a Jew was commanded to live, and a home to which he looked with agonized longing during centuries and ages of pain and persecution.

The shouts of outrage from assimilated Jewish leaders do not matter. No one can deny that the All Mighty told Abraham: “And I shall give thee and thy seed after thee all the land of Canaan for an everlasting heritage.” The anger of those who speak of America as being “different” and not really galut (exile), but tiftzot (diaspora) pales into irrelevance before the fact that there is a clear Biblical injunction, “And thou shalt settle in it [the land],” a thing that causes the Rabbis to declare that settling in Israel is “equal to all the commandments of the Torah.” (Sifre Reeh, 80). All the denials and self-assurances will not wipe away the fact that the Torah could think of no greater punishment than exile from his land. The Bible is filled with innumerable admonitions that violation of the Torah commandments would bring exile from the land of Israel. “And the Lord shall scatter you among the peoples and you shall be left few in number among the nations whither the Lord shall lead you away.” And twice in the Five Books of Moses does the Jew read, yearly, in hushed tones and swiftly (lest the pain overwhelm him) the Tochacha or criticism, which warns of that most dreaded of all curses—exile from the Jewish land. “And the Lord shall scatter thee among all peoples from one end of the earth even into the other end of the earth. Exile—even to the most temporarily beautiful of all lands— has always been a curse for the Jew. It remains so.

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