

BS`D
ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 24

*"DWELLING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS EQUIVALENT TO
ALL THE MITZVOT OF THE TORAH" (SIFREI, PARASHAT REE)*

**IT IS BY THE HAND OF HASHEM THAT WE HAVE
RETURNED TO ERETZ ISRAEL, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES
THAT IT IS ONLY MEN THAT HAVE DONE IT AND
DETERMINED IT, HAS NO EMUNAH AND WORSE, THAT
PERSON HAS NO KNOWLEDGE AND HAS NOT READ THE
BOOK OF EZRA AND NECHEMIAH.**

Listen well Jew of the exile to this Midrash:

R. Yosi bar Chanina said: "There are four categories with respect to names: There are those whose names are becoming and whose deeds are becoming. There are those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are ugly. There are those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming. And, there are those whose names are becoming and whose deeds are ugly... 'Those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming' refers to the people [who returned from the Babylonian] exile: The children of Bakbuk, the children of Chakufa, the children of Charchur (Ezra 2:51, Nechemyah 7:53). They were worthy to ascend and build the Beit HaMikdash."

(Bereshit Rabba 71:3)

Their deeds are becoming because they were worthy of ascending to Eretz Israel and building the Bet ha Mikdash. What will you say when instead of going up to Eretz Israel and helping rebuild the Land you are in the exile in lands of impurity?

**IT IS NOT NEW THE FACT THAT ARABS DISTURB US
WHEN WE WANT TO REBUILD THE LAND**

The following is a quote from Nechemiah regarding the time when the Jews came back from Babel and planned on rebuilding the Bet ha Mikdash:

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab, heard of it, they laughed at us with scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king? 20 Then I answered them, and said to them: The G-d

of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build; but you have no portion, no right, no memorial, in Jerusalem. (Nechemiah 2:19)

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: THE JEWS BUILD AND THE ARABS AND THEIR ALLIES MAKE FUN OF US AND RAGE AND WANT TO DESTROY WHAT THE JEWS HAVE DONE WITH THE HELP OF HASHEM

33 And it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we built the wall, he was angry, and greatly enraged, and he mocked the Jews. 34 And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish which are burned? 35 And Tobiah the Ammonite, who was next to him, said, Even a fox climbing up on what they build, shall break down their stone wall! 36 Hear, O our G-d; for we are despised; and turn their taunt upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity; 37 And do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before you; for they have provoked you to anger before the builders. 38 So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height; for the people had a mind to work. 1 And it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabs, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being repaired, and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 2 And they all conspired together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion in it. 3 And we prayed to our G-d, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them. (Nechemiah 3:33-4:3)

Listen well, Nechemiah set up a watch, an army to protect themselves from the enemies. Sure he prayed to Hashem first, but He also established an army to defend themselves.

IT IS BY THE HAND OF HASHEM THAT WE HAVE RETURNED TO ERETZ ISRAEL, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES THAT IT IS ONLY MEN THAT HAVE DONE IT AND DETERMINED IT, HAS NO EMUNAH AND WORSE, THAT PERSON HAS NO KNOWLEDGE AND HAS NOT READ THE BOOK OF EZRA AND NECHEMIAH.

Please Hashem, Be good to Me according to Your will, and grant me with compassion and kindness and as a free gift, that I will soon merit to come to Eretz Israel, to the Eretz ha Keddosha, the Land our forefathers inherited, the Land which all the authentic Tzaddikim, wished with all their soul and desired to be there, and most of them came there... (Tefillah of Rebbe Nachman of Bresslov)