

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 241**

**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

**OUR TIMES CONSTITUTE THE BEGINNING OF THE REDEMPTION
AND THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH. G-D IN HIS KINDNESS,
IN PREPARATION FOR SPEEDY REDEMPTION, PRESENTLY
DEMANDS OF US KIDDUSH HASHEM OF THE SORT BASED ON
FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM.**

Yet we, our children and our elders have sunk in the mire of exile, and have raised up on a miserable banner the fear and degradation of "It is forbidden to provoke the nations." This theme, whose sorrowful conception and birth are in the exile, constitutes a humiliating affront to our people, and worse, a profanation of the great name of the Supreme King. If it suited the lowliness of the exile, when we were unwilling slaves to the nations, powerless to raise ourselves up to defend ourselves, how dare we bring that same disgraceful concept into the holy land, the land of G-d.

While G-d has afforded us the greatest, most powerful miracles since the Hasmonean victories, we have remained that same exilic product, that same slave to the nations and slave to slaves, with that same base spirit which led G-d to decree what He decreed against our ancestors in the desert.

Kiddush Hashem is the call of the hour, and Kiddush Hashem is conceived, born and sustained via complete faith and trust in G-d. We must never forget the following great principle: Whoever relies on the non-Jew and seeks his aid, repels the Messiah, pushes off the redemption and brings upon us G-d's wrath and ire. Redemption will come only when Israel are alone, without any outside protection or help. Only when the nations see, with wonderment and mouth agape, how mighty and strong G-d is without help, will G-d's name be magnified and sanctified on earth. Then shall the vision be realized before the eyes of the nations that "The L-rd alone shall be exalted in that day" (Isa. 2:17).

Israel's trust in G-d must be unreserved, complete and perfect, without a trace of doubt or a taint of fear of the non-Jew. A non-Jew who threatens Israel profanes G-

d's name, and a Jew who fears that non-Jew submits to Chilul Hashem and becomes a part of it. Every withdrawal, every surrender, every degradation of the Jewish People before the non-Jew is a heinous blasphemy against G-d. Therefore, Israel as a nation, and the Jew as a part of that nation, when facing a confrontation with the nations, must be ready to go to war and sacrifice their lives, because in matters of Kiddush and Chilul Hashem, the concept of Pikuach Nefesh, danger to life, provides no exemptions. Quite the contrary, a Jew must sacrifice his life to sanctify G-d's name whenever the Torah dictates it (as shall be explained). As for a milchemet mitzvah, a war mandated by the Torah, which serves to forestall any effort by the nations to put Israel in siege, it is clear that a Jew must go to such a war without fear, come what may. I have previously quoted the following from Rabbenu Bechaye in Kad HaKemach (entry: Bitachon):

The Torah warned us not to fear the nations: "When you go forth to battle against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army larger than yours, do not fear them" (Deut. 20:1). It then says, "Whoever among you is afraid or fainthearted should return home" (Deut. 20:8). Such a person is overcome by fear of the enemy and trembles on seeing their great camp. He probably has true belief that everything is in G-d's hands, yet because he has not developed his bitachon, he is fainthearted and has a base spirit, and the Torah commands that he return home. Thus it says, "The fear of man brings a snare" (Prov. 29:25). That is, man's fear of man is a sin against his own soul. It ensnares him, strengthens the enemy and brings trouble nearer. It is fitting for a person not to fear human might, and "Whoso puts his trust in the L-rd shall be raised up" ([ibid.] - away from the trouble - in reward for his bitachon, even though the trouble should by rights have befallen him. Doubtless, one who fears human might possesses a base spirit. Such a person has forgotten G-d

**REMOVING THE EXILE FROM ISRAEL IS TEN TIMES
HARDER THAN REMOVING ISRAEL FROM THE EXILE,**

**TO OUR SORROW, THIS DISEASE HAS EVEN
SMITTEN TORAH SCHOLARS.**

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