

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 242**

**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

**SUCH IS TRUE FAITH - WITH FIERCE LOVE OF G-D AND
COMPLETE SELF-SACRIFICE. WE LIKEWISE FIND IN EGYPT
THAT G-D DEMANDED OF ISRAEL COMPLETE TRUST IN
ORDER TO SANCTIFY HIS NAME IN THE WORLD. HE
COMMANDED THEM:**

On the tenth of this month, every man must take a lamb for each extended family, a lamb for each household Holdit in safekeeping until the fourteenth day of this month. The entire community of Israel shall then slaughter [their sacrifices] in the afternoon. They must take the blood and place it on the two doorposts and on the beam above the door Eat the meat during the night, roasted over the fire. Eat it with matzah and bitter herbs. Do not eat it raw or cooked in water, but only roasted over fire, including its head, legs and internal organs. (Ex. 12:3,6-9)

The whole Passover sacrifice in Egypt revolved around trusting in G-d and sanctifying His name in face of terrifying dangers. After all, the lamb was an Egyptian idol. The Egyptians "revered" and worshipped it, and it was holy to them. One can imagine their wrath when they saw how the Israelites were taking it and degrading it by tying it to the bedpost from the tenth to the fourteenth of the month, and then slaughtering it and consuming it festively.

By all rules of logic, the Egyptians should have been expected to attack and annihilate the Israelites. Let every Jew who stays in the exile ponder what the nations would do to Jews living under their rule if those Jews were to publicly treat their faith with contempt. Yet precisely such faith and trust did G-d demand of Israel - faith and trust that He could defend them against their foes Thus, true trust in G-d by the Jewish People is tied exclusively to their self-sacrifice in face of danger of death.

...Clearly, G-d wished to establish for Israel the principle of trusting in Him against

all the power of mortal man. He wished to emphasize that there is no power on earth that can stand up to Israel when Israel does G-d's will, and that we should not fear the nations at all, even the strongest king or kingdom. Trust in G-d is composed of two elements. First, G-d is omnipotent, and nothing can withstand His will. Second, we are obligated to believe in Him and place our hopes only in Him. To rely on flesh and blood is a grave sin.

....For the sake of the Jewish People, for the sake of the aggregate, whenever Israel is attacked or placed under siege, it constitutes Chilul Hashem, and the subsequent war is a mitzvah. It follows that when the Chilul Hashem is concentrated in a single, open, caustic, deliberate deed committed in public, and there is no nation and no group, the individual must then place himself in danger. He must be ready to sacrifice himself for the sake of Kiddush Hashem and must under no circumstances count on being able to "rely on a miracle." This is the way King David conducted himself with Goliath, the way Chananiah, Mishael and Azariah dealt with the idol in Babylonia, and the way Mordechai conducted himself in Shushan.

All the same, even when it is a mitzvah to endanger oneself and go to war, the nation and individual are duty-bound to strive as much as possible to prepare themselves by non miraculous means. For this reason we see that David went into battle with the weapon that was most efficient for him, the one he knew best how to use. He did not just make due with prayer. The same applies with every war that is a mitzvah. We are obligated not only to pray to G-d for help but also to follow the path of hishtadlut, human effort. That is, we must do everything that can be done by non miraculous means to fight. Yet, the nation is clearly not obligated to wait until enough weaponry is held to ensure non miraculous victory. Rather, they must try to do the maximum with what they have...

**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