

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 248**

**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 MOST TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT IS THE EXILE

**IN THE DREADFUL TOCHACHAH [THE REBUKE OF DEUT. 28],
G-D WARNS ISRAEL ABOUT THE MOST TERRIBLE
PUNISHMENT HE WILL BRING UPON THEM DUE TO THEIR
SINS: "THE L-RD WILL SCATTER YOU AMONG THE NATIONS,
FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER. THERE YOU
WILL SERVE FOREIGN GODS" (DEUT. 28:64). ONKELOS
RENDERS THIS AS, "THERE YOU WILL WORSHIP NATIONS
THAT WORSHIP IDOLS."**

Not only the very servitude to idolatrous nations with an alien, abominable culture is a Chilul Hashem in that it looks as though the gods of the nations and their laws have vanquished G-d, but that by serving the nations, Israel will learn their alien culture and be influenced by it. For this reason, G-d gave the Land to the forefathers and their offspring after them, as explained above.

For this reason, G-d bound the Land to the great mitzvah of milah, (circumcision), by an everlasting covenant and equated milah, a mitzvah carried out right on the body, with Eretz Israel, which a Jew must be right inside:

"I will sustain My covenant between Me and between you and your descendants after you throughout their generations, an eternal covenant. I will be a G-d to you and to your offspring after you. To you and your offspring I will give the land where you are now living as a foreigner. The whole Land of Canaan shall be your eternal heritage, and I will be a G-d to your descendants."

G-d then said to Abraham. "As far as you are concerned, you must keep My covenant - you and your offspring throughout their generations. This is My covenant between Me, and between you and your offspring, that you must keep. You must circumcise every male." (Gen. 17:7-10)

Following is Bereshit Rabbah, 46:9:

R. Yuden says, There are five [conditions here]: If your offspring receive My

Divinity, I shall be your G-d and patron, and if not, I will not be your G-d and patron. If they enter the Land they shall receive My Divinity, and if not, they shall not receive My Divinity. If they perform milah, they shall enter the Land... If they accept the Sabbath, they shall enter the Land....

Here, G-d decreed the connection between the Land and Mitzvot. Only if Israel enter the Land do they receive G-d as their L-rd and Master. Outside the Land, they live under the nations and their harmful cultural influence. This involves Chilul Hashem, because when we live among the nations, under their rule, the nations' gods and culture enjoy superiority. Moreover, the Torah is adulterated by alien, non-Jewish ideas.

We must never forget that Eretz Israel was given to the Jewish People not as a privilege that they could forgo by saying, "We do not wish it," but as a duty that cannot be dispensed with. Yet from time immemorial, whenever Israel arrived to a convenient, alluring exile, they loathed the Land of Delight and sought to find rest in the exile. Only when the nations' hatred appeared was there an awakening to leave the exile.

**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