

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 255**

**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
A WAR OVER THE MITZVAH OF LIVING IN AND CONQUERING
ERETZ ISRAEL IS A MILCHEMET MITZVAH, WHICH NO DANGER
TO LIFE OVERRIDES. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THIS MITZVAH
OVERRIDES SUCH DANGER, AS RAMBAN WROTE IN SEFER
HAMITZVOT (IBID., MITZVAH 4): THIS IS WHAT OUR SAGES CALL
MILCHEMET MITZVAH. IN THE TALMUD (SOTAH 44B) RAVA SAID,
"JOSHUA'S WAR OF CONQUEST WAS AN OBLIGATORY DUTY
ACCORDING TO ALL OPINIONS."**

One should not make the mistake of saying that this mitzvah only applies to the seven nations we were commanded to destroy... That is not so. We were commanded to destroy those nations when they fought against us, and had they wished to make peace we could have done so under specific conditions. Yet, we cannot leave the Land in their control or in the control of any other nations in any generation.

**THE ONLY SECURITY FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE IS IN ERETZ
ISRAEL, WHEREAS THE EXILE IS THEIR BURIAL PLACE**

Fear of the nations is just one dismal reason the Jewish People treat the Desirable Land with contempt (longing for the good life is another). Precisely because of this delusion that the exile is safe but Eretz Israel is dangerous, G-d became angry and decreed death in the desert for the generation that left Egypt adding "You said your children will be taken captive, but they will be the ones I will bring there, so that they will know the land that you rejected" (Num. 14:31). Those who feared that they and their children would die in Eretz Israel died precisely in the desert, whereas their children entered the Land and lived. This teaches that the only security for the Jewish People is in Eretz Israel, whereas the exile is their burial place. Our sages said (Torat Kohanim, Bechukotai, Ch. I): "'You will live securely in your land' (Lev. 26:5): In your land you will live securely, but not outside it." Likewise, Obadiah said (v. 17), "Upon Mount Zion there shall be deliverance." In other words, in Zion but not in the exile.

G-d, Who knows His people's mind, knew, as well, that Israel would always prefer the non-Jewish life of the exile, whose abominable depravity is so sweet to the sinner among us As King Solomon said, "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant" (Prov. 9:17). G-d, therefore, decreed that Israel would never

find safety and security in the exile. Bereshit Rabbah, 33:6, teaches: "He sent out the dove It could find no place to rest its feet" (Gen. 8:8-9): Yehuda bar Nachman said in the name of R. Shimon, "Had it found a place to rest, it would not have returned. Just so, it says, 'She dwells among the nations; she finds no rest' (Lam. 1:3); and, 'Among those nations you shall have no repose; there shall be no rest for the soles of your fool' (Deut. 28:65). If Israel found rest in the exile, they would not return. "

Thus, G-d decreed that Israel would never find permanent rest [manoach] in the exile, and whoever says that they really can find it is an "ignoramus" [in Berachot 61a, R. Nachman calls Samson's father Manoach an "ignoramus."].

Not in vain did our sages (Mechilta, Bo, I) compare the exile to a cemetery, for if Israel refuse to dwell in Eretz Israel, if they spurn it for the depravity of the exile, they have no future, but suffering, tragedy and annihilation. As the Prophet Ezekiel said (20:32-34): That which comes into your mind shall not be at all, your saying, "We will be like the nations, to serve wood and stone." As I live - says the L-rd G-d - with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm and with fury poured out, will I be King over you. I will remove you from the nations and gather you in from the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm and with fury poured out.

In saying, "to serve wood and stone," Ezekiel did not mean that Israel actually wished to worship idols. His point was really in line with Onkelos translation, quoted above, of the verse, "There you will serve other gods, wood and stone, unknown to you and your fathers" (Deut. 28:64): "There you will serve nations that worship idols." That is, Israel would not actually worship idols, but would serve the non-Jews who worship idols. This bondage to these nations constitutes terrible Chilul Hashem, for it thereby appears as if their idols have vanquished G-d, Heaven forbid. Likewise, Yonatan rendered the same verse, "You will pay taxes to idol worshippers." In other words, instead of the nations being subjugated to Israel in Eretz Israel with taxes and servitude, Israel will be subject to them the same way. Jeremiah says (5:19), "Just as you have forsaken Me and served strange gods in your land, so shall you serve strangers in a land that is not yours."

Today's alien culture has replaced idolatry, one more reason G-d promised not to let Israel dwell among the nations. G-d said, "With fury poured out will I be King over you" (Ezek. 20:33), and He said He would remove Israel from the exile by force - at least those who survive the suffering there and are not killed by G-d like the Jews who, despising Eretz Israel, preferred to remain in Egypt. (It is known that the last redemption will be like the first.)

**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