

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 260**

**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**

**HOW MUCH IGNORAMUSES AND HERETICS HAVE TAUGHT
US IN OUR TIMES - HEAVEN HELP US - FOR THEY
UNDERSTOOD WHAT TORAH SCHOLARS DID NOT GRASP**

Later on the Midrash says (ibid., 8:[9]3): R. Zeira went to market to buy something. He asked a merchant to weigh his purchase with care, and the merchant responded, "You won't leave here, you Babylonian whose ancestors destroyed the Temple!" R. Zeira then asked, "Are not my ancestors like his?" He came to the study house and heard R. Shilo expounding: "If she be a wall" (Song of Songs 8:9): Had Israel come up en masse (lit., as a wall) from the exile, the Temple would not have been destroyed a second time." [i.e., R. Shilo expounded like the merchant in the market-place.] R. Zeira said, "The ignoramus taught me well."

Indeed, how much ignoramuses and heretics have taught us in our times - Heaven help us - for they understood what Torah scholars did not grasp. G-d have mercy! We are descended from people who turned their backs on Eretz Israel and chose the defilement of the exile for the sake of tranquil lives. Our generation, as well, has exchanged the glory of the Desirable Land for the worship of gluttony and drunkenness in the exile, and there is no one to take up the insult to Eretz Israel. Quite the contrary, the prominent people of the generation express their approval of exile and abomination. As the brilliant R. Ya'akov Emden wrote in the introduction to his Siddur Bet Ya'akov (Sulam Bet El, letter 6):

These words were written by R. Ya'akov Emden in cursed Germany several hundred years ago. Who listened? Who took his words to heart? R. Emden continues, answering those hypocrites who raise empty claims regarding risks and hardships involved in settling in Eretz Israel:

Risks posed by desert and sea crossings surely do not suffice to exempt one from such a great mitzvah... Consider your path through valley and glen. Upon every mountain and hill, rich and poor run swift as steeds to acquire possessions... What great danger we put ourselves in each day!... For a crust of bread you take long strides that dim the luster of your eyesight and shorten your life, yet when it comes to the glory of your Maker and the immortality of your soul, you say, "A lion blocks

my way!" (Prov. 26:13). How long, sluggard, will you lie on the bed of laziness?... Until the foundations of the earth are laid bare! Why not acquire means of fleeing for your life while you still have the power to do it?

All of us, great and small, should feel shame. How many souls have been lost and destroyed under the press of assimilation in the exile! "For she has cast down many wounded; yea, a mighty host are all her slain" (Prov. 7:26). Surely, this, alone, makes every Jew duty-bound to "cry out, and not hold back!" (Isa. 58:1). As Isaiah proclaimed, "Depart! Depart! Get out of there! Out of her midst! Touch nothing impure! Be you clean, you who bear the L-rd's vessels" (Isa. 52:11). Isaiah is calling upon Israel, the "bearers of the L-rd's vessels" (because they "bear the yoke of G-d's mitzvot" Mahari Kra), to depart the defilement of the exile. Metzudat David comments, "Cleanse yourselves of all defilement, you who bear the L-rd's vessels," and Ibn Ezra comments:

"Get out of there": Every single Jew from the place of his exile; "Touch no unclean thing": Separate yourselves from the nations of the world; "Get out of her midst": Everyone from the country of his exile. Nowhere above is Babylonia specified.

Rashi wrote, "'Get out of her midst': The midst of the exile, for the words of comfort that follow [in Isa. 52:12] can only refer to the end of the final exile."

Likewise, Jeremiah said regarding the Babylonian exile, "Flee the midst of Babylon! Exit the land of the Chaldeans! Be the he-goats before the flock!" (Jer. 50:8). Mahari Kra comments, "Jeremiah told them, 'I know that in the future, whoever is in Babylonia will die by the spear or sword... so flee fast, before calamity comes.'"

Today, when the last redemption looms before us and the Messiah's traces are visible, and when we have already merited, through G-d's kindness, to return to Eretz Israel and establish a state, G-d's cry is heard in all its might. Depart! Get out! Depart the defilement of exile, in order to be separated from the nations and protect the purity of G-d's Torah; in order to save Jewish souls from the blight of assimilation; in order to sanctify heaven's name by exiting foreign control.

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