

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 262**

**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**

**AS FAR AS ERETZ ISRAEL, NO APOLOGIES OR JUSTIFICATIONS
ARE NECESSARY. THE JEWISH PEOPLE CAME TO THE LAND
WHERE THE SEVEN NATIONS DWELLED AND TOOK IT FROM
THEM BY DECREE OF THE OWNER, G-D. G-D UPROOTED THE
NATIONS WHO DWELLED THERE AND BROUGHT IN HIS CHOSEN
PEOPLE, ISRAEL, BECAUSE THE LAND IS HIS AND DOES NOT
BELONG TO THOSE WHO LIVED THERE AS OCCUPANTS.**

As R. Yehoshua of Sachnin said in the name of R. Levi (Bereshit Rabbah, 1:2): "He declared to His people the power of His works, in giving them the lands of nations" (Ps. 111:6): Why did G-d reveal to Israel what was created on the first and second days of Creation? [i.e., why did the Torah relate the entire Creation narrative when it should have concentrated on Torah law? As Rashi wrote (Gen. 1:1), "The Torah should only have begun from 'This month shall be the head month to you' (Ex. 12:2), this being the first mitzvah commanded to Israel. "]

It was because of the nations of the world, lest they curse Israel and say, "What a nation of pillagers you are!" Israel can respond, "Are you yourselves not pillagers? Surely it says, 'The Kaftorim came from Kaftor and annihilated the Avvim, occupying their territories' (Deut. 2:23)."

[i.e., you and all the nations who claim that we, Israel, are pillagers, are hypocrites. After all, many nations took lands from nations who lived on them without any right or pretext for doing so. For example, the Kaftorim annihilated the Avvim and occupied their land. See Deut. 2 for further examples of nations who pillaged other nations and took their lands.]

The world and all it contains is G-d's. When He so desired, He took it from you and gave it to us. Thus it says, "He has declared to His people the power of His works in giving them the lands of nations" (Ps., Ibid.). He related to them the history of all the generations

The point seems to be that before Israel respond to the nations with the main answer, they advance a side argument, namely: How can you and the Canaanites

attempt to pose as innocent? After all, Eretz Israel was given to the descendants of Shem, and the Canaanites, descendants of Ham, took it from them. As Rashi wrote regarding the verse, "The Canaanites were then in the Land" (Gen. 12:6): "The Canaanites were gradually conquering Eretz Israel from Shem's descendants, for it had fallen to Shem's portion when Noah divided up the earth amongst his sons."

Thus, in response to the nations' claim that Israel stole the Land, Israel can respond that the Land belonged to the sons of Shem, the Canaanites took it from them, and they are the thieves.

Afterward comes the main argument: The world and all it contains were created by G-d and belong to Him. He is the Owner, and He gives to whomever He wishes and takes from whomever He wishes. He chose Israel to be His chosen people, His supreme, treasured nation, and He gave them the Land to be theirs and not the Canaanites'.

It also says, "He will drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you, so as to bring you to their land, and give it to you as a heritage, as He is doing today" (Deut. 4:38). S'forno comments, "'To give you [their land]': Which is the land of G-d, ready to acquire the perfection directed from Above." It likewise says (Deut. 6:10-11):

To give you great, flourishing cities that you did not build. You will also have houses filled with all good things that you did not put there, finished cisterns that you did not quarry, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant. You shall eat and be satisfied.

We also find, "With Your hand You drove out the nations and planted [Israel] therein, You broke the peoples and spread them abroad" (Ps. 44:3); and, "You plucked up a vine out of Egypt. You drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared a place before it, and it took deep root and filled the Land" (Ps. 80:9-10).

Thus, there really is no place for apologies and self-justification before the nations, and no need to seek "moral" pretexts for conquering Eretz Israel. It belongs to the Creator of the universe, the Owner and Master of the world. He took it away from the evildoers and gave it to us, and there is no higher morality than this nor any greater acceptance of G-d's yoke. Neither the nations nor Israel can claim any ownership of the earth. As it says, "All the earth is Mine. You are foreigners and resident aliens as far as I am concerned" (Lev. 25:23). To G-d belongs all the earth - it and all it contains are His alone. It also says, "Mine is the silver and Mine the gold" (Haggai 2:8); and, "For all things come of You, and of Your Own have we given You" (I Chron. 29:14).

"The Land is Mine" (Lev. 25:23): Do not scorn it. "For you are foreigners and resident aliens": Do not attach prime importance to yourselves. Thus it says (I Chron. 29:15), "For we are strangers before You and sojourners, as all our ancestors were." Also, King David said (Ps. 39:13), "For I am a stranger with you, a sojourner, as all my ancestors were:' "As far as I am concerned": It is enough for the slave to be like his master. When you are Mine, then it is yours

In other words, when you are Mine, i.e., when you follow My mitzvot and

acknowledge that you and yours are Mine, then the Land and all it contains will be yours.

In any event, it is plain that Eretz Israel, G-d's property, was given to Israel as their resting place and inheritance, their place to be set apart and isolated, to establish and maintain a perfect Torah state and society, a place where they will be immune to the depraved influence of the alien culture.

G-d took the Land from the nations and removed them from it, and He brought Israel into it so that they would keep His Torah and mitzvot. From the moment G-d decided to give the Land to Israel, it became Eretz Israel, the Land of the People of Israel- G-d's land which He gave Israel to use as the Holy Land.

It is a mitzvah and duty upon every Jew to live in Eretz Israel, and a Chilul Hashem when Israel lives outside of it. Once G-d decreed that Israel must be separated from the nations and their alien, dominant culture, it clearly is forbidden to let the non-Jew live in Eretz Israel unless he is denied mastery and sovereignty over the Land and willingly accepts this. No non-Jew has the slightest right to ownership over the Land, and any non-Jew who denies G-d's mastery and the ownership of His people Israel over the whole Land is rebelling against G-d, denying G-d's sovereignty on earth and profaning G-d's name. He has one fate - to leave the Land or to die.

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