

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 264**

**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**

**IT IS A MITZVAH AND DUTY UPON EVERY JEW TO LIVE
IN ERETZ ISRAEL, AND A CHILUL HASHEM WHEN
ISRAEL LIVES OUTSIDE OF IT.**

**TODAY WE ARE RIGHT AT THE VERY HEART OF THE
FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH**

Only the blind and those who refuse to see will fail to understand that today we are right at the very heart of the Ikveta DeMeshicha, "the footsteps of the Messiah," the beginning of the redemption. Our sages declared decisively (Sanhedrin 98a): "R. Abba said: There is no end of days more revealed than that of Ezekiel 36:8: 'But you, O mountains of Israel, shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel [for it is near to come].'" (Rashi: "When Eretz Israel yields its produce in abundance, then the end will be near, and no sign of the end of days could be more clear.")

Yet despite our having seen with our own eyes the fulfillment of much of the beginning of the redemption, Israel still dwell in the bitter exile, the cemetery of the nations, refusing to recognize signs of redemption which could not be more obvious. It is as clear as the sun, yet, "Who is blind but My servant?" (Isaiah 42:19). The people are incapable of understanding, because the impure shell of generations of exile blunts their feelings and their understanding.

Do the renaissance of the Jews' land, its sovereignty, and the ingathering of the exiles not constitute the slightest fulfillment of G-d's promise: "The L-rd your G-d will then bring back your remnants and have mercy on you. He will once again gather you from among all the nations where He scattered you" (Deut. 30:3)? Do enormous, unbelievable, miraculous victories which occurred in four days and in six days, in which we walked on the high places of our enemies who are as numerous as the sand by the sea, and who possess mighty weapons, not constitute signs unparalleled in their openness? Do our being raised up from the unparalleled

lowliness of the Holocaust, the donning of raiments of national glory, the destruction of the enemy who rose up to annihilate us and the liberation of our holy lands whose return we could never have dared hope for, have so little significance? All this we saw, open miracles and wonders, and not only did we not recognize the miracles but treated them with scorn.

How could we have failed to prostrate ourselves in thanks, in acknowledgement and joy, in recognition and admiration, in praise and glory to our Maker? Could the end of days be any more obvious? We were smitten with blindness and did not absorb what our eyes saw. Our senses were blunted by the exile sickness, which saps the spirit and turns the Jewish People into the one of whom it was said, "You hear but you do not understand. You see, but you do not perceive" (Isaiah 6:9). G-d have mercy!

Is G-d mocking us by the fact that millions of Jews have been gathered to Eretz Israel? Is the establishment of an independent, sovereign state such as has not existed since the Hasmonean era (and which even then surely did not reach today's dimensions) something to be dismissed lightly? Can such a state be compared to the likes of Shabtai Tzvi - may his name be blotted out - to the false prophet who failed to return even a minuscule segment of the people to Eretz Israel, let alone set up a sovereign home there? Surely not! If someone does not understand that what we have seen in our day are great Divine miracles, if he calls them "Satan's camp" or "the work of the devil" then better his death than his birth, for he is denying G-d's miracles and wonders. After our sages said (Chulin 7b), "A person does not bruise his finger unless it was decreed in Heaven," how could we think that the establishment of a state and the ingathering of millions is the work of the devil? Heaven help us!

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