

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 285**

**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 FALSE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

Our sages said (Berachot 29a): They have led My people astray, saying "Peace!" when there was no peace. Should anyone build a wall, these daub it with whitewash. They are the prophets of Israel who prophesied concerning Jerusalem and saw visions of peace when there was no peace, says the L-rd G-d. (Ezek. 13:10,16)

Since Israel do not wish to hear the warnings, and others arise who promise a peaceful future, they reject the warnings and the demand to repent: "They deny G-d's prophets and say 'They are wrong! Neither shall evil befall us, nor shall we see sword or famine. They are just wind. G-d's word is not in them'" (jer. 5:12-13). By refusing to listen and by encouraging those who promise peaceful lives, they reject the warning of the real prophets who admonish them, treating their words like a passing wind, without substance or truth. Jeremiah lamented, "Ah, L-rd G-d! The prophets say, 'You shall not see the sword; neither shall you have famine, for I shall give you real peace in this place'" (jer. 14:13).

Thus, precisely G-d's kindness and mercy upon His people and land, which make Him stay calamity and grant one extension after another, so that He postpones the terrible punishment in hopes of Israel repenting, precisely these make Israel doubt the truth of the warnings. The very fact that the admonisher has blown the warning trumpet so often, and so much time has passed and his warnings remain unfulfilled, makes Israel view G-d's warnings with contempt.

This is Jeremiah's intent in, "Behold, they say to me, 'Where is the word of the L-rd? Let it come now'" (Jer. 17:15). Metzudat David comments, "My detractors ask derisively, 'Where is G-d's word? Let it come now so we can see whether the truth is with you.'" This occurs because after so many warnings, and after the long extension which G-d so mercifully grants, due to which the prophesies remain unfulfilled, the nation ridicules both the warners and the warnings. As King Solomon wrote, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, the hearts of men are fully set to do evil" (Eccles. 8:11). Rashi comments, "G-d does not hasten to punish evildoers, hence they think there is no judgment."

How much more so when they are warned and threatened and rebuked, and due to

G-d's mercy one extension follows another. This is King Solomon's intent in the next verse (v. 12): "Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, G-d gives him extensions." When people see that a sinner sins a hundred times or more, and G-d gives him extensions, they think there is no judgment. They do not know that the reason he is not punished is G-d's slowness to anger, and the extensions granted him.

Such is also Ezekiel's intent in, "Son of man, what is that proverb you have in the Land of Israel, saying, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision fails?'" (Ezek. 12:22). The people coined a saying regarding the prophecies of destruction in the Land, saying, "The days are prolonged." By this they mean: We have been hearing these warnings for a long time, and they still have not been realized. There must be no truth to them.

Moreover, since warnings have been voiced for so long and remain unfulfilled, there are people who say that, indeed, the tragedies will come in the end of days, in some far off time, but surely not in our day. Thus, precisely G-d's mercy which made Him give Israel an extension which would allow them to repent and nullify the calamity, is what undermined the warnings. Hence Ezekiel adds (v. 23), "Tell them there fore, 'Thus says the L-rd G-d: I will make this proverb cease; they shall no more use it in Israel.' Say to them: 'The days are at hand; the word of every vision.'"

**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