

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 294**

**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 FIRST REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT WAS THIS WAY. AS
OUR SAGES SAID (TANCHUMA, VAERA, 13), "WHY DID THE
WATER GET SMITTEN FIRST WITH BLOOD? BECAUSE
PHARAOH AND THE EGYPTIANS USED TO WORSHIP THE
RIVER. G-D SAID TO MOSES, 'FIRST SMITE THEIR GOD IN
THEIR PRESENCE, AND THEN SMITE THEM.'"**

They also said (Mechilta, Beshalach, Mesechta DeShira, 2): When Israel saw [Egypt's] angelic prince fall, they began praising G-d. It therefore says "Exaltation on the sea" (Ex. 15:1). Just so, G-d is not going to punish the nations in the future until He punishes their angelic princes, as it says, "On that day, the L-rd shall punish the host of the high ones on high" (Isaiah 24:21), and only then, "and the kings of the earth" ([bid.]). It also says, "How have you fallen from Heaven, O bright star, son of the morning!" ([bid., 14:12), and only then, "How have you been cut down to the ground, you who ruled over the nations" ([bid.]). We '1150 find, "For My sword is sated in Heaven" ([bid., 34:5), and only then, "Behold, it shall come down upon Edom" ([bid.]). (See Tanchuma, Beshalach, 13, for a similar source.)

Mechilta teaches ([bid., 9), "'Nations heard and shuddered' (Ex. 15:14). Once the nations heard that Pharaoh and his hosts had died at sea, that Egypt was eliminated and that its deities had been punished, they began to shudder." Our sages also said (Tanchuma, Mishpatim, 18): "I destroyed the Amorites before you... I will destroy their fruit from above and their roots from below" (Amos 2:9). "Their fruit from above" means their angelic prince, and "their roots from below" means the Amorites. G-d will, likewise, do the same in the future. He will first punish the nations' angelic princes and only then their earthly kings.

**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**