

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 305**

**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 CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SETTLED DOWN IN EGYPT,
SOWED DEEP ROOTS AND PROLIFERATED AND BECAME
WEALTHY. OUT OF THEIR TRANQUILITY, THEY CAST OFF
G-D'S YOKE AND WISHED TO BE LIKE THE EGYPTIANS.**

As our sages said (Tanchuma Yashan, Shemot, 6): "'The land was filled with them' (Ex. I:7): The theaters and circuses were filled with them."

We also learn in Shemot Rabbah, I:8:"A new [chadash] king arose" (Ex. I:8): The Rabbis opened their discussion of this verse by quoting, "They have dealt treacherously against the L-rd, for they have begotten strange children. Now shall a month [chodesh, i.e., the month of Av] devour them with their portions" (Hosea 5:7). When Joseph died, Israel violated the covenant of circumcision, saying, "We shall be like the Egyptians". Once they did so, G-d transformed the love the Egyptians felt for them to hatred, as it says, "He turned their heart to hate His people" (Ps. 105:25). Thus was fulfilled, "Now shall a [chodesh] devour them with their portions." He was a new [chadash] king, in the sense that he proceeded to issue new decrees against them.

Israel were rebellious children who loathed the Pleasant Land, turning their backs on the Holy land and holiness. They scorned the Divine command to settle in Eretz Israel, seeking to dwell in tranquility and be citizens in the lands of the nations. This is why we were beset by so much trouble and grief and holocausts. These constitute nothing but the wrath of the king punishing a servant who fled to the cemetery to practice idolatry, when the possibility of returning to his

master's home where he is commanded to dwell stands open before him.

The very act of living in the exile, even the most comfortable, tranquil one there is, under the authority and sovereignty of the nations, dependent on their benevolence, generosity and tolerance, is nothing but a Chilul Hashem, an abandonment of G-d's authority for that of the non-Jew. It is a Chilul Hashem to go from being a landlord in Eretz Israel to being a tenant and minority beholden to the non-Jew for one's protection and security. Only in Eretz Israel can G-d's kingdom and Kiddush Hashem be realized. Regarding the verse, "The L-rd will reign forever and ever" (Ex. 15:18), Rashbam wrote, "After you settle in the Land, G-d's kingdom will become known throughout all the kingdoms."

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