

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 332**

**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 BOOK ZION TODAY**

SINCE THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ORTHODOXY AND SECULAR ZIONISM, VOICES PRAISING THE GREATNESS AND SANCTITY OF THE HOLY LAND HAVE BECOME STILL. BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. HOW MUCH DOES EVEN A BEN-TORAH TODAY KNOW ABOUT THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF ERETZ ISRAEL, OF THE MITZVOS OF THE LAND? EVEN THE MOST OBSERVANT TAKE TRIPS TO CHUTZ LA'ARETZ, SOMETHING THE HALACHA FORBIDS. COULD THERE BE GREATER IRONY THAN THIS: THE TORAH COMMUNITY, WHICH CHERISHED THE MEMORY OF ERETZ ISRAEL SO THROUGHOUT THE AGES, NOW LEAVES LOVE OF ZION TO THE "SECULAR"?

Since Zionism calls for aliya, the masses took it to mean that the gedolim (great Rabbis) who opposed Zionism are also opposed to aliya and settling in Eretz Israel (G-d forbid). This is as far removed from the truth as anything could be.

In reality, the true gedolei Israel are also the truest lovers of Zion. (The conflict with Zionism is discussed in Chap. 5).

The Netziv of Volzhin tells us: "Chazal's opinion is that when G-d's curse of desolation no longer rests upon the Land, it will be His will that Jewish people settle it. Now we are seeing many indications that O-d wants the Land to be gradually re-settled by Jews who are far away. He inclined the Czar's heart to allow the formation of a committee to raise money in support of our Jewish brothers working at agriculture and trades in Eretz Israel and Syria. This is a sign that G-d wants a settlement by His people in our Holy Land. (Shivas Tzion, part 1, p. 17.)

Rabbi Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld wrote to his brother that in the thirty-one years since his arrival in Eretz Israel, greater changes took place there than had occurred in the thousand years preceding. Over a thousand new Jewish homes; the restoration and expansion of Jerusalem; the growing railroad system; the new settlements, former wastelands now in full bloom; "How can one fail to see G-d's hand in all this? We must work to settle the Land, with faith in O-d who gave us His Torah" (Halsh Al haChoma, part 11, p. 57).

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