

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 333**

**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).

In Moriah, Dr. Yitzchak Breuer tells us that in 1926, Rabbi Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld asked him, "Where are the Torah Jews from the lands of our exile? Don't they see G-d's finger in all this? Now I understand what it says in the musaf prayer for Yom Tov. 'And because of our sins we were exiled from our country and were distanced from our Land.' 'We were exiled from our country' by G-d, and then 'we were distanced from our Land' by ourselves! Have we ceased our constant anticipation? Imagine that it hadn't rained for 2,000 years, and then suddenly one day a tiny cloud appeared. Wouldn't everyone become excited, and say, trembling - 'Perhaps this is it? Maybe after all...? Isn't the Mandate at least comparable to this little cloud?' , (Moriah, p. 197).

Similarly, the gaon Rabbi Akiva Yosef Schlesinger writes that if those whom we call "sinners" work so hard and give so much for Zion, then how much more should be expected of the tikun chatzos sayers? Perhaps the Zionists have great merit, since they are after all, like "an infant captured by the Gentiles" (i.e., totally ignorant of Torah.)

**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**