

**BSD**

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 334**

**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"?**

**The return to Eretz Israel in the days of Ezra and Nechemiah was not on an especially high spiritual plane. "Ten types of lineage came up from Babylon: Kohanim. Leviim. Israelites, non-valid descendants of Kohanim, proselytes, freed slaves, illegitimate children, gibeonites, people of unknown paternity, and people of totally unknown parentage" (Kiddushin, Mishna 84). Many of these were Sabbath desecrators, some even married to gentile women. In spite of all this, it was clearly G-d's hand and it was undeniably a redemption from the Babylonian exile. It was this redemption that led eventually to widespread repentance and a raised spiritual standing and to the building of the second Beis Hamikdash. The Netziv has commented on. the parallel to our times:**

**"Ezra gathered a few thousand people from Babylon, people of all kinds, G-d fearing Torah Jews, and Jews with gentile wives, great scholars together with Sabbath desecrators who knew nothing of Torah. All of these together settled the Land until it filled up with Jews. So too must we arise to the voice of G-d which is heard all over the world, wherever our brothers are scattered, to do whatever we can, much or little - with all kinds of Jews" (Shivas Tzion, part n, p. 6).**

**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**