

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 335**

**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"?

Now to the main issue. G-d's ways are hidden and beyond our comprehension. He may choose to bring about the Redemption through ways we do not understand. Still we try to understand whatever is within our reach.

We mentioned Rabbi Akiva Yosef Sehlessinger's view that most of those dedicated workers for Eretz Israel were like 'infants taken captive by gentiles.' Their rejection of the Torah was forced upon them, so to speak, and they are not liable. On the other hand, their sacrifice for Eretz Israel was voluntary and whole-hearted, and will be richly rewarded.

What is more, we find a Chazal that King Omri of Israel, an idol worshipper, earned his kingdom because he added a city to Eretz Israel (Sanhedrin 102). This shows us how very great the merit of the Land is. Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh Kalisher points out that Omri acted out of self-interest. He wanted the kings of Israel to have a royal city to match the Jerusalem of the Judean kings. Still he was greatly rewarded. How much more reward would accrue to one who works selflessly to rebuild the ruins of Israel! Surely this person's reward is too great to be imagined. Out of this type of work the Redemption will gradually grow, until the End of Days (Drishas Tzion).

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