

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 336**

**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"?

It is still hard for many of us to accept that the Redemption can come through people without mitzvos, even if we believe it can come in spite of them. But this too can be understood. This situation may be a test. Will we be taken in and believe that it is these irreligious people who have 'redeemed' us, and that it is human efforts that are saving us? Or will we realize that our return to Eretz Israel is entirely G-d's doing, and these 'leaders' are actually being led (by Him) though they may not know it? Will we be satisfied with a mere material redemption and a partial ingathering of the Exiles? Are economic stability and peace with the Arabs all we need to complete the geula shleima? Or will we understand that what we have now is nothing compared to the glorious spiritual salvation that our prophets foretold and which still awaits us? To this test the Chazon Ish referred when he said that 'this may be the final test before Mashiach comes.' (Bein Sheshes Le'Asor, p. 103)

'She is Zion and no one asks for her' (Yirmiyahu 30). The implication is that Zion needs to be asked for." (Rosh Hashana 30)."Happy is he who waits to arrive and see the rise of your light, over him your dawns shall break" (from Rabbi Yehuda Halevi's "Zion Won't You Inquire", lamentations for Tisha B'Av).

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