

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 349**

**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"?**

**"There are ten measures of Torah in the world. Nine are in Eretz Yisroel and one in the rest of the world" (Esther Rabba). "Rabbi Yose ben Chalafta told his son Rabbi Yishmael: do you want to see G-d's presence in this world? Go study Torah in Eretz Yisroel, as it is written, 'Seek the L-rd in His strength, seek His face continuously' (Tehillim 105)" (Midrash Shocher Tov).**

**This priority is also expressed in halacha. Semicha, the ancient form of ordaining rabbis, which dates back to Moshe Rabbeinu, could only be done in Eretz Yisroel. (Sanhedrin 14) The Rambam writes that if all the scholars in Eretz Yisroel - not in any other place - were to agree (now) to ordain judges in this manner, even if they were not ordained themselves, they could do so. (Hilchos Sanhedrin 4)**

**The Jewish calendar is crucial to the Jew's daily life all over the world. It too is tied to the holy Land. Only the great Beis Din in Eretz Yisroel could declare the new months and set the leap years. The Rambam writes that even now the entire calculation of our months and years hinges on the presence of Jews in Eretz Yisroel. Without them, G-d forbid, all our holy days would be cancelled! (Sefer Hamitzvos, asay 153). The Chasam Sofer (Yoreh Deah 234) writes that there must be at least farmers and vineyard workers in the Land for our Sages' calendar calculations to operate. These fieldhands set the calendar for the entire Jewish world!**

**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**