

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 350**

**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 Shochoer Tov).**

**Since Eretz Yisroel is the best place to learn Torah and the only place where all its mitzvos can be kept, it is the most natural place to come close to Hashem. As the point of contact between the upper and lower worlds, it is like the 'doorway to the great banquet hall' - the gateway to Heaven.**

**The natural habitat for the holiness of synagogues and yeshivos is Eretz Yisroel, and with the Redemption they will be brought here along with the Jewish people. Now they serve as representative enclaves of the Holy Land, and as such have something of the Land's sanctity.**

**"Living in Eretz Yisroel is equal to all the mitzvos in the Torah" (Sifrei, Re'ay). The value of this mitzva along with the added weight of other mitzvos performed here is tremendous. When Yaakov Avinu returned from his years with Lavan, he had more merits than any of us could ever hope for. Yet he was afraid to face his brother Esav, because Esav had one advantage. He had spent those years living in Eretz Yisroel, while Yaakov had been in chutz la'Aretz.**

**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**