

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 358**

**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 Sefer Hachareidim tells us that the Ramban counts living in Eretz Yisroel as one of the taryag (613) mitzvos and each minute of living here, is a fulfillment of the mitzva. From the verse "For you did not serve Hashem your G-d with joy" (Devarim 28), we learn that the reward for a mitzva is largely commensurate with the joy experienced in its fulfillment. Therefore a person fortunate enough to live in Eretz Yisroel should always be happy with his perpetual mitzva. His difficulties here should be accepted with joy because of his great love for the Holy Land. But at the same time, he must maintain a measure of fear lest he is not keeping the mitzva properly, for as Rabbi Shimon Bar y ochai writes, "Any commandment not fulfilled with fear and respect is not a (properly fulfilled) commandment" (Mitzvos Hatluyos Ba'Aretz, Chap. 2, in Sefer Hachareidim).

...One who loves G-d will automatically love the Land "which G-d inquires after."

'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