

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 361**

**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"?

After a visit to an orthodox kibbutz, the Chazon Ish wrote that he was happy to see the youth there, with their strong love and joyous devotion to Torah and mitzvos. He wrote that such a sight in these days reinforces hope (or prophesied salvation and the return of the Jewish people to Eretz Yisroel, "when the Land will be filled with knowledge of O-d" (Collected Letters of the Chazon Ish, part 1, 109).

In 1917, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, promising to help establish a Jewish National Home in Eretz Yisroel. At the time, the declaration made a tremendous impact throughout the Jewish world. Gedolim saw it as the Hand of O-d. We have this account from Rabbi Shmuel Oreineman of blessed memory, a member of the Chafetz Chaim's household: "The Chafetz Chaim's son, Rabbi Leib of blessed memory, told that when the English government issued the Balfour Declaration concerning Eretz Yisroel, the Chafetz Chaim saw it as an 'awakening from above' towards the geula. He quoted the words of the Or Hachaim on 'vekam sheivet beyisroel' (Devarim 24) - that the start of the Redemption may come in a natural form.

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