

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 56**

**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**

Tana DeVei Eliyahu comments on the verse To guard the way to the tree of life (BeReishit 3:24):

To guard the way - this refers to the "way of the land" (derech erez); to the tree of life, for the "way of the land" precedes the tree of life. The tree of life refers to Torah, as it says, It is a tree of life for those who grasp it (Mishley 3:18). (Eliyahu Rabbah 1:2)

" The brilliant tzaddik, R. Akiva Yosef Schlessinger, explains (Tosafot Ben Yechiel on Eliyahu Rabbah 1:2):

This requires clarification. Which "way of the land" is he referring to? The answer is based on the Yalkut's statement: "'For they were banished from the Land' - this refers to Eretz Yisrael."<sup>214</sup> Tana DeVei Eliyahu is informing us not to...follow the ways of the spies who despised the Land. They said that Torah precedes Eretz Yisrael. Therefore, they did not want to enter the Land. They preferred to stay in the desert and learn Torah from Moshe Rabbeinu, for the Torah was only given to those who ate the Manna.<sup>215</sup> Thus, Eliyahu tells us that "the way of the Land" - that is, the way that leads to the Land of Israel- comes before Torah. Accordingly, the Midrash states, "Dwelling in Eretz Yisrael outweighs the entire Torah" (Sifrei, Re'eh 28, on Devarim 12:29).

R. Schlessinger also writes that the reason the spies failed and were unwilling to enter Eretz Yisrael is because they were afraid of the transgressions committed there, which are more serious than those committed outside the Land. This was a sin on their part, for they were like the gentile nations who refused to accept the yoke of Torah for the same reason. Israel, on the other hand, said, We will do and we will listen...

(FROM EM HA BANIM SEMECHA, RABBI YSACHAR SHLOMO TEICHTAL, ZTK'L)

**SO INSTEAD OF JUDGING AND CRITIZING THE RULERS OF ERETZ ISRAEL,  
DO YOUR PART AND HELP BETTER THE LAND AND ITS INHABITANTS, AND  
MOVE THERE AND LIVE THERE, AND THROUGH THIS YOU WILL BE HONORING  
HA KADDOSH BARUCH HU**

**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**