

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 60**

**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**

**THE GREAT SIN OF THOSE JEWS WHO CHOOSE
NOT TO DWELL IN ERETZ YISRAEL**

Reish Lakish said to Rabbah bar bar Chanah, "By G-d, I hate you. (Rashi explains: 'I hate...all Babylonians, because they did not ascend to Eretz Yisrael at the time of Ezra. They prevented the Shechinah from returning to rest upon the Second Temple.') It is thus written, If she be a wall, we will build upon her a battlement of silver; and if she be a door, we will enclose her with a cedar board (Shir HaShirim 8:9): Had you made yourselves like a wall and ascended all together to Eretz Yisrael at the time of Ezra, you would have been compared to silver which does not decay (and the redemption would have been complete). Now that you went up like doors,¹²³ you were compared to cedar which decays (meaning, the edifice was destroyed)." (Yoma 9b)

The Ya'avetz (Siddur Beit Ya'akov, Sullam Beit El, p. 14b.) explains [the homiletic passage in which Eliyahu] appears to R. Chiya as a fiery bear (Bava Metzia 85b):

For he [the angelic minister of Persia, who appears as a bear] prosecutes against the Babylonian Jews who did not ascend when Cyrus, king of Persia, gave them permission to do so. Had they ascended during that divine visitation, [their efforts] would not have decayed and the redemption would have been complete... Therefore, there is room to prosecute, because the Babylonians caused the exile to be lengthened.

(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**