

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 68**

**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)**

**THE LAND WAS BUILT ONCE BEFORE THROUGH
IRRELIGIOUS JEWS, WHILE THE RELIGIOUS ONES
PREFERRED TO STAY IN EXILE AND THIS WAS CONSIDERED
TO THEM AS A GREAT TRANSGRESSION**

R. Yosi bar Chanina said: "There are four categories with respect to names: There are those whose names are becoming and whose deeds are becoming. There are those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are ugly. There are those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming. And, there are those whose names are becoming and whose deeds are ugly... 'Those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming' refers to the people [who returned from the Babylonian] exile: The children of Bakbuk, the children of Chakufa, the children of Charchur (Ezra 2:51, Nechemyah 7:53). They were worthy to ascend and build the Beit HaMikdash." (BeReishit Rabbah 71:3)

Radak comments on Malachi Ch 2: Most of the people who ascended from Babylonia performed improper deeds. They married gentile women, as [is evident] from Ezra and Malachi's admonition, He has married the daughter of a foreign g-d (Malachi 2:11); they desecrated the Shabbath; and [sinned] in other areas, as is written in the book of Ezra

...We are forced to say that their comeliness and beauty was the act of aliyah itself and the fact that they built the Land and the Beit HaMikdash. HaShem was very pleased by this, even though they transgressed practically the entire Torah. Nonetheless, in this one area their deeds were desirable and becoming to G-d. For this reason alone they were worthy to be called "becoming" and to serve as the example of "Those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming." Perhaps this is because the mitzvah of settling Eretz Yisrael is equal to the entire Torah. Their involvement in this mitzvah tipped the scales so greatly that it could be said of them that their deeds were becoming. In any event, this shows how much the Holy One Blessed be He loves when the Holy Land is built, no matter who does it, even the lowliest Jew... This is an irrefutable proof.

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

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