

**BS`D**  
**ERETZ ISRAEL**  
**BULLETIN 8**

*“DWELLING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS EQUIVALENT TO  
ALL THE MITZVOT OF THE TORAH” (SIFREI, PARASHAT REE)*

**HASHEM MAKES THE GOYYIM PERSECUTE JEWS  
SO THAT THEY RETURN TO ERETZ ISRAEL**

“And the dove did not find rest” (Bereshit 8:9): Yehudah bar Nachman said in the name of R. Shimon, “Had she found rest, she would not have returned.” Similarly, “She [Israel] dwelled among the nations, but found no rest” (Eichah 1:3): Had she found rest, she would not have returned. Similarly, “And among those nations you will not be tranquil; there will be no rest for the sole of your foot” (Devarim 28:65): Had they found rest, they would not have returned. Bereshit Rabba (33:8)

Elimelech, Machlon, and Kilion were the greatest men of their generation - leaders of the generation... Why were they punished? Because they left Eretz Israel. (Baba Basra 91)

We also find this in Midrash Tanchuma regarding Elimelech and his sons: They dwelt there [Moav] about ten years (Ruth 1:4). All of these years, the Holy One Blessed be He gave them warnings, perhaps they will repent and return to Eretz Israel. When they did not repent, He began to smite their cattle and camels. When they [still] did not realize that they must repent, they died immediately. (Tanchuma, Behar 3)

Why did Moshe Rabbenu yearn to enter Eretz Israel? Did he need to eat its fruits, or to satisfy himself from its bounty? Rather, Moshe said: The people of Israel have been given many commandments, and they cannot be fulfilled except in the Land of Israel. (Sota 14)

“IT ONCE HAPPENED that Rabbi Yehuda ben Beteira [and three of his colleagues] had to leave Eretz Israel. When they reached Paltus, they remembered Eretz Israel. They raised their eyes, and tears ran down their cheeks. They rent their garments, and recited the verse, 'Inherit the Land and dwell therein' (Devarim 11) They turned around and returned home, saying: 'Dwelling in Eretz Israel is the equivalent of all the Mitzvot in the Torah" (Sifrei, Parashat Ree)

*Please Hashem, Be good to Me according to Your will, and grant me with compassion and kindness and as a free gift, that I will soon merit to come to Eretz Israel, to the Eretz ha Keddosha, the Land our forefathers inherited, the Land which all the authentic Tzaddikim, wished with all their soul and desired to be there, and most of them came there... (Tefillah of Rebbe Nachman of Bresslov)*