BSD

ERETZ ISRAEL BULLETIN 300

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 WRITINGS OF RABBI MEIR DAVID KAHANE ZTKL

MASHIACH BEN YOSEF

SIMILARLY WE FIND (TANCHUMA, TAZRIA, 8): THE MESSIAH, WHO WILL IN THE FUTURE PUNISH GOG AND MAGOG AND HIS FORCES, WILL GROW UP WITH THEM THERE IN THEIR COUNTRY, AS IT SAYS, "THERE SHALL THE CALF FEED, AND THERE SHALL HE LIE DOWN AND CONSUME ITS BRANCHES" (ISAIAH 27:10).

The trouble and grief of Gog and Magog will surpass all the troubles and holocausts of the past, Heaven help us Our sages said (Berachot 13a): "Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old" (Isaiah 43:18): "Remember not the former things": This refers to subjugation by the nations. "Neither consider things of old": This refers to the Exodus from Egypt. "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth" ([bid., v. 19): R. Yosef learned, "This refers to the War of Gog and Magog. To what can this be compared? To a person walking along the way who encountered a wolf and was saved from it. From then on, he would tell the story of the wolf. Then he encountered a lion and was saved. Henceforth he would tell about the lion. He then encountered a snake and was saved. He forgot the first two stories and henceforth would tell about the snake. It is the same with Israel. Later troubles make them forget earlier ones.

Yet certainly, even redemption "in its time" with all its terrors shall end with G-d's final, majestic victory over His enemies through His revenge and anger, and the revelation of the glory of His kingdom throughout the world.

Our sages said (Tanchuma, Lech Lecha, 9):Abraham was attacked by four kings, and Israel, too, shall in the future have all the kings go into an uproar over them, as it says, "Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the people mutter a vain thing?" (Ps. 2:I); and, "The kings of the earth set themselves; the rulers take counsel together against the L-rd and against His anointed" ([bid., v. 2). In Abraham's case, G-d went forth and fought his enemies, as it says, "He Who raised up one from the east whom righteousness met wherever he set his foot, delivered up the nations to him and made him rule over kings; his sword makes them as dust, his bow as driven stubble" (Isaiah 41:2). G-d shall do the same for his children in

the future, as it says, "Then shall the L-rd go out and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle" (Zechariah 14:3).

The gentiles' punishment for their subjugating and persecuting Israel is G-d's greatest revenge, since the lowliness of Israel is a Chilul Hashem. We can, thus, also understand the nullification of the oath which G-d imposed on Israel not to go up to Eretz Israel en masse, because the nations violated their oath not to subjugate Israel "too much."

Our sages said (Tanchuma, Tazria, 11):In the World-to-Come, G-d will sit in judgment over the kingdom of Edom and ask them: "Why did you subjugate My children?" and they will respond, "Was it not You who delivered them into our hands?" G-d will then say, "I delivered them 'into your hands, but you showed them no mercy. Upon the aged have you very heavily laid your stroke' (Isaiah 47:6)."... G-d will say, "Babylonia, I swear that I shall deliberate over you, and I shall judge you and declare you guilty... What will I do to you? I will punish your angelic prince first and smite him with leprosy. Then I will punish you. Say not [just] this kingdom, but even Gog, who is becoming more prideful in the world and ascending will I smite with leprosy." From whence do we know this? It says, "And this shall be the plague... their flesh shall be consumed while they stand on their feet" (Zechariah 14:12).

"How will this occur? Through their provoking Israel, as it says, "And this shall be the plague." Through their having attacked Israel... G-d will say to them, "Since you called My children impure, I shall defile you with the father of all impurities." From whence do we know that they will call the Jewish People impure? It says, "Away! Unclean! They shall cry at them" (Lam. 4:15). . G-d goes on, "You will be leprous and impure, but Israel I shall purify and sanctify and redeem from among you," as it says, "They shall call them the holy people, the redeemed of the L-rd. And you shall be called Derusha [sought out], a city not forsaken" (Isaiah 62:12). Likewise, King Solomon said, "You are all fair, my love, there is no blemish in you" (Song of Songs 4:7).

REMOVING THE EXILE FROM ISRAEL IS TEN TIMES HARDER THAN REMOVING ISRAEL FROM THE EXILE

TO OUR SORROW, THIS DISEASE HAS EVEN SMITTEN TORAH SCHOLARS.

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