BSD

ERETZ ISRAEL BULLETIN 307

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

THIS LAST EXILE AND ITS REDEMPTION WILL BE LIKE THE FIRST EXILE AND ITS REDEMPTION: JUST AS THERE, WHEN THE TIME OF RECKONING CAME, G-D DID NOT ALLOW ISRAEL TO REMAIN IN THE EXILE, THE SAME HERE AS WELL. OUR SAGES SAID (MIDRASH HAGADOL, BERESHIT, 50:24):G-D IS SURE TO VISIT YOU' [PAKOD YIFKOD] (GEN. 50:24): HE INFORMED THEM OF TWO VISITS. THE FIRST [PAKOD] REFERRED TO THE TIME OF MOSES, THE SECOND [YIFKOD] TO THAT OF THE MESSIANIC KING.

This last exile and its redemption will be like the first exile and its redemption: Just as there, when the time of reckoning came, G-d did not allow Israel to remain in the exile, the same here as well.

Our sages said (Midrash HaGadol, Bereshit, 50:24):G-d is sure to visit you' [pakod yifkod] (Gen. 50:24): He informed them of two visits. The first [pakod] referred to the time of Moses, the second [yifkod] to that of the Messianic king

Kol HaTor (Ch. I, letter 10), quotes the holy Gra: It says, "In Mount Zion and Jerusalem there shall be those who escape... and among the remnant those whom the L-rd shall call" (Joel 3:5). According to Midrash Tanchuma, Zion, in the mountains, is equated with Mashiach ben Yosef, such that whatever happens to Joseph happens to Zion. Our master hinted at this also through the word ["among the remnant"] having a numerical value of 566, the same as [Mashiach ben Yosef], for according to our master, the ingathering of the exiles will occur through him. The greater the ingathering will be, the stronger the forces of impurity [sitra achra] will become. Also, there will be an increase in Divine prosecution of those who do not support the ingathering of the exiles, since the redemption will start through it! for then there will be survivors in Zion and Jerusalem and from the remnant. Our master worried about this greatly.

There could be no more open rebuke than this, for surely the sound of G-d visiting us "can be heard in our land" (Song of Songs 2:12) as well as outside of it, yet no one listens or hears except for "one from each city and one from each family" (Jer. 3:14).

Pesikta Rabbati, 34, teaches:"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion... Behold, your king comes to you. He is just and victorious; humble, and riding upon an ass" (Zechariah 9:9): ...G-d proclaims to all the righteous of every generation and says, "Righteous of the earth! Although I need your Torah study [alternately, although Torah study is dear to you], [you have behaved poorly,] for you awaited My Torah, but not My kingdom. I swear that I Myself shall testify positively on behalf of whoever awaited My kingdom.

I believe the point is that G-d rebukes the righteous of the exile down through time, because they were ready and willing to accept His Torah and they toiled over it to bring it to fulfillment (we cannot explain "you awaited My Torah" to mean that they studied no Torah but only awaited its arrival; rather, they must have actively studied it), yet they did not await G-d's kingdom. That is, they did not toil or sacrifice to restore the Jewish People and G-d's kingdom to Eretz Israel and, thereby, to eliminate the Chilul Hashem of the exile and sanctify G-d's name

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