BSD

ERETZ ISRAEL BULLETIN 345

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 BOOK ZION TODAY

SINCE THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ORTHODOXY AND SECULAR ZIONISM, VOICES PRAISING THE GREATNESS AND SANCTITY OF THE HOLY LAND HAVE BECOME STILL. BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. HOW MUCH DOES EVEN A BEN-TORAH TODAY KNOW ABOUT THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF ERETZ ISRAEL, OF THE MITZVOS OF THE LAND? EVEN THE MOST OBSERVANT TAKE TRIPS TO CHUTZ LA'ARETZ, SOMETHING THE HALACHA FORBIDS. COULD THERE BE GREATER IRONY THAN THIS: THE TORAH COMMUNITY, WHICH CHERISHED THE **MEMORY** OF **ERETZ** ISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE AGES, NOW LEAVES LOVE OF ZION TO THE "SECULAR"?

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)

These are the words of the Rambam in Mishne Torah. Hilchos Melachim (5, 9). "It is always forbidden to leave Eretz Israel (to go anywhere outside the Land) except in order to learn Torah, or to marry (a wife), or to be saved from the gentiles - and then to return to the Land. One may also leave for business purposes. "But to live outside the Land is forbidden, unless a famine there is so severe that a dinar's worth of wheat costs two dinars. When does this apply? When money is available, and produce expensive. However, if produce is cheap but no money can be found, one has no earnings and his pockets are empty-then he may leave for any place where he can make a profit. But, even though it is permissible to leave - it is not righteous conduct (midas chasidus). For Machlon and Kilion were the two gedolim of their generation, and left because of a terrible situation, yet they were sentenced to extinction by the Almighty."

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