

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 357**

**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 SO THROUGHOUT THE AGES, NOW LEAVES LOVE OF ZION TO THE "SECULAR"?**

**Centuries ago, Bnei Yisroel were exiled because of their disrespect for Eretz Yisroel. But Rabbi Yaakov Emden tells us that it did not end with exile alone. Many of our troubles throughout the long years of galus (exile) are attributable to this very cause. "Now that we put living in Eretz Yisroel out of our minds completely", he writes, "not even one man in a thousand considers it - perhaps only one in an entire country. No one longs for Eretz Yisroel, or is concerned for its welfare. If we have a little peace in chutz la'Aretz, we think we've found a new Eretz Yisroel and a new Jerusalem. This is the root of our troubles. Jews lived in Spain in dignity and comfort for a thousand years, from the time of the destruction. Yet in spite of their prominence, they were expelled from their adopted country every one, leaving no trace. G-d's ways are just, for the idea that they were a people in exile had left their minds entirely. They settled in among the gentiles and, as for Zion - who remembered her?...All these troubles and others have come upon us because we have forgotten the beloved Land" (From the introduction to Siddur Beis Yaakov. "omissions" of Seder Hadoros, part 1).**

**...One who loves G-d will automatically love the Land "which G-d inquires after."**

**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**