

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 362**

**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"?

After the Balfour Declaration, the gaon Rabbi Meir Simcha of Dvinsk, author of the Ohr Sameach, expressed his view of the events in a letter. He saw it as the Hand of G-d when the League of Nations endorsed the Declaration in San Remo. Now, he wrote, the Jewish people need no longer worry about the "three vows," for the nations themselves agree that bnei Yisroel should have Eretz Yisroel. (G-d swore the Jewish people to three promises, one of which was not to rebel against the nations. See Kesubos 111.) "Now by permission of the kings, the mitzva of settling Eretz Yisroel, equal in weight to all the mitzvos together, has been restored. If with G-d's help this grows and develops under the British as it did long ago under the rule of the Persian Artaxerxes, it is definitely a matter of the utmost urgency". (The letter is quoted on Halsh Al HaChoma, part III, p. 351, and in Hatekufa Hagedola p. 174-175.)

'She is Zion and no one asks for her' (Yirmiyahu 30). The implication is that Zion needs to be asked for." (Rosh Hashana 30)."Happy is he who waits to arrive and see the rise of your light, over him your dawns shall break" (from Rabbi Yehuda Halevi's "Zion Won't You Inquire", lamentations for Tisha B'Av).

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