**BSD** 

## ERETZ ISRAEL BULLETIN 85

## 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

## RABBI TEICHTAL BEMOANS THE FACT THAT PSEUDO RELIGIOUS LEADERS OPPOSE THE MITZVAH OF SETTLING ERETZ YISRAEL

I am sure that if the Jewish masses, and even the Torah scholars, would be aware of everything I cited in this book, no small-minded individual would say that it is forbidden to preach publicly or hear a sermon on the topic of settling and building the Land. Unknowingly and innocently, they insult and harm our Holy Land and one of the 613 mitzvot of the Torah. Unwittingly, they prevent their fellow Jews from doing a mitzvah, thus violating one of the 24 things that incur excommunication. This is especially true of such a valuable mitzvah like this one, which is equal to the entire Torah, as the Sifrei explains (Re'eh 28). May the good Lord forgive them. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Furthermore, I already cited Maharam Chagiz's Sefat Emet which discusses the great punishment that awaits those who slander the inhabitants of Eretz Yisrael. HaShem decreed [after the sin of the spies] that anyone who spreads an evil report about the Land will be included in the punishment of, And all who provoke Me shall not see it (BeMidbar 14:23). The Maharam explains that this verse refers to the future. Anyone in subsequent generations who opposes Eretz Yisrael will be included in the punishment of the spies.

The Midrash states: That generation (of the spies) could not taste any fruits of the Land. R. Akiva said: "When the merchants would uncover a basket of fruits from the Land, they [the Israelites] would die. Thus, it says, Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good Land (Devarim 1:35): [They will not see] any good that comes from the Land." (Tanchuma, Chukat 19)

Now, all those who scorn, blaspheme, and despise the people who settle and build the Land: how can they not fear for their souls?! Perhaps they will fall into the category of the spies and receive their harsh punishment!

(FROM EM HA BANIM SEMECHA, RABBI YSACHAR SHLOMO TEICHTAL, ZTK'L)

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