

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 196**

**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

**"IT IS MY HOPE THAT IN THE MERIT OF THIS MITZVAH WHICH
THEY FULFILL WITH SUCH SACRIFICE, THEY WILL REPENT
AND RETURN TO THE FOLD OF TORAH AND FAITH."**

...R' Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld would be filled with joy and happiness whenever he discussed the new settlements. Although he was deeply disturbed by the lack of Torah observance on the part of some of the settlers, he nevertheless believed that it was important to rejoice and praise G-d for any new Jewish settlement. Often, R' Chaim would hear the complaints of those grieved by the fact that many returnees to the land had abandoned the entire Torah except for the mitzvah of rebuilding Eretz Israel, which, admittedly, they performed with great self-sacrifice. He would comfort them saying: "It is my hope that in the merit of this mitzvah which they fulfill with such sacrifice, they will repent and return to the fold of Torah and faith."

This approach found poignant expression in his masterful eulogy at the Merchaviah settlement for two guards, Moshe Birski and Yosef Saltzman, who had been murdered by Arabs. In this address, R' Chaim expressed his views on the return to Zion and its rebuilding by its children, even those who had strayed from the Torah path. Though it contained strong admonition as well, his address radiated a love for every Jew who devoted himself to rebuilding Eretz Israel and restoring its desolate areas.

R' Chaim continued: "It is written, 'A redeemer will come to Zion and the repentant among Jacob' (Isaiah 59:20). First will come the Redemption and afterwards, the sinners will repent. I believe that every pioneer who participates in the rebuilding of the land will be aided to return to Torah in the merit of Eretz Israel. Even those who returned to Eretz Israel from Babylon in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah were not completely observant, and it is related in Scripture that some of them violated Shabbos and the festivals. Nevertheless, the Beis HaMikdash was built by them and they returned to the Torah ..."

FROM SEFER HA ISH AL HA CHOMA

**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**