

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 33**

**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)**

**THE PURPOSE OF OUR AFFLICTIONS IS TO AROUSE US TO  
RETURN TO ERETZ ISRAEL**

The sole purpose of all the afflictions that smite us in our exile is to arouse us to return to our Holy Land. This can be inferred from the story of King David and the plague. During the plague, Hashem sent him Gad the prophet. And Gad came to David...and said to him, "Go up and establish an altar to Hashem" (II Shmuel24:18). The Midrash explains:

This can be likened to a father who beat his son, but the son did not know why he was being punished. After the beating, the father said, "For several days I have been commanding you to do something, and you have ignored me. Now go and do it!" So too, the thousands who fell at the time of David died only because they did not demand the building of the Beit HaMikdash. From this we can derive a kal vachomer. If they, in whose days the Beit HaMikdash was neither built nor destroyed, were punished for not having demanded its construction; then we, in whose days the Beit HaMikdash was destroyed..., certainly [deserve punishment], for we do not mourn nor supplicate. (Midrash Tehillim 17)

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

**OUR MASTER, MAHARAM CHAGIZ, DISCUSSES THE GREAT  
PUNISHMENT THAT AWAITS THOSE WHO SLANDER THE  
INHABITANTS OF *ERETZ YISRAEL*:**

HaShem decreed that just as all the men who have seen My glory (BeMidbar 14:22) - meaning, the generation of the spies will not see the Land, the same is true of future generations. Anyone who spreads an evil report about the Land will be stricken and will receive the punishment of the spies. This is the meaning of [the next verse] And all who provoke Me shall not see it (ibid. 14:23), which refers to the future. Sefat Emet (Vilna, 5636 [1876]), p. 32b

**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**