

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 353**

**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"?

The holiness granted Eretz Yisroel by the presence of the shechina is an intrinsic part of the Land, and is not dependent on any act of 'sanctification' by the Jewish people. This is the holiness our forefathers yearned for. It was not cancelled by the destruction of the Temple.

The Abarbanel describes the two types of people who are buried in Eretz Yisroel and how each is to be viewed:

"There are many people whose days are well spent in Torah and mitzvos and who always walk before G-d in the land of life. Because of their devotion and perfection in life, they deserve to be buried in Eretz Yisroel when they die. These people do not defile the Land, because their bodies were used in cleanness and purity, like holy articles. They are destined for the Revival of the Dead, so they should be buried in Eretz Yisroel and rise again without their bodies having to roll there, and without pain.

"There are very many more people who waste their lives and chase after material desires. They are called dead while still alive. When they die, they ask their children to give the charity they never gave in their lifetime, or to be buried in their ta//is and tefillin, even though they wore shatnez while alive. Some ask to be buried in Eretz Yisroel, even if in life they despised it and kept away from it. In life they were wicked, but with death they become virtuous mitzva observers. It is about these people that Rabbi spoke."

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