

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 37**

**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)**

**IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT APARENTLY GOOD
KOSHER, RELIGIOUS JEWS REFUSE TO RETURN TO ERETZ
ISRAEL AND CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN EXILE**

Draw me, we will run after You (Shir HaShirim 1:4). Chazal comment, "Because You [G-d] incited my evil neighbors against me, we will run after You" (Shir HaShirim Rabbah 1:4:4).

That is to say, for many years we lived in peace and harmony with our gentile neighbors. Then, suddenly, they turned into enemies and evil neighbors who persecute us. This can only be because some force incited them against us. HaShem, with His profound counsel, caused all of this to occur so that we will run after You to Eretz Yisrael, which immediately follows G-d.

This, then, is the meaning of the Midrash: From the fact that You incited my neighbors against me, I understand that we must run after You. That is, we must run to Eretz Yisrael, which is "after" You. Contemplate this for it is a true Torah interpretation.

In times like these, everyone will certainly heed our call to ascend to Eretz Yisrael, as our mentor, the Rosh, writes Teshuvot HaRosh 4:10: "My heart tells me that now is the time to rectify that which I have wanted to rectify for some time, because people will surely listen to me during difficult times like these."...

...Rashi on Kiddushin (69b) states that the Jews who dwelt comfortably in exile did not go up with Ezra to Eretz Yisrael. Only the poor and dejected souls ascended with him. Furthermore, Seder HaDorot cites our mentor, the S'ma, who saw the following in Ma'aseh Nissim (by R. Eliezer of Worms, author of the Rokeach): Ezra sent letters to all of the Diaspora communities urging them to ascend with him to Eretz Yisrael. One such letter arrived in the city of Worms, in Germany. The Jews residing there answered, "You may dwell in the great Jerusalem, we will dwell here in the small Jerusalem."

(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