

**BS`D**  
**ERETZ ISRAEL**  
**BULLETIN 12**

*"DWELLING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS EQUIVALENT TO  
ALL THE MITZVOT OF THE TORAH" (SIFREI, PARASHAT REE)*

## **THE SIN OF PERPETUATING COMMUNITIES IN IMPURE LANDS**

"And when they came to the nations, into which they came, they profaned My Holy Name, in that men said of them, These are the people of the Lord, and they have gone out of His land." (Ezekiel, 36:20) When the Jews are in exile, Judaism and Torah are scorned. The "Chosen People" become persecuted, downcast victims, despised by all of the nations. G-d's Name is desecrated. In the eyes of the gentiles, the once mighty G-d of Israel lacks the strength to safeguard His people in His land. (Ibid, Rashi)

The Shela Hakadosh, writes (at the end of Masechet Sukkah): "I will disclose something that has always troubled me greatly. I have seen Jews building homes like the fortresses of princes, making themselves permanent, this worldly dwellings in impure lands. (I have observed that) it is their intention to leave these homes as an inheritance to their children after them! This appears to be, G-d forbid, an abandonment of the idea of GEULA (REDEMPTION). Therefore, even if G-d gives you wealth, build simple houses, to accommodate your bare needs, and no more."

The Keli Yakar, as well, has words on this issue (on Bereishis 47): "Many are the ignorant Jews who settle in the lands of other nations. They build themselves splendid, secure houses - homes built of stone, buildings meant to endure. For this reason, they never turn to Hashem with all their hearts to ask that He return them to their Land. Therefore, the Almighty leaves them there."

This explains the words of our mentor, the Or HaChayim. He writes that Israel's leaders throughout the generations will be held responsible for the fact that we are still in exile, because they should have inspired the Children of Israel to love Eretz Israel. (Or HaChayim, VaYikra 25:25) Therefore, my friends and brothers, do not pay any attention to those who slander the Land, even if they are truly righteous. For, I mentioned above that the brilliant mentor of Eretz Israel, R. Yosef Chayim Sonnenfeld z"l, derived from the words of the Shelah that even tzaddikim can be spies. Realize that all those who oppose aliyah and the building and resettlement of the Land belong to the camp of the spies. But, all those who choose aliyah belong to Yehoshua and Calev's camp. R Ysachar Shlomo Teichtel ZTKLEm ha Banim Semecha

*Please Hashem, Be good to Me according to Your will, and grant me with compassion and kindness and as a free gift, that I will soon merit to come to Eretz Israel, to the Eretz ha Keddosha, the Land our forefathers inherited, the Land which all the authentic Tzaddikim, wished with all their soul and desired to be there, and most of them came there... (Tefillah of Rebbe Nachman of Bresslov)*