



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
Distribution Date: September 2, 2008 / ב' אלול תשס"ח
Parsha: Shoftim – שופטים

בי"ה

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1. We can say that the idea to forbid Jews from living in Germany after WWII came from the prohibition against Jews living in Egypt.



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2. Rabbis disagreed with this for a few reasons: nowadays they don't the power to make decrees like that, it was only possible during times of the Mishna, examples of meat and milk, kitniyos with Ashkenazim and Sefardim and marrying more than one wife. Rambam says it's forbidden to live there, not go there for business. Rabbi's decree against Germany is stricter than the Torah.

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3. If Jews live in Egypt against Torah's prohibition, why would Jews obey Rabbi's prohibition? Jews have been in Egypt since the First Temple. How could they, and the Rambam, go against a clear Torah prohibition? There are a few answers.



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4. Two types of Mitzvos: for that time only and for all generations, like the Pesach sacrifice. Not going back to Egypt was for that generation only, not forever.



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5. Sancheirev king of Ashur moved all nations from their lands to strange lands, so the Egyptians nowadays are not the same Egyptians from the Torahs days.



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6 Necessity was the best and most common reason. The Jews had nowhere else to go. The Rambam moved there to save an assimilating community.

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7. According to Arizal the prohibition is repeated because the Jews mission of elevating sparks to holiness was finished in Egypt and there is no reason for Jews to go back there.



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8. That is also the reason Jews have been exiled and moved around so much. It is because they finish their work in one country and need to move on to the next and elevate more sparks.