

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Content</u>
Introduction to the series	E1 <u>Living in Eretz Yisrael, an introduction</u>	The objective of the series is to answer 1 simple question: "Should we live in Eretz Yisrael?"; overview of the issues involved; some of the sources; an outline of the season.
The mitzvah of living in Eretz Yisrael	E2 <u>Is there a Mitzvah to Live in Eretz Yisrael?</u>	Ramban alone counts living in Eretz Yisrael as one of the 613 commandments; BH"G, RS"G, Ibn Gabirol, Yereim, Rambam, SM"G and Chinuch don't; even if it's not one of the 613 commandments, it can be shown to be the correct thing to do; anything learnt from the Torah is a moral obligation and a mitzvah, so it makes no practical difference whether it's counted among the 613 or not.
The meaning of the 3 oaths and their application in practice	E3 <u>The Awesome Oaths: Dreadful Sin? Or Dreadful Danger?</u>	Chazal record numerous severe and fearful oaths against engaging in Messianic activities, such as rebelling against the nations and retaking Eretz Yisrael; the opinion of the Satmar Rebbe about the 3 oaths; in fact, the oaths reflect that retaking Eretz Yisrael is it a matter of grave danger, not something inherently forbidden; proof from the Rambam in the Letter to Yemen.
	E4 <u>The 3 Oaths – The Peril of Jewish Destiny</u>	Extensive proofs to the true meaning of the oaths: Rambam explains the 3 oaths as warnings of the gravest danger that the Jewish people face if they attempt to retake Eretz Yisrael and don't succeed; this is explicit in the Letter to Yemen, can be inferred from Mishneh Torah, and also explains the text of the Gemara perfectly.
	E5 <u>Jewish Nationhood and the Historical Process</u>	More on the nature of a mitzvah; more on the nature of the oaths: the spiritual aspirations of the Jewish people can be threatening to the other nations of the world and can also be detrimental to the Jewish people – politically, socially

		and economically; the oaths teach to be aware of all these broader issues and to consider them well before actualizing our great aspirations; sources.
	E6 <u>How to Keep the Oaths: Halachah L'maaseh</u>	Being Jewish is dangerous; the cause of antisemitism in general and the Holocaust; how to keep the oaths in practice today; it isn't dangerous to move to Eretz Yisrael.
Exile: Whether the decree of exile changes anything and the status of Eretz Yisrael during exile	E7 <u>The Decree of Exile</u>	The implications of Hashem's decree that His nation should be exiled from its land for the mitzvah to live there; the opinion the Satmar Rebbe that there can be no mitzvah while there is the decree of exile; in fact, there is no decree of exile at such time that exile is not forced upon us by the circumstances; the nature of Hashem's decrees; proofs.
	E8 <u>Eretz Yisrael without the Shechinah</u>	Eretz Yisrael without the Bais Hamikdash and the presence of the Shechinah is not the same; our obligation when the Shechinah isn't present is to be faithful to our past and to our future and live in the same way as when it was present; analysis of the Kuzari's position; proofs; the significance of facing Jerusalem in prayer for accepting Hashem as our God.
Principles of faith and their ramifications on returning to Eretz Yisrael	E9 <u>Awaiting Redemption or Effecting Redemption?</u>	Redemption is in our hands and depends on embracing Eretz Yisrael; analysis of the Satmar Rebbe's position that we must passively await redemption, that the principle of the Messiah precludes a mass return prior to his coming, and that repentance must precede return to Eretz Yisrael; refuting his sources; it is possible that we have already repented; return to Eretz Yisrael is intertwined with return to Hashem; the Satmar Rebbe's real concern.
Why people did not return to Eretz Yisrael and whether	E10	Why, throughout Jewish history, generations of people both simple and great chose not to return and live in Eretz

<p>we can ever aver that people who have the ability to live in Eretz Yisrael don't belong there</p>	<p><u>People who Lived Outside of Eretz Yisrael</u></p>	<p>Yisrael; Ramban's belated ascent to Eretz Yisrael; the novel opinion of the Avnei Nezer about the angels appointed over each land outside of Eretz Yisrael; the mitzvah is to live in Eretz Yisrael and have a life there – politically, socially and economically; if we take what we did in the past as proof for what is right, then we'll never fully repent and reach Ge'ulah; the masses were indeed at fault for not embracing Eretz Yisrael.</p>
	<p>E11 <u>Choosing Exile – Babylonian Jewry in the Second Temple Era</u></p>	<p>Why generations of great Jews and their leaders declined to return to Eretz Yisrael from Bavel during the Second Temple era; the application of the 3 oaths to the Second Temple era; the Jews in Bavel were preserving the Torah in safety and security; what we can learn from this today.</p>
	<p>E12 <u>To Go or Not to Go: The Debate about Babylonian Jewry in the Second Temple Era</u></p>	<p>The building of the Second Temple without the Shechinah's presence; the great revelation of Torah knowledge in the Second Temple era; the connection of that to the Temple; the two thousand years of Torah; the question about Torah outside of Eretz Yisrael.</p>
	<p>E13 <u>Exilic Times – When Do Jews Not Belong in EY?</u></p>	<p>The Babylonian Jews who neglected to return to Eretz Yisrael during the Second Temple Era were unwelcome there afterward; once a community rejects Eretz Yisrael they can't easily change their stance; sources; the decree of a thousand-year exile; sources.</p>
	<p>E14 <u>The Thousand-Year Exile, Divine Plans and Divine Rules</u></p>	<p>More sources for the decree of a thousand-year exile; we shouldn't use our divination of Hashem's secret plans in order to determine practice; all considerations about who isn't welcome in Eretz Yisrael get back to the 3 oaths, i.e., danger; it was considered dangerous for the Babylonians to return.</p>

Embracing and returning to Eretz Yisrael as the path towards meriting redemption	E15 <u>Is Redemption Really Dependent on Us?</u>	The Kuzari maintains that our connection with Hashem depends on us, that when we embrace Eretz Yisrael, the Shechinah will return and dwell amongst Yisrael; sources; analysis of the debate why the Shechinah didn't return to the Second Temple; prophecy and its connection with an inclination to idolatry; the sin of the spies is the root sin of the Jewish people.
	E16 <u>The Sin that Marred the Second Temple</u>	Which sin caused the return of the Babylonian exiles to Zion to not be miraculous; the ability to atone for the sin of the spies only arises when an opportunity arises to take Eretz Yisrael anew.
	E17 <u>Knesses Yisrael's Trial – Did We Pass or Fail?</u>	The relationship between Hashem and His people is portrayed dramatically in the Song of Songs, which ends with a climactic trial: is the woman (Knesses Yisrael) faithful – a "wall" – or not; the debate about whether the nation passed or failed; why, if they passed, did the Shechinah still not return; the new, universalistic Judaism of the Second Temple means our relationship to Eretz Yisrael changed; this doesn't change the fundamental fact that we should return to Eretz Yisrael when given the chance.
	E18 <u>The Theology of Jewish History – From Revelation to Exile and on to Redemption</u>	Exile serves a constructive, divine purpose in history; the post-exile era of Ge'ulah won't be the same as the pre-exile era – it will be fundamentally different; Exodus from Egypt brought knowledge of Hashem and prophecy; this led to knowing other gods; the link between idolatry and prophecy; exile and the 70 languages; the new way to approach Hashem and why it includes all the nations; how the Jewish people's role is different and yet similar to their

		ancient role; why the Jewish people belong in Eretz Yisrael even after universalistic recognition of Hashem; sources.
The challenge of the mitzvos ha'teluyos ba'aretz	E19 <u>Do the Mitzvos Ha'Teluyos Ba'Aretz Pose an Insurmountable Challenge?</u>	Rabbenu Chaim Kohen's opinion that due to the challenges posed by the commandments associated with the land – terumos, ma'asros, shemittah etc. – there is "currently" no mitzvah to live in Eretz Yisrael; questions on this opinion; the underlying logic of this position; 4 explanations of the opinion; this opinion is not the halachah today.
	E20 <u>Must We Rectify the Problem that the Mitzvos Ha'Teluyos Ba'Aretz Present Before We Can Return?</u>	Exile was punishment for being lax in giving ma'aser; historically, when we returned to Eretz Yisrael in the past we made sure to rectify our deficiency in that regard; what that means for us today.