

## Definition of Land of Eretz Yisrael

### Ref: Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Trumot, Chapter 1

Regarding *mitzvot* relating to agriculture the world can be divided as follows:

- *Eretz Yisrael* – *trumah* and *maaser Deoraita* (Scriptural origin).
  - Part settled after Babylonian exile (Sanctity became eternal).
  - Part settled after the going out of Egypt (Sanctity was temporary).

(Land also becomes *Eretz Yisrael* when conquered by a King or Prophet with consent of most of the Jewish People – *kibush rabim*.)



- Syria (conquered by *David Hamelech* before he conquered all of Israel – Therefore some laws are like *Eretz Yisrael* and some are like the Diaspora. All the laws for Syria are *Derabanan*.

- Diaspora
  - Egypt, Babylon, Ammon, and Moab (These are in close proximity to *Eretz Yisrael*.)



*Trumah* and *maaser Derabanan*

- Rest of the world – *Trumot* and tithes not observed

#### DEFINITION OF ERETZ YISRAEL:

The possession of the land was promised to Abraham and came to reality after exit from Egypt. This ended at the time of the Babylonian exile. (I.e. Sanctity of land was nullified and therefore *halachah* to do with land no longer applied.)

When Ezra and the nation returned at the end of the Babylonian exile, the possession became eternal. This is because second acquisition was not done through “conquering” but rather through “*chazakah*” (settling).

The borders would be determined by lands conquered by a King or Prophet with the consent of the entire Jewish People – (*kibush rabim*) conquest of the community.

Some parts of Syria were conquered by *David Hamelech* before conquering *Eretz Yisrael* and therefore the law here is slightly different to *Eretz Yisrael*.

See definition of boundaries.

When a Gentile purchases land in *Eretz Yisrael*, the land retains its holiness. If Gentile purchases in Syria, this land loses obligation to tithes etc.

Laws of *trumah* and *maaser* apply whether *Bet Hamikdash* standing or not.

In this present age, even in *Eretz Israel*, the *mitzvah* of *trumah* and *maaser* are only *Derabanan*, because according to Scriptural Law, they only apply when the entire Jewish People are present there.

#### Reminder:

Pack on Eretz Yisrael

