

The Mount of Olives, a Place to Consider

(Luke 19:28-44)



Located east of Jerusalem and separated by the Kidron valley, the Mount of Olives rises to six hundred feet, and is Jerusalem's highest peak. The Mount of Olives, many years ago, was covered with olive trees; its greenery provided a beautiful sight of hope for its riches of oil. The mount was named for this reason. Today, however, all we see are white tombs covering it, and some olive trees on its lower part where the Gethsemane Garden is located. It stood silently witnessing the agony of our Savior on His last hours before His trials. It was YAHSHUA'S favorite place when on earth, as we read in Luke 22:39, And He came out and went, as **was His habit, to the Mount of Olives** and His disciples with Him. It is sometimes called the Olivet Mount. From there our Savior foretold His second coming. This is not to confuse with the rapture. His second coming will be for the Jewish nation, when He will defeat for good Israel's enemies. When He comes for His bride, He

will not descend to earth, but He will meet her in the air and we will be forever with Him (I Thess. 4: 16-18).



The Kidron valley a way to get to the Mount of Olives also has a story to tell us: King David and YAHSHUA both crossed this valley at their betrayals on their way to the Mount of Olives. David worshiped God at the summit [of Olives]. YAHSHUA crossed it on the way to raise Lazarus from the dead; He crossed it after His last supper to go pray at the Gethsemane Garden.

At the descent of the Mount of Olives, on His way to Jerusalem, He wept for the destruction that was coming upon the city. He wept in the midst of praises and celebration of Him. YAHSHUA often went there to pray. It was His hiding place from the crowd. Judas, one of His disciples knowing this place, used it to betray Him. "And Judas, who was betraying Him and delivering Him up, also knew the place, because Jesus had often retired there with His disciples. So Judas, obtaining and taking charge of the band of soldiers and some guards of the high priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus,

knowing all that was about to befall Him, went out to them and said, Whom are you seeking? They answered Him, Jesus the Nazarene. Jesus said to them, I am He, Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them” (John 18:2-5). After His death and resurrection He appeared to His disciples there and from there He ascended to heaven. “And when He had said this, even as they were looking, He was caught up. And a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight. Then the [the disciples] went back to Jerusalem from the hill called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem [only] a Sabbath day’s journey (three –quarters of a mile) away” (Acts 1:9, 12). As they were gazing at YAHSHUA’S departure from them, two men in white robes suddenly stood beside them and asked them, Why are gazing into heaven? This same **Jesus will return in the same way you saw Him go into heaven** (Acts 1:11). As the disciples were astonished at what they were witnessing, a promise was given them: “He will return in the same way you saw Him go into heaven”. It would have been very natural for Peter, James and John to remember the time when they had seen YAHSHUA in His glorified body at that moment, hoping that what they were seeing would be temporary and in their minds He would be back. At that time the words of YAHSHUA should have had been remembered: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come [back] to you; I am going away to prepare a place for you, and when I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14).

His feet shall touch the Mount of Olives someday. An Exciting future waits on this mount for the Jewish people. The prophet Zechariah prophesized that a day will come when the Lord shall go forth and fight against the nations that will come against and will destroy Jerusalem. His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives; the mount will receive Him with tremor of an earth-quake; it will cause it to split in two from the east to the west by a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south (Zech. 14:3-5). When His feet will touch down this mount, it will be with great power. It will break in two and God’s purpose of salvation for the remnant of Israel will be accomplished. He will come as a Judge to bring judgment and as a Savior. This will be the final battle! John describes Him in his vision as True and He passes judgment and wages war in righteousness; His eyes are like a flame of fire , and on His head are many kingly crowns; and He has a title inscribed which He alone know or can understand; He is dressed in a robe dyed by dipping in blood, and the title by which He is called is The Word of God; and the troops of heaven clothed in fine lines, dazzling and clean, followed Him on white horses- (we His

bride); from His mouth goes forth a sharp sword with which He can smite the nations; and He will shepherd and control them with a staff of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath and indignation of God the All-Ruler (Rev. 19:11-15). The prophet Isaiah asks the question in chapter sixty-three: Who is this Who comes from Edom, with Crimson-stained garments from Bozrah? This One Who is glorious in His apparel, striding triumphantly in the greatness of His might? It is I, Who speaks in righteousness, mighty to save! YAHSHUA King of kings, Lord of lords will come in power to establish His kingdom on earth in the millennium time. Jerusalem, the city of the great King will be elevated above all. From there YAHSHUA will reign. God shall come, and all the holy ones with Him; and it shall come to pass in that day that there shall not be light; the glorious and bright ones shall be darkened, but it shall be one continuous day, known to the Lord- not day and not night, but at evening time there shall be light. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day the Lord shall be one and His name one (Zech. 14:5b-7,9).

The Mount of Olives, the place where our Lord found rest, a place where He was alone with His heavenly Father; a place where He prayed, a place where He foretold His Second Coming; a place where He spent His last hours before His trials and death, where He agonized and was tempted, was the place where He appeared to His disciples and from there He departed to heaven. In the future is the place where His feet will stand to fight the last battle to bring salvation to Israel at the end of the tribulation. The Mount of Olives will stand for all to see and gaze at its future not too far away!