

~BETHPHAGE (61)

(Beth'pha-ge) [from Hebrew, probably meaning House of the Early Figs]

- **Bethphage** figures in the account of Jesus approach to Jerusalem and as the point from which he sent out his disciples to obtain the ass upon which he rode during his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, **Nisan 9, of the year 33 C.E.**

- Well, when they got close to Jerusalem and arrived at **Bethphage** on the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent forth two disciples. (**Matthew 21:1**)

- Saying to them; Be on your way into the village that is within sight of you, and you will at once find an ass tied, and a colt with her, untie them and bring them to me. (**Matthew 21:2**)

- Now when they were getting near to Jerusalem, to **Bethphage** and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he dispatched two of his disciples (**Mark 11:1**)

- And told them; Go into the village that is within sight of you, and as soon as you pass into it you will find a colt tied, on which none of mankind has yet sat, loose it and bring it. (**Mark 11:2**)

- And when he got near to **Bethphage** and Bethany at the mountain called Mount of Olives, he sent forth two of the disciples. (**Luke 19:29**)

- Saying: Go into the village that is within sight of you, and in it after you pass in you will find a colt tied, on which none of mankind ever sat. Loose it and bring it. (**Luke 19:30**)

- The references show it to be located on the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem, and also near Bethany. While some consider **Bethphage** to have been located across the ravine to the Southeast of Bethany at present-day Abu Dis, the traditional location is between Bethany and Jerusalem at et-Tur, on the Southeast slope of the Mount of Olives. From this point it is but a short distance to one of the peaks of the Mount of Olives. Descending from there, one would have the city of Jerusalem in full view.

- As soon as he got near the road down the Mount of Olives all the

multitude of the disciples started to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice concerning all the powerful works they had seen.
(**Luke 19:37**)

- And when he got nearby, he viewed the city and wept over it.
(**Luke 19:41**)
- Talmudic references to **Bethphage** indicate that it was considered as at the **limit of the sabbatical zone around the city of Jerusalem**.
[**Babylonian Talmud, Menahot 78b**]
- Then they returned to Jerusalem from a mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, **being a Sabbath day's journey away**. (**Acts of Apostles 1:12**) **Footnote**