

~OLIVES, MOUNT OF (182)

- A chain of rounded limestone hills located on the eastern side of Jerusalem, a Sabbath days journey away, and separated from the city by the Kidron Valley.
- And the glory of Yehowah went ascending from over the midst of the city and began to stand over the mountain that is to the east of the city. ([Ezekiel 11:23](#))
- And his feet will actually stand in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees, which is in front of Jerusalem, on the east, and the mountain of the olive trees must be split at its middle, from the sunrising and to the west. There will be a very great valley, and half of the mountain will actually be moved to the north, and half of it to the south.
- And his feet will actually stand in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees, which is in front of Jerusalem, on the east, and the mountain of the **olive trees** must be split at its middle, from the sunrising and to the west. There will be a very great valley, and half of the mountain will actually be moved to the north, and half of it to the south. ([Zechariah 14:4](#))
- 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](#))
- This chain includes three major summits. Mount Scopus, the highest and most northerly, rises to about 820 meters (2,700 feet) and, hence, higher than the general elevation of Jerusalem.
- The so-called Mount of Offense, or Mount of Ruination, is the most southerly of the summits and rises to about 740 meters (2,430 feet).
- The central summit, across from the Temple Mount, is about 812 meters (2,664 feet) at its highest point and is the one generally referred to in the Bible as the **Mount of Olives**. Anciently, this ridge was covered with palm, myrtle, oil, and, particularly, **olive trees**.
- And that they should make proclamation and cause a call to pass

throughout all their cities and throughout Jerusalem, saying; Go out to the mountainous region and bring in **olive leaves** and the leaves of oil trees and myrtle leaves and palm leaves and the leaves of branchy trees to make booths, according to what is written. (**Nehemiah 8:15**)

- From the **olive trees** this range got its name. During the Roman siege of Jerusalem in **70 C.E.**, however, the **Mount of Olives** was denuded of its trees. [*The Jewish War*, V, 523, xii, 4]
- Notable events of Bible history are associated with the **Mount of Olives**. King David, barefoot and weeping, ascended the **Mount of Olives** as he fled from his rebellious son Absalom.
- At once David said to all his servants that were with him in Jerusalem; Get up, and let us run away, for there will prove to be no escaping for us because of Absalom! Go hurriedly, for fear he may hurry up and actually catch up with us and bring down upon us what is bad and strike the city with the edge of the sword! (**2 Samuel 15:14**)
- And David was going up by the ascent of the **Olives**, weeping as he went up, with his head covered, and he was walking barefoot, and all the people that were with him covered each one his head, and they went up weeping as they went up. (**2 Samuel 15:30**)
- And it came about that when David himself came to the summit where people used to bow down to God, here to meet him was Hushai the Archite, with his robe ripped apart and dirt upon his head. (**2 Samuel 15:32**)
- King Solomon built high places for idolatrous worship there to the right, or south of the Mount of Ruination, but King Josiah later made these unfit for worship.
- It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)
- And the high places that were in front of Jerusalem, that were to the right of the Mount of Ruination, that Solomon the king of Israel had built to Ashtoreth the disgusting thing of the Sidonians and to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab and to

Milcom the detestable thing of the sons of Ammon, the king made unfit for worship. (**2 Kings 23:13**) Footnote

- In the **First Century C.E.**, Jesus Christ often met with his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, located on or in the vicinity of the **Mount of Olives**.
- Finally, after singing praises, they went out to the **Mount of Olives**. (**Matthew 26:30**)
- Then Jesus came with them to the spot called Gethsemane, and he said to the disciples; Sit down here, while I go over there and pray. (**Matthew 26:36**)
- Having said these things, Jesus went out with his disciples across the winter torrent of Kidron to where there was a garden, and he and his disciples entered into it. (**John 18:1**)
- Now Judas, his betrayer, also knew the place, because Jesus had many times met there with his disciples. (**John 18:2**)
- When at Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples customarily spent the night at Bethany on the East slope of the **Mount of Olives**, undoubtedly in the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.
- And leaving them behind he went outside the city to Bethany and passed the night there. (**Matthew 21:17**)
- And he entered into Jerusalem, into the temple, and he looked around upon all things, and, as the hour was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. (**Mark 11:11**)
- So by day he would be teaching in the temple, but by night he would go out and lodge on the mountain called the **Mount of Olives**. (**Luke 21:37**)
- Now there was a certain man sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of Mary and of Martha her sister. (**John 11:1**)
- Apparently from Bethphage, near Bethany, Jesus, seated on the colt of an ass, commenced his triumphal ride over the **Mount of Olives** to Jerusalem.
- 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 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**)
- And it was on the **Mount of Olives** that he explained to his disciples what the sign of his presence would be.
- While he was sitting upon the **Mount of Olives**, the disciples approached him privately, saying; Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things? (**Matthew 24:3**)
- And as he was sitting on the **Mount of Olives** with the temple in view, Peter and James and John and Andrew began to ask him privately. (**Mark 13:3**)
- Finally, after his resurrection, Jesus ascended from there into the heavens.
- And after he had said these things, while they were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud caught him up from their vision. (**Acts of Apostles 1:9**)
- And as they were gazing into the sky while he was on his way, also, look! Two men in white garments stood alongside them. (**Acts of Apostles 1:10**)
- And they said; Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who was received up from you into the sky will come thus in the same manner as you have beheld him going into the sky. (**Acts of Apostles 1:11**)
- 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**)