

Olives (Mount of Olives)

The Mount of Olives is a two-mile long ridge, or foot hill, with three summits on it. Just to the east of the Mount of Olives is the wilderness (i.e., desert) that leads down to Jericho and the Jordan Valley. It is named after the groves of olive trees that grew there in the Old and New Testament times. David ascended the Mount of Olives when he fled from his son Absalom (2 Samuel 15:30), and Solomon built temples for foreign gods there on what is called

in 2 Kings 23:13 the “Hill of Corruption.”

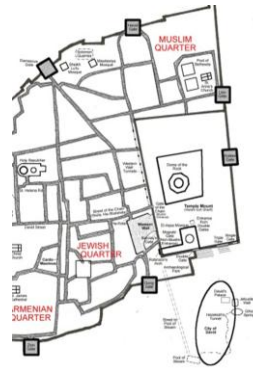
Details of several of Jesus’ activities on the Mount of Olives are recorded in the gospels. This has led to numerous churches being built on these “holy” sites from the time of the Byzantine Empire in the early days of the church. When Jesus was in Jerusalem he often stayed in Bethany, a village on the east side of the Mount of Olives, about a two mile walk southwest of Jerusalem. The walk from Jerusalem to Bethany took Jesus through Gethsemane and straight up to the summit of the Mount of Olives (then along the ridge), which is today a modern road to Bethphage. Following another ridge, the road then leads into Bethany.

It is believed that the Jewish Messiah will appear on the Mount of Olives. This belief has led centuries of Jews dating back to the Old Testament to place their graves here.

-On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley. – Zechariah 14:4

-The glory of the Lord went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it. – Ezekiel 11:23

-Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. – Ezekiel 43:1,2



Mount of Olives



The



Toni