

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Where Christ ascended and will return

Luke 21:37 And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.

There was something special about the mount of Olives. The Lord taught in the Temple during the day but preferred the environment on the mount of Olives at night. Jesus appeared to enjoy staying in this mount the entire night. Why? What is special about the mount of Olives and what lessons may we draw for our spiritual edification? There is a clue in the Book of Zechariah that may help us to unlock this mystery. “And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth” (Zechariah 4:12-14; see image). If the candlesticks (Menorah) represent the churches as we know from the Book of Revelation, it means the olives point to the anointing that sustains the spiritual life of the people of God. Praise Jesus! Put another way, the mount of Olives is intimately connected with the ascension and return of the Lord because it he leaves his church with his anointing and will return expecting the anointing to flow. Let us look to the mount of Olives and never forget this precious lesson. Let us begin with this mysterious relation between the return of the Lord and the mount of Olives.

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Note that the great chapter of Matthew 24 about the signs of the return of the Lord begins with the mount of Olives. In order to receive the revelation about the Lord's return, we need to sit with him, so to speak, on the mount of Olives. Once we are under his anointing and at his feet, we will not be deceived by the beauty of this world. King Herod was wicked and tried to cover up his wickedness by building the most exquisite Temple for the Jews but the Lord told the Apostles. “And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2). We need the anointing of the mount of Olives so we can avoid the deceptions of this world, saints of God! That is a good place to be – the place where the anointing of Jesus opens spiritual eyes. The Apostles would never again look with admiration on the

Temple – its destiny had been revealed on the mount of anointing. I pray the Lord take us up to the mount of Olives and expose the vanities of this world!

We further see the power of the symbolism of anointing on the mount of Olives when the Lord sent his Apostles to prepare the donkey he was to ride into Jerusalem. “And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me” (Matthew 21:1,2). Once again we see how this was connected to the fulfilment of the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah. “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass” (Zechariah 9:9). Had they eyes to see and ears to hear, they would have known this heralded the coming of the Messiah. Once again, the mount of Olives is associated with revelation of the coming of the Messiah.

The day finally came when the Lord took his disciples to bid them farewell. We should not be surprised that he chose the mount of Olives as the spot for his ascension. In leaving the world from this spot, the Lord was highlighting the importance of anointing – “Stay anointed until my return”, was what he basically was communicating through the choice of this location. “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey” (Acts 1:11,12). They disciples were not to stand there on the mount of Olives just gazing into the sky – they had work to do, but first they must take the anointing with them. In fact, it was on the same mountain that the Lord preached about the Holy Spirit to be soon poured out. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Finally, the day will come when the Lord will return, and we know where his feet will touch ground. “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (Zechariah 14:4). Jesus is expecting to return to a church with anointing. Now we can better understand the parable of the 10 virgins when seen in conjunction with the symbolism of the mount of Olives. “Then shall the

kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps” (Matthew 25:1-4). We cannot wait at the mount of Olives for the return of the Lord without the oil of anointing of the Holy Spirit. Those who have the anointing until the Lord returns will not miss his return. We trust we will even return with him from heaven on that day. The mount of Olive represents the bridge between heaven and earth. It was the last point from which the Lord left this earth, and the first point he touches down upon. We will leave this world with the anointing of the oil of the Holy Spirit and return with Jesus with the same anointing.

***Rom 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*