

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

CHRIST LAST VISIT TO THE TEMPLE

1. He cleansed the temple of the corruption of the money changers. Matt 21: 12 – 17.
2. The next day He cursed the barren fig tree. Matt 21: 18 – 20
3. Christ also delivered His most caustic condemnation against the religious leaders. Matt 23.
4. His disciples came to Him with great excitement about the magnificence of the temple and other buildings.
 - a) This second temple started rebuilding around 538 BC with permission from Cyrus II the Great, king of Persia.
 - b) Under Roman rule, it was substantially refurbished by Herod the Great around 20 BC and was completed AD 64.
 - c) The disciples saw this impressive building as symbol of the evidence of the solidarity of Israel's religious life and God's blessing upon Jerusalem.
5. Before Jesus reply to them, His attention was drawn to an extreme sacrificial giving by a poor widow. Luke 21:1 – 21. Our Lord paid attention to the least of his children.
6. Christ now gives attention to the excitement of the Temple of the disciples. He gave a most disturbing and (AD 32) troubling warning to the disciples – the destruction of Jerusalem and it temple.
 - a) This most sad and dire prediction by our Lord fulfilled in 70 AD or six years after the temple was completed and less than 40 years after Jesus made this prediction (Matthew 24: 1- 2).
 - b) After many years of rebellion against the rule of the Roman Empire, Vespasian was sent with a huge army to put down the rebellion. Before he could do so, he was elected to become the next Emperor. Titus, his son succeeded him as General.
 - c) The Roman army put the city under siege – no one could go in or out of Jerusalem for many months. In the meantime:
 1. Starvation broke out – Mothers were eating their babies just to stay alive.
 2. They were fighting among themselves – they paid no real attention to what was going on outside their walls.
 3. Finally the enemies entered the City and put the people to the sword. When the dust was settled six hundred thousand – one million people were slaughtered within one week. Many of the Jews actually took their lives than be killed by the enemies.
4. It is estimated that up to ten thousand Jews were taken to Rome where they were sold as slaves and scattered all over the empire.

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5. Since 70 AD the Jewish people were without a home, an identity and a nation until May 14, 1948 when the United Nation declared the land of Israel as the homeland of the Jews. This action was the fulfillment God's promises hundreds of years ago though the Prophet Ezekiel {chapter 37}.
6. Since getting their independence in 1948, they have fought four major wars with their Arab neighbors who refuse to recognize their right to the Land of Israel (1948, 1967 and 1973). Of course they have had to fight minor wars with their Arab neighbors. Up until the present time no real agreement for has been reached.
7. The conflict between the Jews and the Arabs cannot be solved by any world leader. Only God Almighty will be able put an end to this problem and that this could be much nearer than anyone one us think.
8. The restoration of the Jewish People to their homeland since 70 AD is perhaps, the most important sign of the end time (Matthew 24: 32 – 34).
9. Note: some Scripture passages for our consideration:
 - (a) Jesus lamented over Jerusalem- Matthew 23: 37 – 39.
 - (b) Our Lord wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19: 1-44)
 - (c) The Jews pronounced God's Judgment on themselves and their children. (Matthew 27: 21 -26).