

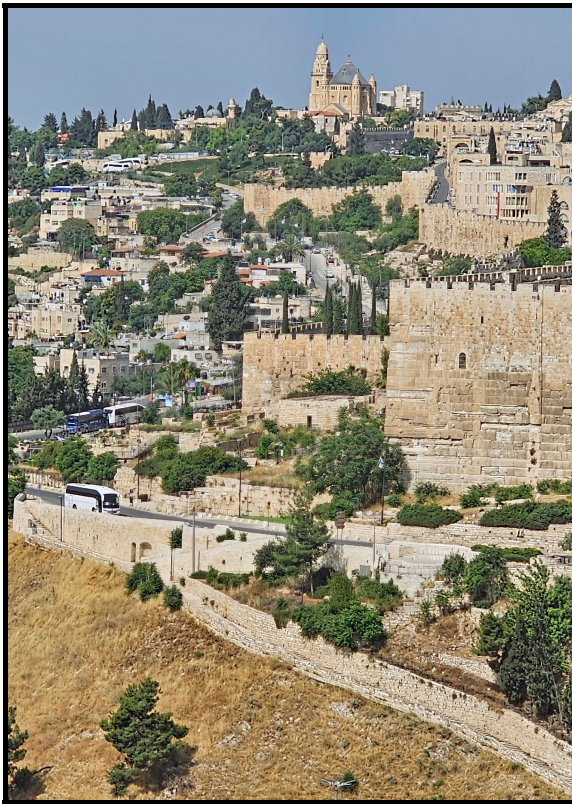
## THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

### Introduction

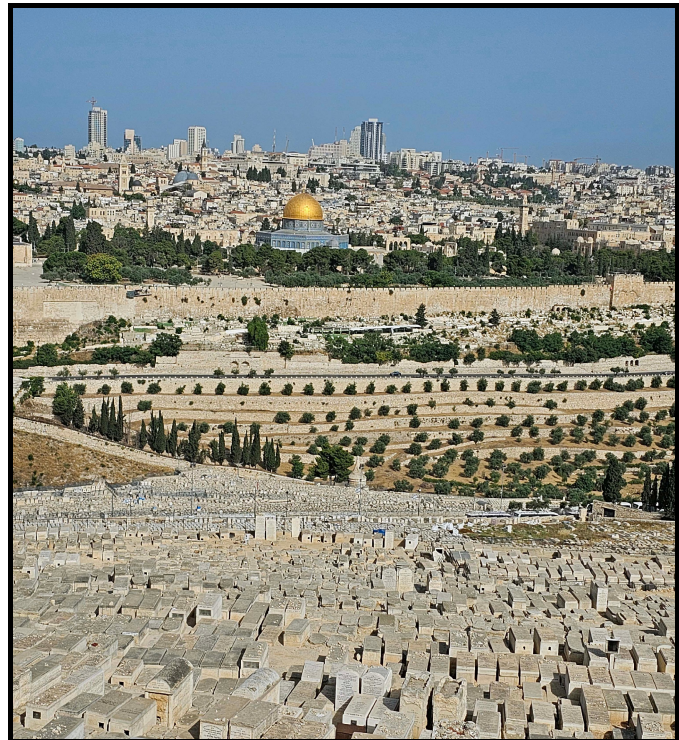
The Mount of Olives is across the Kidron Valley from the eastern side of Jerusalem's Old City. It gained its name from its many olive groves with more than 1,000 trees. The western face collects rainfall from the Mediterranean Sea and the ground contains decomposed limestone which makes for fertile orchards. The central hill is 2,684 feet and provides a spectacular view of the Temple Mount.

The Dead Sea is 15 miles to the east with the Judean desert and the mountains of Jordan in the distance. The northern summit is Mount Scopus and to the south is a pass with an ancient Roman road to Jericho. Another pass to the south leads to Bethany. The southern hill is called the Mount of Offense because it is where Solomon built temples for his foreign wives.

At the base of the Mount of Olives is the site of a 3,000-year-old Jewish cemetery where many prominent Jews are buried. It holds 150,000 graves and the cost for the remaining burial plots is \$500,000 each. According to Jewish teaching, the resurrection of the dead will begin at this cemetery. Messiah will appear on the Mount of Olives and head to the Temple Mount.



**A view of Jerusalem from  
the Mount of Olives**



**Part of the cemetery at the base of  
the Mount of Olives**

Prophecies that include the Mount of Olives:

- Ezekiel records the vision of the glory of God departing from the temple and resting on the Mount of Olives, Ezekiel 11:23.
- Upon Jesus' return, He will stand on the Mount of Olives and it will be split in two from east to west, Zechariah 14:4

## Biblical events that took place on the Mount of Olives

- David flees Absalom and travels through the Mount of Olives, 2 Samuel 15:13-37
- Solomon constructed *high places* for foreign deities of Sidon, Moab and Ammon which were later destroyed by Josiah, 2 Kings 23:13-14.
- It is believed that Jesus and His disciples spent many nights on the Mount of Olives. There were not many villages on the Mount besides Bethany and Bethpage. The olive grove was where many visitors would sleep, especially at Passover, when Jerusalem's population more than tripled.
- The *Olivet Discourse* prophesying the end of the age and Jesus' second coming, Matthew 24-25
- Jesus declared to His disciples that the Temple would be destroyed, Matthew 24:3-46; Mark 13:3-37; Luke 21:7-38
- The betrayal and abandonment of Jesus prophesied in the Old Testament, Psalm 41:9, Zechariah 13:7, Matthew 26:31
- Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10
- Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem, Luke 19:41-44
- Jesus foretells Peter's denial, Matthew 26:30-35
- Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives, Luke 22:39-46
- Jesus arrested on the Mount of Olives, Matthew 26:30-56; Mark 14:26-50; Luke 22:39-54
- Jesus's ascended to heaven after His resurrection, Acts 1:6-12.

## Gethsemane

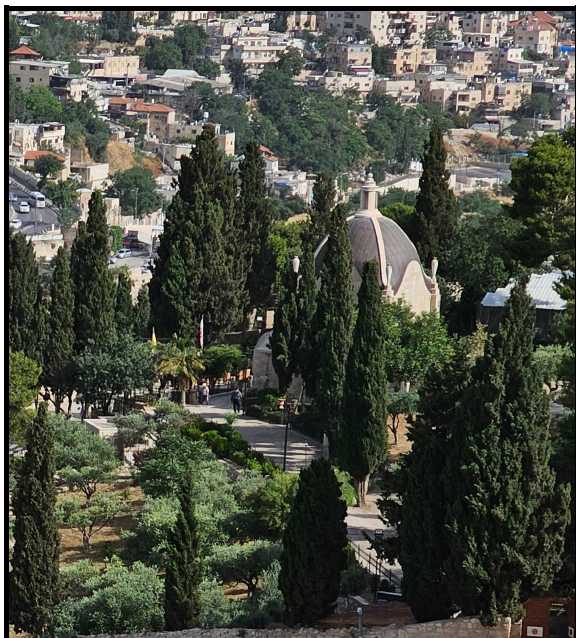
Gethsemane is a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The meaning of the name is *oil press*. The word is only used in Matthew 26:36 and Mark 14:32. It is also evident that Jesus and his disciples gathered in Gethsemane often for fellowship and prayer, Luke 22:39, and John 18:2, *Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.*

This is where Jesus Christ underwent extreme agony in the garden and was arrested before His crucifixion, Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46. Note Matthew 26:39, *And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."*

The healing of Malchus, a servant of the high priest was healed by Jesus as He was arrested, John 18:10, *Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)* And Luke 22:51, *But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.*



An olive tree in Gethsemane

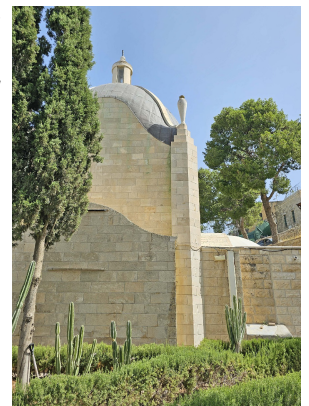


Dominus Flevit Church

## Dominus Flevit

Dominus Flevit is a church at the location where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. It is on the western slope of the Mount of Olives, Luke 19:41-44, *And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

The church was completed in 1955 and rests upon ruins dating back to the Canaanite period and tombs from the Second Temple Period (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC to 70 AD). It is constructed in the shape of a teardrop to symbolize the tears of Jesus Christ. It has tear vials on the four corners of its dome.



A picture of a tear vial



**Ossuaries at Dominus Flevit**

Many ossuaries (human bone boxes) have been excavated at the Dominus Flevit site, some inscribed with biblical names such as Martha, Mary, Salome, Sapphira, Simeon, Jonah, John, Joseph, and Zechariah. One ossuary was identified as that of James the half-brother of Jesus.

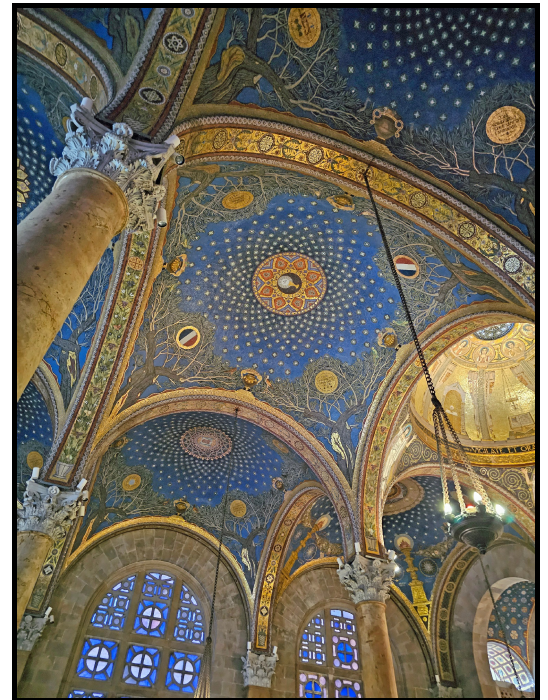
### **Church of All Nations**

The Church of All Nations is near the foot of the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. It is built over the rock on which Jesus is believed to have prayed in agony the night before he was crucified, Luke 22:44, *And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.* Another name for the church is the Basilica of the Agony. In front of the high altar is a flat outcrop of rock, which a long Christian tradition identifies as the Rock of Agony where Jesus prayed.

National symbols of 12 donors: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain and the United States of America, are inside the ceiling domes. On the facade of the Church of All Nations, the triangular area over the great portal displays an impressive mosaic. Jesus is depicted as the Mediator between God and mankind with His heart placed in the hands of an angel. On Jesus' left, masses of lowly people, in tears, look to Him with confidence. On His right, a group powerful and wise people acknowledge their shortcomings in His presence.



**The front of the Church of All Nations**



**Part of the lovely interior of Church of All Nations**