



# THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

The Mount of Olives holds an important place in Christianity. It is the place of some of the most important events in the life of Christ, both past and future. It was here that Jesus taught His disciples during His mission in Jerusalem. Here He was made a prisoner, He wept for Jerusalem, and ascended to heaven. The Church of all Nations has an ornately decorated facade. The Garden of Gethsemane, with its grove of ancient olive trees, dates back to Byzantine times and is cared for today by the Franciscan Brotherhood. Both are important holy sites for visitors.

The next elevation to the south is called "The Prophets" because of the presence of tombs, believed to be those of Absalom, James, and Zechariah, father of John the Baptist. The southernmost elevation is called the Mount of Offense, being associated with the places of idolatrous worship, which Solomon built through the influence of his heathen wives. The hill is covered with churches and shrines, most commemorating places where Jesus stopped during His last week before the crucifixion (Passion Week). The mountain has always been a burial ground and pious Jews still hope to be buried here, since Scripture promises the Messiah will return to Jerusalem from this vantage point (Zechariah 14:4).

