

The Glorious Land of Daniel 11:41

by John C. Witcombe

Is the glorious land of Daniel 11:41 the literal land of Palestine? This verse is speaking of events that take place in the time of the end—post 1798. What is so glorious about Palestine? Could it be that the glory of the land is on account of a glorious holy mountain that resides in this land?

When God is present, the ground becomes holy. Moses and Joshua were both told to take off their shoes in the presence of God:

“And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” Exodus 3:5

“And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.” Joshua 5:15

When God was present on Mount Sinai, that mountain was holy:

“And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death.” Exodus 19:12

None of those spots are holy today because God is not present at those places today. And yet there is a geographical spot on planet earth that Jesus called holy post 34 AD. What is this spot and what makes it holy?

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the **holy place**, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.” Matthew 24:15, 16

Where was that strategic spot where the idolatrous Roman standard was to be set up? It was on the Mount of Olives:

“From the ridge of Olivet, the very spot afterward occupied by Titus and his army, He looked across the valley upon the sacred courts and porticoes.” GC 21

“The closeness of the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem's walls made this series of hills a grave strategic danger. The Roman commander Titus had his headquarters on the northern extension of the ridge during the siege of Jerusalem in A. D. 70. He named the place Mount Scopus, or ‘Lookout Hill,’ because of the view which it offered over the city walls. The whole hill must have provided a platform for the Roman catapults that hurled heavy objects over the Jewish fortifications of the City.”

<http://www.bible-history.com/jesus/jesusuntitled00000453.htm>

From the following reference we see that Cestius also pitched his camp on the Mount of Olives in A.D. 66, as did Titus. This was the signal for the Christians to flee and fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus:

“November 14–16, A.D. 66: Cestius attacks and pursues the rebels to Jerusalem. He pitches camp on Mount Scopus for three days to collect food from local villages.”

<http://www.josephus.org/warChronology2.htm>

It is clear that Jesus called an area outside the city walls a holy place. What made this spot holy in 66 AD, 32 years after the close of the nation of Israel’s 490 year probation? It cannot be holy on account of the city of Jerusalem, the temple or the Jewish people. These all came under a curse in 34 AD and were destroyed in 70 AD. It has to be holy on account of the fact that this spot will be where God’s throne will be located at a future date. This mountain will spread out and provide a foundation for New Jerusalem which will encompass the geographical territory of Israel.

Zechariah writes:

“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

Here is what Ellen White said about this geographical spot:

“As the place of His ascension, Jesus chose the spot so often hallowed by His presence while He dwelt among men. Not Mount Zion, the place of David's city, not Mount Moriah, the temple site, was to be thus honored. There Christ had been mocked and rejected. There the waves of mercy, still returning in a stronger tide of love, had been beaten back by hearts as hard as rock. Thence Jesus, weary and heart-burdened, had gone forth to find rest in the Mount of Olives. The holy Shekinah, in departing from the first temple, had stood upon the eastern mountain, as if loath to forsake the chosen city; so Christ stood upon Olivet, with yearning heart overlooking Jerusalem. The groves and glens of the mountain had been consecrated by His prayers and tears. Its steep slopes had echoed the triumphant shouts of the multitude that proclaimed Him king. On its sloping descent He had found a home with Lazarus at Bethany. In the garden of Gethsemane at its foot He had prayed and agonized alone. From this mountain He was to ascend to heaven. Upon its summit His feet will rest when He shall come again. Not as a man of sorrows, but as a glorious and triumphant king He will stand upon Olivet, while Hebrew hallelujahs mingle with Gentile hosannas, and the voices of the redeemed as a mighty host shall swell the acclamation, Crown Him Lord of all!” DA 829

Because holiness of this mountain is based upon God choosing this spot for His future capital city, the Mount of Olives can continue to be called a glorious holy mountain even after the probation for the people of Israel comes to an end. This spot on earth still was significant even when Israel and Judah were both taken from the land into captivity. Daniel still prayed towards this spot even though the temple and city lay in ruins. So we know that it is not the Jewish people that made this geographical spot significant.

When God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees, He brought him to the glorious land. This land was not glorious because Abraham and his rebellious descendants would be living there. No, it was the glorious land because it was the land of the glorious holy mountain—the mountain that God had chosen as the spot to place the center of the capital city of the universe—New Jerusalem. It wasn’t the people of God that made their land the glorious land, because when they no longer were God’s chosen people the geography is still called the glorious land in Daniel 11:41 (after 1798) on account of the Mount of Olives—the glorious holy mountain of Daniel 11:45.