Thursday of the Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Lk* 17:20-25): Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus said in reply, “The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed (…). The kingdom of God is among you (…). There will be those who will say to you, ‘Look, there he is,’ or ‘Look, here he is.’ Do not go off, do not run in pursuit. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.”

The "Eschatological Discourse"

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we introduce the great "Eschatological Discourse" which takes as its central themes the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple, the Last Judgment and the end of the world. This discourse —found in all three Synoptic Gospels with certain variations— could, perhaps, be described as the most difficult text in the whole of the Gospels.

This is due in some measure to the complexity of its contents. The text refers, partly, to historical events that have taken place in the meantime, but mainly to a future that lies altogether beyond time. Jesus, speaking as He always does in continuity with the Law and the Prophets presents this material using a wave of scriptural allusions, within which He locates the new elements of His mission: the Son of Man brings the Justice of God before anything else, offering His life for us.

—It is not a matter of describing the future (as it could be expected from seers), but of inserting the substance of the future in the Word of God, by guiding us on the straight path for today and for tomorrow.