

Tuesday 34th in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 21,5-11): While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts, Jesus said to them, «The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another of all that you now admire; all will be torn down» (...).

Demolition of the Temple of Jerusalem

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today starting the "Eschatological Discourse", we find again the announcement of the dramatic end of the Temple of Jerusalem. The "Lord of History" neither was wrong nor was he exaggerating... Indeed, on the 5th of August, 70 AD (about 40 years after his Ascension) there was an event of great consequence for the history of religions: because of the shortage of the necessary elements, the daily sacrifice in the Temple had to suspend. Shortly after that, it was demolished by the Romans.

For Judaism, the cessation of slaughter and destruction of the Temple had to be a terrible shock. The Temple and sacrifice were at the center of the Torah. And even more: God, who had put his name in the Temple and lived in it mysteriously, abandoned it, and it was no longer his home on earth. The Old Testament should be read in a new way!

—It is the Blood of the Lamb of God (Jesus) that takes away the sins of the world; the blood of killed animals was just a figure of that supreme reality.