ZION**AND THE CHURCH.

Some of the references to Zion made in the scroptures refer to heaven, Some to the city of Jerusalem, while others prophesy of the Church. its establishment and facts which pertain to it, its duties and position in the plan of God for the redemption of man.

Heb. 12-22 After mentioning the giving the Law of Moses at Mount Sinia, Verse 18-But ye are come to Mount Sion, and to the city of the living God the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. Verse 23 And to the General assembly and church of the First Born, which are written in heaven, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.--The writer uses Mt. Sion and the Church of the first born, synanomus as equal to each other.

Isiah 2,1-4Fore telling the establishing of the Mountain of the Lords' House, ''For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of ths Lord from Jerusalem--Is. 14,32 The Lord hath founded Zion. Mt. 16,12-18 Jesus ~~sta~~ states "upon this rock I will build my Chuech"(the fact that Peter stated "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God"-The Church of the First Born(Christ). The foundation to be laid was foretold in Is. 28,16-Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner st stone, a sure foundation: He that believeth shall not make haste.--1 Cor. 3 10-Paul says"I have laid the foundation. Verse 11 Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus."--Mt. 21,42 Jesus rebuking the Jews who were opposing Him-"Did ye never read in the scriptures, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same has become the headstone of the corner?" 45 They perceived He spake of them.-Ac. 4,11Peter speaking to the Jews who refused to believe in Christ, "This is the stone set at nought of you builders, which is become the Head of the Corner, Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."-The Prophesies were made-the Foundation to be laid -the City of Zion to be established.--The Law to go forth out of Zion, the word to go forth out of Jerusalem. Jesus being assembled with the disciples just before He ascended Acts 1,8 <u>But ye shall receive power</u>, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earthVerse 4 And being assembled with them, ~~ee~~ commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for t the promise of the Father, which saith He, ye have heard of me.--<u>Tarry in the City of Jerusalem until you receive that power</u>.--Lu24,45 Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures. 46 And said unto them thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise again from the dead the third day. 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM.-49 And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high. The word of the Lord was to go out from Jerusalem. They were to ~~reesi~~ eive power when the Holy Ghost came on them.- They were to tarry in Jerusalem until they received that power. Then be witnesses of Him in the places mentioned, which they began doing as recorded in Acts 2,1-4 They were all with one accord in one place, The Holy Ghost Came on them, And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to Speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them witness.-They began witnessing for Christ and obeying the command He gave them In Mt. 28-18 All power is given me both in heaven and earth. 19Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizeing them in the namd of the Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the earth/--The law began going forth out of Zion-(the church)The Apostles were the first members placed in the Church 1 Cor. 12,28 He placed some in the church, first the Apostles--. They began laying the foundation to *the*, Jews gathered there. Convinceing the Jews that they had crucified C*hrist* the Son of God, that God had raised Him from the dead. They believed it and were pricked in their hearts and cried men and brethren what shall we do? Peter answered them, Repent and be bapt tized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of ~~ye~~ your sins, and ye shall receive the G ift of the Holy Ghost, for the promise if unto you and your children and all that are afar off as many as the Lord your God shll call. Vese *40* And with many other words did he testify a and exhort saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then t they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day they ~~wer~~ were added unto them about three thousand souls. Chapter 4-4 *5*000 more were converted. Now turn with me toEph, 2,19 Paul writing to the Ephesians, after their conversion, "Now therefore ye are no more foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens of the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.--Turn to page 2.

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We see by these references that that the prophesies were fulfilled. It (the church)began sending out the word,From the Ciity of Jerusalem Now let us read Heb.12,18-25-Verse 22 But ye are come to Mt.Sion,and unto the city of the living God.the heavenly Jerusalem,and to an innumerable able company of angels,23 To the general assemblyand church of the First born(Christ),which are written in heaven,and to God the Judge of all,and to the spirits of Just men made perfect,And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,and to the blood of sprinkling-(the blood of Christ) that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Christ did not build a church which did not have its beginning in the city of Jerusalem,And on the first Pentecost after the resurrection.of Christ,when all power was given unto Him.He then began to reign in Zion-Sion) when the ones converted,began submitting to His will Is.24,23.Mica 4-7--The church now is subject to Christ now Eph.5,24.Peterhas this to add to this 1 Pet.2,5 To whom coming as unto a living stone(Christ the foundation)disallowed indeed of men,but chosen of God and precious,Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house,an holy priesthood,to offer up spiritual sacrifices,acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.-Wherefore it is also contained in the scriptures,"Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone,elect ,precious;and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.Unto you who believe He is precious:But unto them which be disobedient,the stone which the builders disallowed,the same is become the head of of the corner.

2 Cor 5-1-For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved,we have a building of God,an house not made with hands,eterna eternal in the heavens.--1 Cor 3,9 For we are labourers together with God, ye are God's husbandry,ye are God's building.--2 Cor.6,16 What agreement hath the temple of God with Idols?For ye are the temple of the living God:as God hath said,I will dwell w in them,and walk in them;and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

He will come to Zion,Isiah 59,20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion. Jn1,11He came to His own and Hisown Read Him not(the Jrws),But as many as re received Him,gave he them power to become the sons of God.

A begettal and birth is necessary to becom sons Jn.3,1-8 Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Isiah 66,7-8 As soon as Zion travailed she brought forth-Fulfilled Ac2-38-47.-Gal.4,19 My little children,of whom I travail in birth again,until Christ be formed in you anew Jas.1,18 Of His own will,begat He us with the word of truth. 1 Cor.4,15 Tho ye have ten thousand instructers in Christ,yet have ye not many fathers;for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel.Begotten with the word of truth--through the Gospel--The seed of the kingdom.

Born again-1 Pe.1,23 Born again,not of corruptible seed,but of incorruptible,by the worsd of God which liveth and abideth forever. Born again-delivered-Joel 2, 32-Obadiah 17 In Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance.Ro.11,26(Speaking of Christ)As it is written there shall come out of Zion the deliverer.-Lu.4,18 Christ speaking,The Lord hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor,He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted,to preach deliverance to the captives-Col,1-13 Christ) Who hath delivaed us from the power of darkness,and hath trans ate lated us into the kingdom of His dear Son In whom we have redemption theu His blood,even the forgiveness of sins.Ro.6,17 Having obeyed from the hear heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you,being then made from sin,ye became servants of righteousness.--Jesus said "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Referr now again to the references mentioned above,Dwell in Zion Is.3 17-Joel 3,16,17,18--1 Cor 3,16-1 Cor 6,19Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:therefore Glorify God in your body and your spirit,which are Gods.also read 2 Cor.6,16-Rev.21 3 Behold the temple of God is with men.

Roar from.Amos 1,2And He said ,the Lord shall roar from Zion,and utter His voice from Jerusalem.Also Joel 3,16-17--Isaiah 2,3 For out of Zion shall go forth the law,and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.1 Tim.3, 15The house of God ,which is the church of the living God,THE GROUND AND THE PILLAR OF THE TRUTH.--Reign in Zion.Isiah 24-23--Mi.4,7 The Lord sha shall reign in Zion.--Mt.28,18 And Jesus came and spake unto them saying all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.Go ye therefore and teac teach all nations,teaching them to observe all things that I have said unt unto you.Baptizing them in the name of the Father andof the Son and of t the Holy Ghost--.Eph.5,23 For Christ is the Head of the Church,and he is the saviour of the body,25 Husbands love your wives as Christ also loved t the church and gave Himself for it ;26 that He might present it to Himself a glorious church without spot or blemish a glorious Or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish Verse 26 -That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

J.H.Lackey Church of Christ.