

# DYERTHOUGHTS

== COMMON SENSE ==  
APOLOGETICS

## How the Church Began

The church began around 2000 years ago. It was not invented through the mind of man in response to some need for organization. It was in the mind of God from the foundation of the world. The church was actually in the plan of God before the Law of Moses. Paul tells us it was the eternal purpose of God (Eph 3:10-11). God made allusions and prophecies about the church in the Law and the Prophets. Daniel 2:44 says that God will set up His Kingdom which will be an everlasting one. Micah said (Micah 4:1-3) that God's mountain (Zion, which is where Jerusalem and the Temple are) would be exalted in the last days to the chief mountains and that many nations would come to it. Isaiah made reference to it when he stated (Isa 2:3) that the Word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem. Jesus referenced this in Luke 24:47 when He said repentance and remission of sins would be preached beginning in Jerusalem. When John the Baptist and Jesus arrived on the scene they began preaching that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand (Matthew 3:2, 4:17). Jesus even told us this Kingdom would be set up in the lifetime of the generation listening to him (Mark 9:1). Paul tells us that we have already been transferred into this Kingdom (Col 1:13). The only institution established by God between the earthly ministry of Jesus and the Apostles was the Church.

### What is the Church?

The Greek word means "called out". In reference to the church it means those who are called out of the world into the body of Christ. Anyone who has been baptized has been initiated into the body of Christ (1st Cor 12:13). In the Scriptures "the church" refers to the people not to a building. Romans 16:15 even makes a distinction between the church and the building where they meet. The church is made up of local Christians who meet together in order to worship and serve God.

## Where did it Begin?

It began in Jerusalem as was prophesied (Isa 2:3) and spoken of by Jesus (Lk 24:47). Jerusalem was originally called Salem in the days of Abraham (Gen 12) but later taken by King David and renamed Jerusalem. Originally Israel carried the tabernacle through the wilderness and into the land of Canaan. It was not until the time of Solomon that the Temple was built. This Temple was built in Jerusalem and was the center of worship for the Jews. Before Jesus ascended he told the Apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they received power (Acts 1:4-5). This happened one chapter later in Acts 2 when the Apostles had the Holy Spirit come upon them and enable them to speak in tongues. When the people responded to the Gospel message (Acts 2:37-38) they were added to the Church by God (Acts 2:47)

## When did it begin?

It began on the Jewish feast known as Pentecost. This was an annual festival day that fell on the seventh Sabbath following the Passover. Pentecost was the feast of Ingathering or Harvest to celebrate the first-fruits of the harvest. God was signifying that the church began as an ingathering of His first-fruits. Notice that in Jesus's earthly ministry the church is spoken of as future (MT 16:18) but in the book of Acts it is spoken of as a present reality (Acts 5:11, 8:1, 8:3, 11:22, 11:26, etc...)

## Who is the founder?

Jesus is the founder of the church. He promised that He would build it on the fact that He is the Christ (MT 16:16-18). Paul says that Jesus gave Himself for the church (Eph 5:25), that He is the cornerstone of its growth (Eph 2:20) and that He purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28).