

Note on Zion and the  
City of David.

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In the Quarterly statement of the  
Palestine Exploration Fund for April  
I observe that the Rev W. F. Birch  
still argues strongly in favour  
of the identification of the  
Southern end of the Moriah hill  
known as Ophel with the  
City of David and Zion, re-  
ferring the summit of the  
Temple Hill as "Mount Zion".  
I confess that this theory ap-  
pears to me <sup>in many respects</sup> ~~altogether~~  
at variance with the topo-  
graphical probabilities of the  
case, though it is <sup>quite</sup> ~~not~~ ~~impossible~~  
~~probable~~ that the term "City  
of David" as used by Jeremiah

may include Ophel. The truth  
 seems to be that in the course  
 of Hebrew history the terms Zion,  
 Hill of Zion and City of David  
 may have somewhat changed  
 in their application. The original  
 fortress of the Jebusites which  
 became in the first instance  
 the City of David could  
 scarcely have been elsewhere  
 than on the South end of  
 the west hill now usually  
 designated as Zion. <sup>Millo</sup>  
 afterwards known as Ophel  
 must have been an im-  
 portant outwork added by  
 David and Solomon <sup>as a spur</sup> to the  
 East of the original fortress

A little later <sup>after</sup> ~~when~~ David <sup>had</sup> bought  
the farm of Chamah on the  
Eastern or Moriah Hill and  
when Solomon had levelled  
the top of this for the temple  
he seems to have built his  
palace on the South or Ophel  
end of the same ridge  
perhaps in connection with  
the South side of the temple  
area. Consequently this as the  
seat of the reigning family he  
came in later times a  
City of David. Lastly ~~the~~ in  
the psalms and practical  
books Zion is evidently a  
general name for the whole  
of Jerusalem and here

town but more especially that  
part of it consecrated to  
the Service of God.

If the above is a correct  
account of the matter, then it  
follows that neither party  
in this discussion is wholly  
right or wholly wrong, and  
that the questions agitated  
relate rather to nomenclature  
than to ~~topography~~ topography.