

saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist, &c. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"—v. 13—18. The latter part may be paraphrased thus:—"Blessed art thou Simon the son of Jonah, for, *in the name of these others*, thou hast acknowledged in me the Divine, Almighty Rock of Israel.* Flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father which is above. And I say also unto thee, that I have already given *thee* a name which signifies a *stone*; thou shalt be *one of the foundation stones* of my spiritual Temple, which shall be eternal; for on this Rock *which thou hast now confessed*, I will build my Church, and no power of men or devils shall destroy it.' That this is the true meaning of the passage, I think we shall further see, by referring to the Revelation of St. John. In the 21st. Chap. this inspired Apostle tells us, that he had a vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem; the walls he saw garnished with precious stones, and supported by "*twelve foundations*," or twelve stones laid as the first tier of the building upon the foundation rock, and in these, he adds, were written "*the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb*." Here certainly the Romish notion that Peter was the one foundation, and that the other Apostles were built upon him, is utterly exploded, and his true position in Christ's spiritual Temple skewn, on the authority of an inspired writer. He was a *stone, a foundation stone*; being one of the first to preach the glorious gospel he occupied one of the nearest places to the Rock, but the other Apostles occupied a similar position as well as he.

But let us compare the Scriptures on this subject further, and let us ascertain from their records these two essential points. Do they ever speak of, or allude to Peter, as occupying that high

* Probably alluding to the well known predictions, Ps. 118. 22; Isa. 28. 16; &c. See also Isaiah 44. 8. literally "*there is no Rock*."