

It is not easy to dislocate history and scripture, but no records in either can be found on the side of Rome in this question.

I have dwelt on this point, because it has been the most obstinately contested and arrogantly asserted claim in the whole system of Romanism, and because it has led to the most despotic and arbitrary domination ever exercised by any christian potentate, lay or clerical.

Thus, this holy apostle St. Peter, this so-called Prince, this vicar of Jesus Christ, this rock upon which Roman Catholics build their Church, is made the unwilling author of grievous misrepresentations, falsehoods and wrongs in the Christian world. Again, as to the vexed passage—“On this rock I will build my Church,” I will add but a few words. As the uniform style of the scriptures is in figurative language so their uniform design is to testify of Christ; the very first testimony we receive of him in the Bible is highly figurative, “The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.”—*Gen. iii.*

When therefore in conformity with this figurative, style, and in relation to the sinner’s hope, the scriptures speak of a rock, as indicating an immovable and sure foundation, they naturally testify of Christ, therefore the passage in question issuing from His gracious lips, cannot have reference to any object inferior to himself, and therefore he spake of himself, when he said “on this rock I will build my Church,” and the words which he uses in *Math. viii.* may be considered as a key to the passage, “whoso heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken unto a wise man that built his house upon a rock, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell not, for it was founded on a rock.”