880 EPHESIANS. IL. 21, 22.   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION,   
 u1 Cor. foundation of the “apostles and pro-| 9 the apostles and pro-   
 aniv i. phets, Christ Jesus himself bei ne phets, Jesus Christ himself   
 stone ; oy y «| being the chief stone;   
 x Ps. 22. the all the corner fitly framed in| 2 in framed all building   
   
 y ch. 15, 16. is growing unto 7an holy   
 vi.   
 2 Cor, 16,   
 There is a transition from one image, a mystical body, in which it includes all the   
 political social, another, a material) saints, Old as well as New Test. But be-   
 upon the foundation of the apostles and sides the objections arising from the form   
 prophets (how is this to be under- of the sentence, which the English reader   
 stood? Is it a genitive of apposition, so eannot appreciate, there is this weighty   
 that the Apostles and Prophets themselves. one: the usage of the expression apostles   
 are the foundation? This has been sup- and prophets in ch. ili. 5. There un-   
 posed by numerous Commentators, from questionably the prophets are New Test.   
 Chrysostom to De Wette. But, not to prophets; and again in ch. iv. And it   
 mention the very many other objections is difficult to conceive that the Apostle   
 which have been well and often urged should have used the two words conjoined   
 against this view, this one is to my mind here, ina different sense. Even stronger   
 decisive, —that it entirely destroys the is the consideration arising from the whole   
 imagery of the passage. ‘The temple, into sense of the passage. All here is strictly   
 which these Gentiles were built, is the Christian, — post-Judaic, — consequent on   
 mystical body of the Son, in which the Christ’s death, and triumph, and His   
 Father dwells by the Spirit, ver. The coming preaching peace by the Spirit to   
 Apostles and Prophets [see below], yea, the united family of man. So that we   
 Jesus Christ Himself, as the great inclusive must decide for these prophets being New   
 Head Corner Stone (see again below], are Test. prophets: those who ranked next to   
 also built into temple. [That He in- the Apostles in the government of the   
 cludes likewise the foundation, and 1s the church: see Acts xi. 27, note. They were   
 foundation, is true, and must be remem- not in every case distinct the Apostles:   
 bered, butis not prominent here.] Clearly the apostleship probably always including   
 then the Apostles and Prophets cannot be the gift of prophecy: so that all the   
 the foundation, being here spoken of as Apostles themselves might likewise have   
 parts of the upper building, together with been prophets), Christ Jesus Himself (the   
 these Gentiles, and with Jesus Christ Him- Himself exalts the dignity of the temple,   
 self. But again, does the mean, the in that not only it has among its stones   
 foundation which the Apostles and Pro- Apostles and prophets, but the Lord Him-   
 phets have laid? So also very many self is into it) being the Head corner   
 Commentators. As clearly,—not thus. stone (see, besides reff., li. 26; Acts   
 To introduce them here as agents, is as iv. 11. The reference here is clearly to   
 consistent as the other. No agents are that Headstone of the Corner, which is not   
 here spoken of, but merely the fact of the only the most conspicuous but the most   
 great building in its several parts being important in the building: “which, being   
 built up together. The only remaining placed in the corner, joms and rules the   
 interpretation then is, to regard the geni- two walls of the building.” Builders set   
 tive as simply possessive: ‘the foundation up such a stone, or build such a pillar of   
 of the Apostles and Prophets,’ — ‘the brick, before getting up their walls, to   
 Apostles’ and Prophets’ foundation’ — rule and square them by. I must again   
 that upon which they as well as your- repeat, that the fact of Jesus Christ being   
 selves are built. This explanation, which Himself the foundation, however it under-   
 I find ascribed to Bucer only, seems to me lies the whole, is to be brought in as   
 beyond question right one. See more interfering with this portion of figure);   
 below.—But (2) who are the prophets? 21.] in whom (Christ keeps the   
 They have commonly been taken, without whole together : and not only so, but He is   
 enquiry, as the Old Test. prophets. And in reality the inclusive Head of the build-   
 certainly, the sense, some little strain- ing: it all consists, is upheld, is squared   
 ing, would admit of this view. They may and ruled by its unity to and in Him) all   
 be said to be built Christ, as belong- the building being framed exactly together   
 ing to that widest acceptation of His is growing (there seems no reason why