

Chapter 2

The Natiuitie of Chrif, 8. and manifeftation thereof to the Shepheards by an Angel & by them to others. 21. His Circumcifion. 22. His Prefentation, togeather with Simeons (as alfo Annes) atteftation and prophecying of his Pafsion, of the Iewes reprobation, and of the Gentils illumination. 41. His annual afcending to Hierufalem with his parents, to whom he was fubieft, and his fulnes of wifedom shewed among the Doctours at twelue of his age.

And it came to paffe, ^{a)}in thofe daies there came forth an Edict from Cæfar Auguftus, that the whole world fhould be enroled. ² This firft enroling was made by the Prefident of Syria Cyrinus. ³ And al went to be enroled, euery one into his owne citie. ⁴ And Iofeph alfo went vp from Galilee out of the citie of Nazareth into Iewrie, to the citie of Daudid that is called Beth-lehem: for becaufe he was of the houfe and familie of Daudid, ⁵ to be enroled with MARIE his defpoufed wife that was with child. ⁶ And it came to paffe, when they were there, her daies were fully come that fhe fhould be deliuered. ⁷ And fhe brought forth her firft begotten Sonne, and fwaddled him in clothes, and laid him downe in a manger; becaufe there was not place for them in the inne.

^a In the yeare, frō the creatiō of the world 5199. frō Noës flud, 2957. from the Natiuitie of Abrahā, 2015. frō Moyfes & the coming forth of the People of Ifrael out of Ægypt, 1510. frō Daudid anointed King, 1032. from the firft Olympias, 800. from the building of Rome, 752. hebdomada 63 according to the prophecie of Daniel (*c. 9*) that is, in the yeare 440. or there about: in the fixt Age of the world, whē there was vniuerfal peace in al the world: the Eternal God the Sonne of the Eternal Father, meaning to confecrate & fanctifie the world with his moft bleffed comming, being conceaued of the Holy Ghoft nine moneths after his cōception, IESVS CHRIST the fonne of God is borne in Bethlehem of Iuda, in the yeare of Cefar Auguftus 42. *Vfuard in Martyrol. Decēb. 25. according to the common ancient fuppotation.*

8 And there were in the fame cuntries shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches ouer their flock. 9 And behold, an Angel of our Lord stood beside them, and the brightness of God did shine round about them, and they feared with a great feare. 10 And the Angel said to them: Feare not, for behold I euangelize to you great ioy, that shall be to al the People: 11 because this day is borne to you a SAVIOUR which is Christ our Lord, in the citie of Dauid. 12 And this shall be a signe to you; You shall find the infant swaddled in clothes, and laid in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly armie, praising God, and saying, 14 *Glorie in the highest to God: and in earth peace to men of good wil.* 15 And it came to passe, after the Angels departed from them into Heauen, the shepherds spake one to another: Let vs goe ouer to Bethlehem, and let vs see this Word that is done, which our Lord hath shewed to vs. 16 And they came with speed; and they found MARIE and Ioseph, and the infant laid in the manger. 17 And seeing it, they vnderstood of the Word that had been spoken to them concerning this child. 18 And al that heard, did marvel; and concerning those things that were reported to them by the shepherds. 19 But MARIE kept al these words, conferring them in her hart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God in al things that they had heard, and seen, as it was said to them.

Gloria in excelsis at Maffe.

Gen. 17, 12.

21 And after eight daies were expired, that the child should be circumcised; his name was called IESVS, which was called by the Angel, before that he was conceived in the womb.

Lu. 1, 31.

Leu. 12, 6.

22 And after the daies were fully ended of her purification according to the law of Moyfes, they carried him into Hierusalem, to present him to our Lord (23 as it is written in the law of our Lord, *That euery male opening the matrice, shall be called holy to the Lord.*)

Exo. 13, 2.

24 and to giue a sacrifice Nu. 8, 16. Leu. 12, 8. according as it is written in the law of our Lord, a paire of turtles, or two yong pigeons. 25 And behold there was a man in

Hierufalem named Simeon, and this man was iust and religious, expecting the confolation of Ifrael: and the Holy Ghoft was in him. ²⁶ And he had receaued an anfwer of the Holy Ghoft, that he fhould not fee death vnles he faw firft the ^a)CHRIST of our Lord. ²⁷ And he came in Spirit into the Temple. And when his parents brought in the child IESVS, to doe according to the cuftome of the Law for him, ²⁸ he alfo tooke him into his armes, and bleffed God, and faid:

²⁹ NOW THOV *doeft dimiffe thy feruant O Lord,* according to thy word in peace.

Nunc dimittis
at Complin.

³⁰ *Becaufe mine eyes haue feen thy SALVATION,*

³¹ *Which thou haft prepared before the face of al Peoples:*

³² *A light to the reuelation of the Gentils, & the glorie of thy People Ifrael.*

³³ And his father and mother were marueling vpon thofe things which were fpoken concerning him. ³⁴ And Simeon bleffed them, and faid to MARIE his mother: Behold this is fet [♠]vnto the ruine, and vnto the refurrection of many in Ifrael, & for a figne which fhall be contradicted, ³⁵ and ^b)thine owne foule fhall a fword pearce, that out of many harts cogitations may be reuealed. ³⁶ And there was Anne a prophetiffe, the daughter of Phanuel, of the Tribe of Afer: she was farre ftriken in daies, and had liued with her husband feauen yeares from her virginitie. ³⁷ And she was [♠]a widdow vntil eightie and foure yeares; who departed not from the Temple, [♠]by faftings and praier [♣]feruing night and day. ³⁸ And she at the fame houre fodenly comming in, confefled to our Lord; and fpake of him to al that expected the redemption of Ifrael. ³⁹ And after they had wholly done al things according to the law of our Lord, they returned into Galilee, into their citie Nazareth.

^a See *Iohn. 1, 22. and 41.*

^b Simeon prophecied not only of Chrifft but alfo our B. Lady: fpecially of her forowes, wherein she was alwaies partaker with our Sauour, from his flight into Ægypt euen to his death.

^c λατρεύουσα

ftrong in fpirit
Exo. 23, 15.
34, 17.
Deu. 16, 1.

⁴⁰ And the child grew, and waxed 'ftrong': ful of wifedom, and the grace of God was in him. ⁴¹ And his parents went euery yeare vnto Hierufalem at the folemne day of Pafche. ⁴² And when he was twelue yeares old, they going vp into Hierufalem according to the cuftome of the feftiual day; ⁴³ and hauing ended the daies, when they returned, the child IESVS remained in Hierufalem: and his parents knew it not. ⁴⁴ And thinking that he was in the companie, they came a daies iourney, and fought him among their kinsfolke and acquaintance. ⁴⁵ And not finding him, they returned into Hierufalem, feeking him. ⁴⁶ And it came to paffe, after three daies they found him in the Temple fitting in the middes of the Doctours, hearing them and asking them. ⁴⁷ And al were aftonifhed that heard him, vpon his wifedom & anfwers.

⁴⁸ And feeing him, they wondered. And his mother faid to him: Sonne, why haft thou fo done to vs? behold thy father and I forowing did feeke thee. ⁴⁹ And he faid to them: What is it that you fought me? did you not know, that I muft be about thofe things which are my Fathers? ⁵⁰ And they vnderftood not the word that he fpake vnto them. ⁵¹ And he went downe with them, and came to Nazareth; and was ſubiect to them. And his mother kept al thefe words in her hart. ⁵² And IESVS proceeded in wifedom and age, and grace with God and men.

ANNOTATIONS

14 Men of good wil) The birth of Chrifft giueth not peace of mind or faluation but to fuch as be of good wil, becaufe he worketh not our good againft one willes, but our willes concurring. *Aug. quæft. ad Simplic. li. 1. q. 2. to. 4.*

Free wil.

19 Kept al) Our Lady though litle be fpoken of her concerning fuch matters in the Scriptures, becaufe she was a womā and not admitted to teach or difpute in publick of high myfteries: yet she knew al thefe myfteries, and wifely noted and contemplated of thofe things that were done and faid about Chrifft, from the firft houre of his Conception til the end of his life and his Afcenfion.

Our B. Lady ful of deep contemplations.

- 34 To the ruine) Therefore to the ruine of some, because they would not beleue in him, and so were the cause of their owne ruine, as he is elsewhere called *A ftumbling ftone*, because many would ftumble at him and so fal by their owne fault. Otherfome he raifed by grace from finne to iuftice, and so he was the refurrection of many. The Apoftle vfeth the like fpeech, faying: *We are to fome the odour of life, vnto life; to others, the odour of death vnto death.* Not that their preaching was to caufe death, but because they that would not beleue their preaching, wilfully incurred deadly finne and damnation.
- 37 A widow) Marke that widowhood is here mentioned to the commendation therof euen in the old Teftament alfo, and the fruit, and as it were the profeffion thereof, is here commended, to wit, fafting, praying, being continually in the Temple euen as S. Paul more at large for the ftate of the new Teftament fpeaketh of widowhood & virginitie, as being profeffions more apt and commodious for the feruice of God.
- 37 By faftings and praier feruing) Seruing, in the Greeke is *λατρεύουσα*, that is, doing diuine worship vnto God, as by praier, fo alfo by fafting: fo that fafting is *λατρεία*, that is, an act of Religion whereby we doe worship God, as we doe by praier, and not vfed only to fubdue our flesh, much leffe (as Heretikes would haue it) as a matter of pollicie.
- 51 Subiect to them) Al children may learne hereby, that great ought to be their fubiectiō and obedience to their Parents, when Chrift himfelf, being God, would be fubiect to his parents being but his creatures.
1. *Pet. 2, 1.* Mens ruine and damnation is of them felues.
2. *Cor. 2, 16.* Holy widowhood.
1. *Cor. 7.*
1. *Tim. 5.* Fafting an act of Religion.
- Dutiful obedience to parents.