

Chapter 13

The people fall againe to idolatrie and are afflicted by the Philistines. 3. An Angel telleth Manue his wife, that she shall haue a sonne, and that he shall be a Nazareite from his birth, 11. confirmeth the same to Manue. 16. They offer sacrifice to God. 24. The child is borne, called Samson, and blessed of God.

And againe the children of Israel did euill in the sight of our Lord: who deliuered them into the hands of the Philistines fourtie yeares. ² And there was a certaine man of Sarra, and of the stocke of Dan, named Manue, hauing a wife barren. ³ To whom an Angel of our Lord appeared, and said to her: Thou art barren and without children: but thou shalt conceiue & beare a sonne: ⁴ beware therefore that thou ^adrinke not wine & ficer, nor eate any vncleane thing: ⁵ because thou shalt conceiue and beare a sonne, whose head the rather shalt not touch: for he shall be a Nazareite of God, ^bfrom his infancie, and from his mothers wombe, and he shall beginne to deliuer Israel from the hands of the Philistines. ⁶ Who when she was come to her husband, said to him: A man of God came to me, hauing an Angelical countenance, exceeding terrible. Whom when I had asked, who he was, and whence he came, and by what name he was called, he would not tel me: ⁷ but this he answered: Behold thou shalt conceiue and beare a sonne: beware thou drinke not wine, nor ficer, and that thou eate not any vncleane thing: for the child shall be the Nazareite of God from his infancie, and from his mothers wombe vntill the day of his death. ⁸ Manue therefore prayed to our Lord, and

^a Abstinence not only from things vncleane by the law but also from wine and ficer was a preparation to the child, who should abstaine from them all his life.

^b Other Nazarites obserued a prescribed rule of abstinence for a time only. *Num. 6.* But Samson all his life; as a more perfect figure of Christ.

said: I beseech thee ô Lord, that the man of God, whom thou didst send, may come againe, and teach vs what we ought to doe concerning the child, that shall be borne. ⁹ And our Lord heard Manue praying, and the Angel of our Lord appeared againe to his wife sitting in the field. But Manue her husband was not with her. Who when she had seen the Angel, ¹⁰ hastened, and ranne to her husband: and she told him, saying: Behold the man hath appeared to me, whom I saw before. ¹¹ Who rose, and followed his wife: and coming to the man, said to him: Art thou he that didst speake to the woman? And he answered: I am. ¹² To whom, Manue, when, said he: Thy word shall be fulfilled, what wilt thou that the child doe? or from what shall he keepe himself? ¹³ And the Angel of our Lord said to Manue: From all things, which I haue spoken to thy wife, let him refrain himself: ¹⁴ and whatsoever groweth of the vineyard, let him not eate: wine and ficer let him not drinke, let him not eate any vncleane thing: and whatsoever I haue commanded her, let him fulfil and keepe. ¹⁵ And Manue said to the Angel of our Lord: I beseech thee that thou condescend to my petitions, and let vs ^amake to thee a kidde of goates. ¹⁶ To whom the Angel answered: If thou constrain me, I wil not eate thy breade: but if thou wilt make holocaust, offer it to our Lord. And Manue knew not that it was an Angel of our Lord. ¹⁷ And he said to him: What is thy name, that, if thy word shall be fulfilled, we may honour thee? ¹⁸ To whom he answered: Why askest thou my name, which is merueilous? ¹⁹ Manue therefore tooke a kidde of the goates, and the libamentes, and put them vpon a rocke, offering to our Lord, who doeth merueilous things: and he and his wife looked on. ²⁰ And when the flame of the altar ascended into heauen, the Angel of our Lord ascended together in the flame. Which

^a Manue taking the Angel for a holie prophete iustly thought he would not admitte, nor command anie thing but that was lawfull. And so did as the Angel appointed him, though he was no priest, nor the place proper to sacrifice, but by extraordinarie dispensation.

when Manue and his wife had feene, they fel flatte on the ground, ²¹ and the Angel of our Lord appeared to them no more. And forthwith Manue vnderstood that it was an Angel of our Lord, ²² and he faid to his wife: Dying we shal die, becaufe we haue feene ^a)God. ²³ To whom his wife answered: If our Lord would haue killed vs, he would not haue taken of our handes holocaustes and libamentes, neither would he haue shewed vs al these thinges, nor haue told vs these thinges that are to come. ²⁴ She therefore bare a sonne, and called his name Samfon. And the child grewe, and our Lord bleffed him. ²⁵ And the Spirit of our Lord beganne to be with him in the campe of Dan betwixt Saraa and Efthaol.

ANNOTATIONS

Bible 1603. 10 The man hath appeared.) Al ancient fathers and Catholique writers fay, this was an Angel, which appeared in the forme of a man, and it is plaine by the text. Yet some protestantes wil haue this perfon to be Chrif, *the eternal vvord of God*. VVho afterwards became man. And neuertheles where by & by (*v. 16.*) he admonifheth Manue to offer facrifice to God, they note that *he fought not his ovvne honour but Gods, vvhoſe meſſenger he vvas*: either plainly contradicting themſelues, or els teaching Arrianifme, as though the Sonne of God were not God; or inferiour to God the Father. Proteſtantes either contradict themſelues, or teach Arrianifme.

^a Though Manue ſaw not God in his owne perfon, yet feing him in his meſſenger feared death. *S. Aug. q. 54. in Iudic.*