

Chapter 12

Old Tobias and his sonne offer the half of al the goodes which they had newly receiued to Raphael, for his wages. 6. VVho then declareth to them that he was sent from God to helpe them, 15. and that he is an Angel. 20. He parteth away, and they render thankes to God.

Then Tobias called to him his sonne, and sayd to him: What may we geue to this holie man, that is come with thee. ² Tobias answering, sayd to his father: Father what reward shal we geue him? or what can be worthie of his benefittes? ³ He hath led me and brought me agayne safe, he receiued the money of Gabelus, he caused me to haue my wife, and the euil spirit he chased from her, he made ioy vnto her parentes, my self he deliuered from being deuoured of the fish, thee also he hath made to see the light of heauen, and we are replenished with ^aal good things by him. What can we geue him worthie for these things? ⁴ But I beseech thee my father, that thou desire him, if perhaps he wil voutsafe to take vnto him the one halfe of al thinges, which are brought. ⁵ And they calling him, to wit the father and the sonne, tooke him aside: & began to desire him that he would voutsafe to accept the halfe part of al thinges, that they had brought. ⁶ Then he sayd to them secretly: Blesse ye the God of heauen, and before al that liue confesse to him, because he hath done mercie with you. ⁷ For to hide the secretes of a king is good: but to reueale & confesse the workes of God is an honorable thing. ⁸ ^bPrayer is good with fasting and almes, rather then to lay vp treasures of gold: ⁹ because almes deliuereth from death, and that is it which

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^a Grateful Tobias recounteth seuen benefites receiued by the companion of his iourney, & that they *haue receiued* (not manie but) *al good things by him*.

^b Fasting and almes are as two wings with which prayer flyeth into heauen.

purgeth finnes, and maketh to finde mercie and life eu-erlafting. ¹⁰ But they that committe finne and iniquitie, are enemies to their owne foule. ¹¹ I open therefore vnto you the truth, and I wil not hide from you the secrete word. ¹² When thou didft pray with teares, and didft burie the dead and leaft thy dinner, and didft hide the dead by day in thy houfe, and by night didft burie them, ^aI offered thy prayer to our Lord. ¹³ And becaufe thou waft acceptable to God, it was neceffarie that tentation should proue thee. ¹⁴ And now our Lord fent me to cure thee, and to deliuer Sara thy fonnes wife from the diuel. ¹⁵ For I am Raphael an Angel, one of the feuen, which affift before our Lord. ¹⁶ And when they had heard thefe thinges, they were trubled, & trembling fel vpon the ground on their face. ¹⁷ And the Angel fayd to them: Peace be to you, feare not. ¹⁸ For when I was with you, by the wil of God I was fo: bleffe ye him, and fing to him. ¹⁹ I feemed indeede to eate with you, and to drinke: but I vfe an inuifible meate and drinke, which can not be feene of men. ²⁰ It is time therefore that I returne to him, that fent me: but bleffe ye God, and tel al his maruelous workes. ²¹ And when he had fayd thefe things, he was taken from their fight, and they could fee him no more. ²² Then proftrate for three houres vpon their face, they bleffed God: and ryfing vp they told al his maruelous workes.

ANNOTATIONS

¹² I offered thy prayers to our Lord.) Here the Angel Raphael reporteth certaine good offices, which he had done for Tobias. He did other like for his fonne, and for Raguel, and his daughter, which are likewife recorded in this booke. And the whole world, epecially Gods feruantes, receiue continual great benefites by holie Angeles, as partly may be gathered in this holie hiftorie, and more elfwhere. For firft the office of Angeles is, to affift, or

Offices of Angels
towards men.

Readie to helpe al.

^a O how fwete (or excellent) a thing is it (faith S. Auguftin *fer. 3. de Natiuit.*) when Angeles guardianes of our life offer our vowes (or refolution to flee vices and embrace vertues) before the fight of Gods Maiefty?

be alwayes readie, as moft diligent feruitours of God, expecting what his diuine goodnes wil appoint them, whither to goe, and what to doe for the benefite of men: as holie Raphael was fent, when yong Tobias wanted a guide. Secondly, Angels offer the prayers of the faithful, or as the Greke text readeth, *v. 15*. Angels prefent the prayers of Sainctes, that is, of godlie men and wemen to God: fo Raphael teftifieth here himfelf, that he offered Tobias prayers to our Lord. Thirdly, Angeles ayde and affift thofe that loue puritie of life, fincere feruice of God, hate vice, embrace vertue, & do workes of mercie; fo Raphael affifted Tobias, when he traueled to burie the dead, fleing from the kings furie, and hiding himfelf. *ch. 1. v. 21. 23.* Fourthly Angels echort to good workes, as in this *12. chapter v. 6. 8. 9. 10. 18.* Fifthly they fuffegft and inftruct what to do, *ch. 6. v. 4. 5.* Raphael taught yong Tobias to take the fifh, vnbowel him, referue partes therof, *v. 11. 12. 13.* aduifed him to lodge at Raguels houfe, to demand Sara to wife, and *v. 16. 17.* inftructed him, againft whom diuels haue powre. Sixthly, they expel diuels from perfons, and places, *ch. 8. v. 3.* Raphael tooke and bound the diuel *Afmodeus* in the defert of hiegher Ægypt. Seuenthly, they deliuer men from dangers and euiles, *c. 6. v. 3.* as when the great fifh affaulted Tobias, and Sara from moleftation, and flaunder, and old Tobias from blindnes. *chap. 3. v. 10. ch. 11. v. 8. ch. 12. v. 14.* Eightly vvhen it redoundeth to the honour and more feruice of God, and good of the foule, Angeles procure riches, and worldly commodities. *ch. 12. v. 3.* Yong Tobias gratefully confeffed the great benefites receiued by his guide, concluding generally, *by him vve are replenished (fayth he) vvith al good thinges.* Ninthly, good Angels alfo proue men, for their more merite, fo the Angel witneffeth *ch. 12. v. 13. Becaufe thou vvast acceptable to God, it vvias neceffarie, that tentation should proue thee.* Tenthly, and finally (for we remite the reader to larger documentes of others) after prooffe of patience, fortitude, and other vertues, holie Angeles comforte good men: fo Raphael encouraged old Tobias, faying, *ch. 5. v. 13.* his blindenes fhould fhortly be cured, *ch. 12. v. 12.* fhewed him how grateful his prayers with teares and workes of mercie were in Gods fight. He comforted Raguel and his familie by bringing yong Tobias to their houfe. *ch. 7. v. 5.* Much more, *ch. 8. v. 16.* both them and al Tobias his familie, by driuing away the diuel; and laftly by reuealing himfelfe vnto them. So holie Angeles, efpecially the proper gardian patrones of euerie one, are alwayes readie to helpe men; guard them, echort them to good, do inftruct them, do expel euil fpirites, and deliuer men from many euils & dangers, do procure them temporal commodities, proue their vertues, offer their prayers and good workes, affift them al their liues, and at their deathes, then alfo bring their foules to the Iudgement feate, and (if they die in good ftate) to eternal ioy

Offer mens prayers and good workes.

Ayde the godlie.

Exhort to good. Inftruct.

Expel euil fpirites.

Deliuier from euils and dangers.

Procure temporal commodities for the foules good.

Proue the good by tribulations.

Comforte the patient and al vertuous.

Comforte the patient and al vertuous.

Angeles guardians haue fpecial care of foules committed to their charge.

and glorie, wherof the ancient fathers writings are ful. S. Gregorie the great in his *Dialogue*, li. 4. c. 58. S. Athanasius li. *de communi essentia*. S. Chryfoltom ho. 3. in *Epist. ad Colloff.* li. 6. *de Sacerdota*. Gregorius Turonen li. *de gloria Martyrum & Confefforum*. S. Auguftin *Epist. ad probam.* c. 9. *Epist.* 68. *ad fratres in erro.* li. 11. c. 31. *civit. & octoginta trium.* qq. q. 79. Our Sauour himself testifieth that Angels reioyce at the conuerfion of a finner, *Luc. 15.* and therefore, they know and haue care of mens ftates in this life, and finally Angeles caried the foule of poore Lazarus into Abrahams bofome. *Luc. 16.*