

Philistines, who were established in Israel's territory. It was the last stage in the history of declension. The children of Israel no longer cried to Jehovah; submitting to this state of things, they did not even wish to be delivered from it (chap. xv. 11), and, for the sake of living quietly in their state of servitude, sought to get rid of their liberator. The time of total apostasy was at hand.

In the midst of this irremediable state of things, God separated a godly *remnant*, and addressed his communications to them. Manoah and his wife feared Jehovah, listened to His voice and spake to one another (*cf.* Mal. iii 16), a striking type of the remnant—of the Marys, and Elizabeths, and Annas, and Zacharias, and Simeons—that waited for the true Messiah, the Saviour of Israel; type also of the future remnant, who, passing through the tribulation, will follow the paths of righteousness, waiting for the coming of their King.

Samson, the deliverer of Israel, found at his birth, not a people that welcomed him, but this godly couple who believed in his mission. The Lord, rejected by the people from the time of His arrival on the scene, found only a few faithful souls with whom He could enter into association, those excellent of the earth mentioned in Ps. xvi, in whom He found His delight. Times of irremediable ruin are then the times of remnants; this, consequently, applies to the present period of the