

city beset his house, and would have forced their way in to abuse his guests, but being struck with blindness by the angels, they could not find the door: and early in the morning they led Lot, his wife, and his two daughters, out of the city, and bid them save themselves by hasty flight, without looking back, lest they also should be consumed. Then the Lord rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom, and the neighboring cities of Gomorrah, Adama, and Sebôim, involved in the like guilt; and destroyed those cities, with their inhabitants, and the whole country about, and all things that spring from the earth; and Lot's wife turning to look back, was changed into a pillar of salt.

§ 8. *Of the Patriarchs Isaac and Jacob.*

Isaac, as he inherited the promises and covenant made by God to his father Abraham, so he inherited also his devotion and piety: *walking*, as the scripture says, Gen. xlviii. 15. *always before God*, and ever attentive to please him. God gave him Rebecca to wife, of whom he had two sons, twins, Esau and Jacob. Esau, who was the first-born, profanely sold his birthright to his brother Jacob for a mess of pottage; and when Isaac was about to have given the blessing that belonged to Esau, the first-born, Jacob by his mother's advice, obtained it by a stratagem; and Isaac, though he had been surprised, after he had found it out, confirmed it, understanding it to be the order of God. Jacob inherited the piety and devotion of Abraham and Isaac, and is joined with them as a special favourite of heaven, by God himself, when he styles himself the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He was also favoured by a vision, in which he saw a ladder (Gen. xxviii.) standing upon the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God ascending and descending by