

wife looked on " (ver. 20). They found in the fire of the sacrifice a new way, not opened up hitherto, a way for the representative of Jehovah to ascend to Him ; and, their gaze fixed on the angel, they saw a glorious person, whose dwelling place they knew now that he had disappeared from before their eyes. Then only, " Manoah knew that it was an angel of Jehovah " (ver. 21). The heart and the interests of this poor remnant were at that moment withdrawn from this world, and followed the angel, ascending with him to heaven. These simple believers could thenceforth speak of a *path* which led to heaven, and of a *person* who was there, who had become their object while they were still here below.

In this wonderful act another thing was revealed, not for Manoah, but *for us*: the future character of this nazariteship of which the angel had spoken to them. It is now heavenly, as we have above remarked. The angel in parting from them went up into heaven. The Lord Jesus, rejected by the world, said: " For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth " (John xvii. 19). Set apart in heaven, He attracts us after, and fixes our eyes upon, Himself ; in order that the heavenly character of the One whom the world has rejected may be reproduced in us here below. In presence of this revelation, so instructive for us, but of which Manoah and his wife had but a faint glimpse, they " fell on their faces to the ground " (ver. 20).