

was, nor did she ask him, proving how slight was her acquaintance with God. Far from giving her confidence, the presence of the God of promises frightened her, for she only saw the countenance of the angel to be "very terrible." Manoah himself, a man of sincere piety, had little understanding, but he desired more. He wished to know "what to do unto the child" (ver. 8), then, "what shall he do" (ver. 12, margin). Instead of answering his questions, the angel of Jehovah said to him: "Of all that I said unto *the woman* let her beware. *She* may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let *her* drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; all that I commanded *her* let *her* observe" (vs. 13, 14). Why? Because knowledge is not the first thing that God requires. Neither it, nor even true piety, such as was found in Manoah and his wife, is sufficient to keep us in the midst of the ruin. That which was needed for them *before knowledge* was true *personal separation* to God, a separation which had as its pattern and measure the nazariteship of him who was about to appear.

Other truths too—the portion of Christ's witnesses in a day of declension—are revealed to us here. "Manoah said unto the angel of Jehovah, What is thy name And the angel of Jehovah said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is *wonderful* (margin). So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered them upon a rock unto Jehovah; and the