214 Stain

God wants to be served without stain, Cant. 4[:7]: “You are all fair, my love, and there is not a spot in you.” In the figure of this matter, nothing with a stain was offered in the tabernacle nor in the temple, Exod. 12[:5]: “It shall be a lamb without blemish.”

Again, Lev. 22[:19]: “Of the calves, or of the sheep, or of the goats.” Deut. 17[:1] and Lev. 21[:17]: “Whosoever has a blemish, he shall not offer bread to his God.” Wherefore since it is asked in the Psal. [14:1-2]: “Lord, who shall dwell in your tabernacle?” It is responded: “He that walks without blemish.”

Again, Dan. 1[:18] King Nabugodonosor ordered “they should be brought in” before him boys without blemish. So, before the king of heaven no one ought to stand having a stain. Therefore, the first angel who had a blemish was cast out from the palace of the king, Eccli. 33[:24]. Therefore, it is said in Eph. 5[:25, 27]: “Christ loved the church,” and it follows, “that he might present to himself a spouse, not having spot or wrinkle.” Wherefore note that because the moon among the heavenly bodies more closely approaches to the earth, therefore it is blemished, so earthly men are greatly blemished, Eccli. 31[:8]: “Blessed is the rich man that is found without blemish.” In this life it would be marvelous. For whoever has lived on earth is blemished and blemished under the moon. The example that whatever touches silver habitually whether polished or handled it will become tarnished, so the heart dies. Whatever is the repository of bitterness will be blemished, but although the avaricious man thus stains, it is more with lust because it is closer to the flesh.