338 Seed (*Semen*)

Seed is for the multiplication of itself and nutrification, so the word of God and any good work returns more in the harvest of reward than had been in the planting of the merit, Psal. [125:6]: “Going they went and wept, casting their seeds.”

In the same way therefore, a seed is to be preserved, winnowed, and tested. Preserved certainly from the rapacious for when it falls, otherwise it is trodden under foot on the way and the birds of heaven eat it. And therefore “Except the Lord of hosts had left us seed, we had been as Sodom,” Isai. [1:9].

Secondly, let the seed be moistened copiously with honors, but because it fell upon the rock, it sprouted, it withered, because it did not have honor but “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return no more thither, but soak the earth,” etc., Isai. 55[:10].

Third, let it be winnowed diligently from impurities, because what falls upon thorns and things similar, from the seed the thorns suffocate it. Therefore Isai. 6[:13]: “that which shall stand therein, shall be a holy seed,” etc.

Fourth, let it be tested for its energy in fructifying, for what falls on good ground produces fruit a hundred-fold.

Again, Christ sowed in a triple field. Because in the field of heaven the power of angelic excellence. In the field of the world he set the archetype of penance. Concerning the first, Isai. 61[:9]: “These are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.” Concerning the second, Prov. 11{;18]: “To him that sows justice, there is a faithful reward.” Concerning the third, Psal. [125:6]: “Going they went and wept, casting their seeds.”

¶ Again, the sower is triple. The first is the Savior who sows powerfully. Second, the preacher who sows ministerially. Third, the tempter who suggests fallaciously.

Concerning the first, Gen. 16[:10]: “I will multiply thy seed” as the stars of heaven.

¶ Concerning the second, 2 Cor. 9[:10]: “And he that ministers seed to the sower, will both give you bread to eat.”

Concerning the third, Matt. 13:25]: “His enemy came and over sowed cockle.”

Again,[[1]](#endnote-1) seed must be hidden in the earth so that it is not carried off. And although it seems to be lost, however it is well preserved because it surges forth with fervor. And although it is retarded by the frost, it bears fruit even more, Psal. [125:6]: “Going they went,” [etc.].

1. Cf. William de Lancea, *Diaetae salutis* 2.7 (8:273b): Quinto, sicut semen gelu pressum et retardatum profert uberiorem fructum; ... Unde dicitur: *Euntes ibant et frebant, mittentes semina sua*. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)