Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

237 Seed (*Semen*)

Seed. Let the seed be saved and watered. Tested and saved certainly carefully from the rapacious because [Luke 8:5-8]: “Some fell by the wayside, and it was trodden down, and fowls of the air devoured it.” And therefore “Except the Lord of hosts had left us seed, we had been as Sodom,” Isai. [1:9].

¶ Second, let the seed be watered copiously by the by rule because “Some fell upon a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.” “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return no more thither, but soak the earth,” Isai. 55[:10].

¶ Third, let it be weeded studiously from impurities because “other some fell among thorns, and the thorns growing up with it choked it.” Therefore Isai. 6[:13]: “that which shall stand therein, shall be a holy seed,” etc. Fourth, let it be evaluated for its energy in fructifying, for “other some fell upon good ground, and being sprung up, yielded fruit a hundredfold.”

¶ Again, Christ sowed in a triple field. Because in the field of heaven the power of angelic excellence. In the field of paradise, the dignity of nature is well founded. 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 has 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 potentially. Second, the preacher who sows ministerially. Third, the tempter who suggests fallaciously. Concerning the first, Gen. 16[:10]: “I will multiply your 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.”