

JESUS THE “NAZARENE”

Matthew 2:19-23: “*Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."* 21 *Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'*”

Matthew Poole (Puritan commentator), on “He shall be called a Nazarene”: “Both Joseph and Samson were eminent types of Christ. And it was spoken of Christ by the prophets, the holy men of God who wrote the Scriptures (see Gen. 49:22-26; Deut. 33:13-16; Jud. 13:1-7), that Christ should be called *Nezir*, as it is in the Hebrew, in that it was spoken of those that were his types [Joseph and Samson]; who are both expressly so called. [Furthermore,] God by his singular providence so ordered it, that he who was the antitype [fulfillment] to all the Nazarites, and the true *Nezir*, or person separated, should be educated at Nazareth, a poor contemptible town...; That while his education there gave the Jews an occasion to reproach him, as a Nazarene, because born at Nazareth, believers amongst the Jews might understand him to be the true Nazarite, understood in Joseph and Samson called by this name, as types and figures of him who was to come,

separated by God to a more excellent end, and from men in a more eminent manner. So that what the prophets spake of this nature concerning Christ, they spake of those who were the true types of Christ.”

Judges 13:1-5: *Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. 2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.... 5 ...And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

John Calvin: “These words, no doubt, were spoken with regard to Samson. But Samson is called the "Redeemer" or "Deliverer" of the people, only because he was a figure of Christ, and because the salvation, which was accomplished by his instrumentality, was a sort of prelude of the full salvation, which was at length exhibited to the world by the Son of God. All that Scripture predicts, in a favorable manner, about Samson, may justly be applied to Christ. To express it more clearly, Christ is the original model: Samson is the inferior [one]... When he assumed the character of a *Redeemer*, we ought to understand, that none of the titles bestowed on that illustrious and truly divine office apply so strictly to himself as to Christ: for the fathers did but *taste* the grace of redemption, which we have been permitted to receive fully in Christ.