

CHAP. III.

Iohn Baptist by his Eremites life, by his preaching and baptisme, calleth al vnto penance, to prepare them to Christ. 10. He preacheth to the Pharisees and Sadducees, threatening to them (vnles they truly doe penance) reprobation here and damnation hereafter: and for saluation sendeth them to Christ and his baptisme. Which being far more excellent then Iohns, yet Christ him self among those penitents vouchsafeth to come unto Iohns baptisme. Where he hath testimonie from heaven also.

1 AND in those dayes cometh Iohn the Baptist preaching in the “ desert of Ievvrie, **2** & saying, “Doe penance:for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. **3** For this is he that vvas spoken of by Esay the Prophet,saying, *A voyce of one crying in the desert, prepare ye the way of our Lord, make straight his pathes.* **4** And the sayd Iohn had his garment of camels heare,& a girdle of a skinne about his loynes:and his meate was locustes & vvilde honie.

5 Then vvent forth to him Hierusalem & al Ievvie, and al the countrey about Iordan : **6** & vvere baptized of him in Iordan, “ confessing their sinnes. **7** And seeing many of the Pharisees & Sadducees coming to his baptisme, he sayd to them.

Ye vipers brood, vvho hath shevved you to flee from the vvyrath to come? **8** Yeld therfore “frute vvorthie of penance. **9** And delite not to say vvithin yourselues, vve haue Abraham to our father. for I tel you that God is able of these stones to raise vp children to Abraham. **10** For novv the “ axe is put to the roote of the trees. Euery tree therefore that doth not yeld good fruite,shal be cut dovvn,& cast into the fyre.

11 I in deede baptize you “ in vvather vnto penance. but he that shal come after me, is stronger the I, vvwhose shoes I am not vvorthie to beare, he shal baptize you in the Holy Ghost & fire. **12** Whose fanne is in his hand, and he shal cleane purge his floore:and he vvil gather is vvheate into the barne, but the chaffe he vvil burne vvith vnquencheable fire.

13 Then cometh I E S V S from Galilee to Iordan, vnto Iohn, to be baptized of him. **14** But Iohn stayed him, saying, I ought to be baptized of thee,and comest thou to

me? **15** And I E S V S ansvvering, sayd to him, Suffer me for this time. For so it becommeth vs to fulfil al iustice. Then he suffered him. **16** And I E S V S being baptized, forthvvith came out of the vvater: and loe the heauens vvere opened to him:and he savv the Spirit of God descending as a doue, & coming vpon him. **17** And behold a voyce from heauen saying, This is my beloued sonne, in vvhom I am vvcl pleased.