

THE BOOK OF IVDGES, IN HE- BREW SOPHETIM

THE ARGUMENT OF THE BOOKE OF IVDGES.

Sainct Hierom geuing this general rule (*Epist. ad Euftoch. A rule for read-
virg.*) *that in reading hiftorical bookes of holie Scripture,* ing hiftorical
the hiftorie, as fundation of veritie, is to be loued, but bookes.

the fpiritual vnderftanding rather to be folowed: agre-
ably therto teacheth (*Epist. ad Paulin.*) *that in this*
booke of Iudges there be as manie figures, as princes of
the people. Neither doth he meane that there were no
more, but for example sake affirmeth that these Iudges,
raised vp after Iofue, and sent of God to deliuer the peo-
ple fallen for their finnes into afflictions; were types
and figures of the Apostles and Apostolical men, sent
by Christ to propagate and defend his Church of the
new Testament. For albeit diuers of these Iudges were
sometimes great offenders, yet they were reclaimed by
Gods special grace, and so amending their errors did
great thinges, to the fingular honour of God: and are
renowned among the holie Patriarches and Prophetes,

Eccl. 46.

particularly prayed in holie Scripture, saying: *And*
the Iudges, euerie one by his name, whose hart was not
corrupt: Who were not auerted from our Lord, that
their memorie may be bleffed, and their bones fpring
out from their place, and their name remaine for euer,
the glorie of holie men remaining to their children. After
Iofue therefore, who it semeth guided and ruled the peo-
ple 32. yeares, this booke, written (as is most probable)
by Samuel, shewing the famous Actes of these Iudges of
Israel, profecuteth the hiftorie of the Church the space
of 288. yeares more. And may be diuided into three
partes. Firft, is described in general the state of the
people, sometimes wel and sincerely seruing God, other
times falling to great finnes. In the two first chapters.
Secondly, their offences, afflictions, repentance, and deli-
uerie from their enemies are more particularly reported.

The Iudges
of Ifrael fig-
ures of Christs
Apostles.

They were al fi-
nally holie men.

The Contents of
this booke.

Diuided into
three partes.

From the third chap. to the 17. Thirdly, other special accidents, which happened within the same time, are recorded. In the last five chapters.

Chapter 1

The first part.
A general recapitulation of the
peoples state.

Vnder a general captaine of the tribe of Iuda, assifted by the tribe of Simeon, Israel subdueth diuers cities of the gentiles. (12. Othoniel taking Cariath sepheer possesseth it, and marieth Calebs daughter, obtaining also addition of her dowrie.) 21. Iebuseites yet dwell in Hierusalem with Benjamin, 27. and the Chananeites with diuers of the tribes.

After the death of Iosue the children of Israel^a consulted our Lord, saying: Who shall goe vp before vs against the Chananeite, and shall be captaine of the warre? ² And our Lord said: ^b Iudas shall goe vp: behold I haue deliuered the Land into his hands. ³ And Iudas said to Simeon his brother: Come vp with me into my lotte, and fight against the Chananeite, that I also may goe forward with thee into thy lotte. And Simeon went with him. ⁴ And Iudas went vp, and our Lord deliuered the Chananeite, and the Pherezeite into their hands: and they strooke in Bezeck ten thousand men. ⁵ And they found Adonibezec in Bezeck, and fought against him, and strooke the Chananeite, and the Pherezeite. ⁶ And Adonibezec fled: whom pursuing they tooke, cutting off the extreme partes of his hands and feete. ⁷ And Adonibezec said: Seuentie kinges hauing the extreme partes of their hands and feete cut off, gathered vp the reliques of meates vnder my table: as I haue done, so hath God repayed me. And they brought him into Ierusalem, and there he died. ⁸ Therefore the children of Iudas assaulting Ierusalem, tooke it,

^a The maner of consulting our Lord was by the High priest praying in the tabernacle. *Exo. 29. v. 42.*

^b The first general captaine after Iosue, and diuers of the Iudges, were of the tribe of Iuda, but not all, as appeareth in this booke.

and ftroke it in the edge of the fword, fetting the whole citie on fyre. ⁹ And afterward going downe they fought againft the Chananeite, which dwelled in the mountaines, and fouthward, and in the champaine countries. ¹⁰ And Iudas going forward againft the Chananeite, that dwelled in Hebron (the name wherof was before time Cariatharbe) ftroke Sefai, and Ahiman, and Tholmai: ¹¹ and departing thence went to the inhabitantes of Dabir, the old name wherof was Cariath Sepher, that is, a citie of letters. ¹² And Caleb faid: He that shal ftroke Cariath Sepher, and fpoile it, I wil geue him Axa my daughter to wife. ¹³ And when Othoniel the fonne of Cenez, the yonger brother of Caleb had taken it, he gaue him Axa his daughter to wife. ¹⁴ Whom going on her way her husband admonifhed to aske a field of her father. To whom, when she had fighed fitting on her affe, Caleb faid: What aileth thee? ¹⁵ But she answered: Geue me a bleffing, for a drie land thou haft geuen me: geue me alfo a waterie. Caleb therefore gaue her a waterie ground aboue, & waterie beneath. ¹⁶ And the children of the Cineite the cofin of Moyfes went vp from the citie of palmes, with the children of Iudas into the defert of his lotte, which is at the fouth fide of Arad, and dwelt with him. ¹⁷ But Iudas went with Simeon his brother, and together they ftroke the Chananeite that dwelt in Sephaath, and flew him. And the name of the citie was called, Horma, that is, Anathema. ¹⁸ And Iudas tooke Gaza with the coaftes therof, & Afcalon, and Accaron with their boundes. ¹⁹ And our Lord was with Iudas, and he poffeffed the mountaines: neither could he deftroy the inhabitantes of the valley, becaufe they had manie ^ahooked chariotes. ²⁰ And they gaue to Galeb Hebron, as Moyfes had faid, who deftroyed out of it the three fonnes of Enac. ²¹ But the Iebufeite the inhabiter of Ierufalem the children of Benjamin deftroyed not: and the Iebufeite dwelt with the children of Benjamin

^a Strong weapons crooked like fickles made faft to the chariottes which cut in peeces, men, horfes, and other chariottes that came in their way.

in Ierufalem vntil this present day. ²² The houle alfo of Iofeph went vp into Bethel, and our Lord was with them. ²³ For when they befieged the citie, which before was called Luza, ²⁴ they faw a man comming out of the citie, and faid to him: Shew vs the entrance of the citie, and we wil shew thee mercie. ²⁵ Who when he had shewed them, they ftroke the citie in the edge of the fword: but that man, and al his kinred they difmiffed. ²⁶ Who being difmift, went into the Land of the Hetthims, and built there a citie, and called it Luza: which is fo called vntil this present day. ²⁷ Manaffes alfo deftroyed not Bethfan, and Thanac with their litle townes, and the inhabitantes of Dor, and Ieblaam, and Mageddo with their litle townes. And the Chananeite began to dwel with them. ²⁸ But after that Ifrael was waxen ftrong, he made them tributaries, and would not deftroy them. ²⁹ Ephraim alfo killed not the Chananeite, that dwelt in Gazer, but dwelt with him. ³⁰ Zabulon deftroyed not the inhabitantes of Cetron, & Naalol: but the Chananeite dwelt in the middes of him, and was made tributarie to him. ³¹ Afer alfo deftroyed not the inhabitantes of Accho, and of Sidon, of Ahalab, and Achazib, and Helba, and Aphec, and Rohob: ³² and he dwelt in the middes of the Chananeite the inhabiter of that Land, neither did he kil them. ³³ Nepthali alfo deftroyed not the inhabitantes of Bethfames, & Bethanath: and he dwelt in the middes of the Chananeite the inhabiter of the Land, and the Bethfamites & Bethanites were tributaries to him. ³⁴ And the Amorrheite fraytened the children of Dan in the mountaine, and gaue them not place to goe downe to the playne: ³⁵ and he dwelt in mount Hares which is interpreted shelles, in Aialon and Salebim. And the hand of the houle of Iofeph was agrauated, and he became tributarie to him. ³⁶ And the border of the Amorrheite was from the Afcent of the Scorpion, the rocke, and the higher places.

Chapter 2

An Angel reciting manie benefites of God towards Ifrael, and their ingratitude, 4. they weepe for their faultes. 10. After the death of Iofue and other ancientes of his time, the people often fal, and repenting are deliuered from afflictions, 19. but ftill fal againe worfe and worfe.

And the ^a)Angel of our Lord went vp from Galgal to the place of weepers, and faid: I brought you out of Ægypt, and haue brought you into the Land, for the which I fwore to your fathers: and I promifed that I would not make frustrate my couenant with you for euer: ² onlie fo that you should not make a league with the inhabitantes of this Land, but should ouerthrow their altares: and you would not heare my voice: why haue you done this? ³ For the which caufe I would not deftroy them from before your face: that you may haue enemies, and their goddes may be a ruine vnto you. ⁴ And when the Angel of our Lord fpake thefe wordes to al the children of Ifrael: they lifted vp their voice, and wept. ⁵ And the name of that place was called, the place of weepers, or of teares: and ^b)there they immolated hoftes to our Lord. ⁶ Iofue therefore difmiffed the people, and the children of Ifrael went euerie one into his poffeffion, to obtayne it: ⁷ and they ferued our Lord al his daies, and the daies of the ancientes, of them that liued a long time after him, and knew al the workes of our Lord, which he had done with Ifrael. ⁸ And Iofue the fonne of Nun, the feruant of our Lord, died, being a hundred and ten yeares old, ⁹ and they buried him in the borders of his poffeffion in Thamnathfare in the mount of Ephraim, on the North fide of

^a An Angel taking the forme of a man as before to Iofue, (*ch. 5.*) fo now appearing to the people, fpake to them in the name of God, whose meffenger he was.

^b By fpecial difpenfation facrifice was fometimes lawfully offered in other places though the Tabernacle (and afterward the Temple) was the onlie place commanded. *Deut. 12. Iofue. 22. S. Aug. q. 36. in Iudic.*

mount Gaas. ¹⁰ And al that generation was gathered to their fathers: and there rofe others, that knew not our Lord, and the workes which he had done with Ifrael. ¹¹ And the children of Ifrael did euil in the fight of our Lord, and ferued Baalim. ¹² And they left our Lord the God of their fathers, that had brought them out of the Land of Ægypt: and folowed ftrange goddes, and the goddes of the peoples, that dwelt round about them, and adored them: and they prouoked our Lord to anger, ¹³ leauing him, and feruing Baal and Aftaroth. ¹⁴ And our Lord being wrath againft Ifrael, deliuered them into the handes of ranfackers: who tooke them and fold them to the enemies, that dwelt round about: neither could they refift their aduerfaries: ¹⁵ but whither foeuer they had meant to goe, the hand of our Lord was vpon them, as he fpake, and fware to them: and they were vehemently afflicted. ¹⁶ And our Lord ^arayfed vp Iudges, that should deliuer them from the handes of the wafers: but neither would they heare them, ¹⁷ fornicating with ftrange goddes, and adoring them. They did quickly forfake the way, in the which their fathers had gone: and hearing the commandementes of our Lord, they did al thinges contrarie. ¹⁸ And when our Lord rayfed vp Iudges, in their daies he was moued with mercie, and heard the gronings of the afflicted, and deliuered them from the flaughter of the wafers. ¹⁹ But after the Iudge was dead, they returned, and did much worfe things then their fathers had done, folowing ftrange goddes feruing them, and adoring them. They left not their inuentions, and the verie hard way, by which they were accuftomed to walke. ²⁰ And the furie of our Lord was angrie againft Ifrael, & faid: Becaufe this nation hath made my couenāt fruſtrate, which I had made with their fathers, & hath cōtemned my voice: ²¹ I alfo wil not deſtroy the nations which Iofue did let alone, and died: ²² that in them I may trie Ifrael, whether they wil keepe the way of the Lord, and walke in it, as their fathers

^a Theſe Iudges were extraordinarily raifed vp to deliuer the people repenting, when they were fallen into afflictions for their finnes.

kept it, or no. ²³ Our Lord therefore left al these nations, and would not quickly ouerthrow them, neither deliuered them into the handes of Iofue.

Chapter 3

The people affociating them felues with Gentiles, againft whom they ought to fight, 8. are inuaded by forraine kinges: 9. but repenting are deliuered by Othoniel. 12. Falling againe, afflicted, and repenting, 15. are deliuered by Aod, 21. fecretely killing Eglon their enemy. 31. After him Samgar defendeth Ifrael againft the Philiftines.

The fecond part.
Of the common peoples often falling to idolatrie, their repentance, and deliuerie.

Thefe are the Nations, which our Lord left, that in them he might inſtruct Ifrael, and al that had not knowen the warres of the Chananeites: ² that afterward their children might lerne to fight with their enemies, and to be accuſtomed to warre: ³ the five princes of the Philiftines, and the Chananeite, and Sidonian, and Heueite, that dwelt in mount Libanus, from mount Baal Hermon to the entring into Emath. ⁴ And he left them, that in them he might trie Ifrael, whether they would heare the commandementes of our Lord, which he had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moyſes, or not. ⁵ Therefore the children of Ifrael dwelt in the middes of the Chananeite, and Hetheite, and Amorrheite, and Pherezeite, and Heueite, and Iebuſeite: ⁶ and they tooke their daughters to wiues, and them felues gaue their owne daughters to their fonnes, & ſerued their goddes. ⁷ And they did euil in the fight of our Lord, and forgat their God, ſeruing Baalim and Aſtaroth. ⁸ And our Lord being wrath againſt Ifrael, deliuered them into the handes of Chufan Rafathaim the king of Mefopotamia, and they ſerued him eight yeares. ⁹ And they cried to our Lord: who rayſed them vp ^aa fauour, and deliuered them, to witte: Othoniel the ſonne of Cenez, the

^a In manie places we ſee the worde *fauiour*, and like titles geuen to men, as the ſeruantes and officers of God, who is the proper and principal Sauour of al. *S. Aug. q. 18. in Iudic.*

yonger brother of Caleb: ¹⁰ and the Spirit of our Lord was in him, and he iudged Ifrael. And he went forth to fight, and our Lord deliuered into his handes Chufan Rafathaim the king of Syria, and oppreffed him. ¹¹ And the land refted ^{a)}fourtie yeares, and Othoniel the fonne of Cenez died. ¹² And the children of Ifrael added to doe euil in the fight of our Lord: who ftrenghened againft them Eglon the king of Moab: becaufe they did euil in his fight. ¹³ And he ioyned to him the children of Ammon, and Amalec: and he went and ftroke Ifrael, and poffeffed the Citie of palmes. ¹⁴ And the children of Ifrael ferued Eglon the king of Moab eightene yeares: ¹⁵ and afterward they cried to our Lord: who rayfed vp vnto them a fauiour called Aod, the fonne of Gera, the fonne of Iemini, who vfed both handes for the right. And the children of Ifrael fent by him prefentes to Eglon the king of Moab. ¹⁶ Who made him felf a two edged fword, hauing in the middes a hafte in length the palme of a hand, and was girded therewith vnder his caffocke on the right thigh. ¹⁷ And he prefented the giftes to Eglon the king of Moab. And Eglon was exceeding groffe. ¹⁸ And when he had prefented the giftes vnto him, he brought his felowes on the way that came with him. ¹⁹ And returning from Galgal, where the Idols were, he faid to the King: I haue a fecrete meffage to thee, ô king. And he commanded filence: and al being gone forth, that were about him, ²⁰ Aod went in to him: and he fate in a fommer chamber alone, and he faid: ^{b)}A word from God I haue to thee. Who forthwith rofe out of his throne. ²¹ And Aod put forth his left hand, and tooke the dagger from his right thigh, and faftened it into his bellie ²² fo mightely that the haft folowed the blade in the wound, and was clofed vp faft with the moft fatte greafe. Neither

^a In thefe 40. yeares are included the eight yeares of their feruitude, *v. 8.* & fo in the reft of this hiftorie. Otherwife the number of yeres agreeth not with the count *3. Reg. 6. v. 1.*

^b Aod hauing fpecial infpiration from God to do this fact, (as S. Auguftin noteth vpon thefe wordes *q. 20. in Iudic.*) is not to be imitated by priuat men. See *Num. 25. v. 21.*

did he plucke out the dagger, but as he had ftricken fo leift it in the bodie: and forthwith by the fcrete partes of nature the ordure of the bellie came forth. ²³ But Aod shutting the doores of the chamber very diligently, and locking them fure, ²⁴ went out by a pofterne doore. And the kinges feruantes going in, faw the doores of the chamber shut, and they faid: Peradventure he purgeth his bellie in the fommer chamber. ²⁵ And expecting long til they were afhamed, and feeing that no man did open, they tooke a key: and opening they found their lord on the earth lying dead. ²⁶ But Aod, whiles they were trubled, efaped, and paffed by the Place of Idols, whence he had returned. And he came into Seirath: ²⁷ and forthwith the trumpet founded in the mount of Ephraim: and the children of Ifrael went downe with him, him felf going in the front. ²⁸ Who faid to them: Folow me: for our Lord hath deliuered our enemies the Moabites into our handes. And they went downe after him, and occupied the fordes of Iordan, which bring ouer into Moab: and they fuffered no man to paffe: ²⁹ but they ftroke the Moabites at that time, about ten thoufand, al ftoute and ftrong men, none of them could efcape. ³⁰ And Moab was humbled that day vnder the hand of Ifrael: and the Land refted eightie yeares. ³¹ After him was Samgar the fonne of Anath, who ftroke, of the Philifthimes fix hundred men with the culter of a ploughe: and he alfo defended Ifrael.

Chapter 4

Againe the people finning are opprefsed, and crying to God, 4. by direction of Debbora a propheteffe, Barac fighteth againft Sifara their enemye. 15. Who ftricken with feare, and fleeing away, 17. Iahel pretending his faftie killeth him in her houle.

And the children of Ifrael added to doe euil in the fight of our Lord after the death of Aod, ² and our Lord deliuered them into the

handes of Iabin the king of Chanaan, which reigned in Afor: and he had a captaine of his armie named Sifara, and he dwelt in Harofeth of the gentiles. ³ And the children of Ifrael cried to our Lord: for he had nine hundred yron hooked chariottes, and for twentie yeres had vehemently oppreffed them. ⁴ And there was one Debbora a propheteſſe the wife of Lapidoth, which ^aiudged the people at that time. ⁵ And ſhe fate vnder a palme tree, which was called by her name, betwen Rama and Bethel in the mount of Ephraim: and the children of Ifrael went vp to her for al iudgement. ⁶ Who ſent, and called Barac the ſonne of Abinoem of Cedes in Nepthali: and ſhe ſaid to him: Our Lord God of Ifrael hath commanded thee, Goe, and lead an armie into mount Thabor, and thou ſhalt take with thee ten thouſand fighting men of the children of Nepthali, and of the children of Zabulon: ⁷ and I wil bring vnto thee in the place of the Torrent Cifon, Sifara the prince of the hoſte of Iabin, and his chariotes, and al the multitude, and wil deliuer them in thy hand. ⁸ And Barac ſaid to her: If thou come with me, I wil goe: If thou wilt not come with me, I wil not goe. ⁹ Who ſaid to him: I wil goe in deede with thee, but at this time the victorie ſhal not be imputed to thee, becauſe Sifara ſhal be deliuered into the hand of a woman. Debbora therfore aroſe, and went with Barac into Cedes. ¹⁰ Who calling vnto him Zabulon and Nepthali, went vp with ten thouſand fighting men, hauing Debbora in his companie. ¹¹ And Haber the Cineite was in time paſt departed from the reſt of the Cineites his brethren of Hobab, the ſon of Moyſes: and had pitched his tentes vnto the valley, which is called Sennim, and was nere Cedes. ¹² And it was told Sifara, that Barac the ſonne of Abinoem was gone vp into mount Thabor: ¹³ and he

^a Being a propheteſſe ſhe reſolued hard and obſcure thinges, but exerciſed no iuriſdiction in anie cauſes, for that belonged to the counſel of Prieſtes and of ſeuentie ancientes, where the high prieſt was the chief Iudge. *Num. 11. Deut. 17.* Spiritually Debbora ſignified the Church & Barac chriſtian Princes, who are directed in their warres, and other actions by ſpiritual ſuperiors, as Origen, and other ancient writers expound this hiſtorie.

gathered nine hundred yron hooked chariottes, and al his armie from Harofeth of the gentiles to the torrent Cifon. ¹⁴ And Debbora faid to Barac: Arife, for this is the day, wherin our Lord hath deliuered Sifara into thy handes: behold he is thy leader. And Barac went downe from mount Thabor, and ten thoufand fighting men with him. ¹⁵ And our Lord terrified Sifara, and al his chariotes, and al the multitude in the edge of the fword at the fight of Barac: in fo much, that Sifara leaping downe from his chariote, fled a foote, ¹⁶ and Barac purfewed the chariotes fleeing, and the armie vnto Harofeth of the gentiles, and al the multitude of the enemies was vtterly deftroyed. ¹⁷ But Sifara fleeing came to the tent of Iahel the wife of Haber the Cineite. For there was peace betwixt Iabin the king of Afor, and the houle of Haber the Cineite. ¹⁸ Iahel therfore going forth to meete Sifara, faid to him: Come in to me my Lord, come in, feare not. Who being entred into her tabernacle, and couered of her with a cloke, ¹⁹ faid to her: Geue me, I befeech thee, a litle water, for I am very thirftie. Who opened a bottle of milke, and gaue him to drinke, and couered him. ²⁰ And Sifara faid to her: Stand before the doore of the tabernacle, and when any shal come asking thee, and faying: Is there any man here? Thou shalt fay: There is none. ²¹ ^a)Iahel therfore the wife of Haber tooke a nayle of the tabernacle, taking withal a hammer alfo: and going in fecretely, and with filence she put the naile vpon the temple of his head, and ftriking it with the hammer, faftened it into his braine euen to the ground: who ioyning deepe fleepe and death together, faynted, and died. ²² And behold Barac folowing Sifara came: & Iahel going forth to meete him, faid to him: Come, and I wil shew thee the man whom thou feekeft. Who when he was entered in vnto her, faw Sifara lying

^a VVho is this woman ful of confidence, piercing the temples of the enimies head with a naile, but the faith of the Church deftroying the diuels kingdomes with the croffe of Chrif? *S. Aug. li. 12. c. 32. cont. Fauft. Manich.* Iahel alfo prefigured our B. Ladie who crufted the ferpentes head.

dead, and the nayle fastened in his temples. ²³ Therefore God that day humbled Iabin the king of Chanaan before the children of Ifrael: ²⁴ which increafed daily, and with ftrong hand oppreffed Iabin the king of Chanaan, til they deftroied him.

Chapter 5

The Canticle of Debbora and Barac geuing thanks after their victorie.

And Debbora and Barac the fonne of Abinoem fang in that day, faying:

² You that of Ifrael haue voluntarily offered your liues to peril, ^a)bleffe our Lord.

³ Heare you kinges, and geue eare ye princes: I am, ^b)I am fhe, that wil fing to our Lord, I wil chaunte to our Lord the God of Ifrael.

⁴ Lord when thou wentft out of Seir, and didft paffe by the countries of Edom, the earth was moued, & the heauens and cloudes diftilled waters.

⁵ The mountaines melted before the face of our Lord, and Sinni before the face of our Lord God of Ifrael.

⁶ In the daies of Samgar the fonne of Anath, in the daies of Iahel the pathes refted: and they that went by them, walked by bywaies.

⁷ The valiantes in Ifrael ceafed, and refted: vntil Debbora arofe, a mother rofe in Ifrael.

⁸ Our Lord chofe new warres, and the gates of the enemies him felfe fubuerted: fhield and fpeare if there appeared among fourtie thoufand of Ifrael.

^a The greater bleffe the leffe by imparting fpiritual benefites, fo God, and fuperiors bleffe their fubiectes. Men bleffe God, & the leffe their betters, by geuing thanks, and prayfes.

^b She inculcateth that fhe muft fo much more praife God for this victorie, becaufe he forfhewed it by her, & by her directed the general captaine Barac, left it might be afcribed either to wifdome or valure of anie man.

⁹ My hart loueth the princes of Ifrael: you that of your owne good wil offered your felues to danger, bleffe our Lord.

¹⁰ You that ride vpon your ^a)faire affes, and fitte in iudgement, and walke in the way, fpeake.

¹¹ Where the chariottes were crushed together, and the armie of the enemie was fuffocated, there let the iuftices of our Lord be told, and his clemencie toward the valiantes of Ifrael: then did the people of our Lord goe downe to the gates, and obteyned the principalitie.

¹² Arife, arife Debbora, arife, arife, and fpeake a canticle: Arife Barac, and apprehend thy captiues thou fonne of Abinoem.

¹³ The remnant of the people is faued, our Lord hath fought in the valiantes.

¹⁴ Out from Ephraim he deftroyed them into Amalec, and after him out from Beniamin into thy peoples O Amalec: Out from Machir there defcended princes, and out from Zabulon they that led the armie to fight.

¹⁵ The captaines of Iffachar were with Debbora, and folowed the fteppes of Barac, who as it were into a headlong and bottomeles pitte gaue himfelf to danger: Ruben being diuided againft it felf, there was found contention of couragious perfons.

¹⁶ Why dwelleft thou betwen the two boundes, that thou mayeft heare the whiftlinges of the flockes? Ruben being diuided againft it felf, there was found contention of couragious men.

¹⁷ Galaad refted beyond Iordan, and Dan gaue himfelf to fhippes: Afer dwelt in the fea shore, and abode in hauens.

¹⁸ But Zabulon and Nepthali offered their liues to death in their countrie of Merome.

¹⁹ The kinges came and fought, the kinges of Chanaan fought in Thanac besides the waters of Mageddo, and yet going a praying they tooke nothing.

^a Thife that fubdew their bodies to the fpirite ride vpon fayre affes.
Origen, hom. 6. in c. 5. Iudic.

²⁰ From heauen they fought againft them: the ftarres remayning in their order and courfe, fought againft Sifara.

²¹ The torrent of Cifon drew their carcasses, the torrent of Cadumin, the torrent of Cifon: my foule tread downe the ftrong ones.

²² The hoofes of the horfes fel of, the ftrongeft of the enemies fleeing violently, and falling downe headlong.

²³ Curfe ye the land of Meroz, faid the Angel of our Lord: Curfe the inhabitantes therof, becaufe they came not to help our Lord, to aide his moft mightie ones.

²⁴ a)Bleffed among wemen be Iahel the wife of Haber the Cineite, and bleffed be she in her tabernacle.

²⁵ To him that asked water she gaue milke, and in the phial of princes she offered butter.

²⁶ Her left hand she put to the naile, and her right hand to the smithes hammer, and ftroke Sifara, seeking in his head a place for the wound, and piercing valiantly through his temple.

²⁷ Betwen her feete he fel: he failed, and died: he was rowled before her feete, and he lay without life and miferable.

²⁸ Looking through a window, his mother howled: & she fpake out of a higher chamber: Why lingereth his chariote to come backe? Wherefore are the feete of his waggans flow?

²⁹ One wifer then the reft of his wiues, answered thefe wordes to her mother in law:

³⁰ Peraduenture now he diuideth the fpoyles, and the fayreft of the wemen is chofen for him: garmentes of fundrie colours are deliuered to Sifara for a praye, and diuerfe furniture is laid together to adorne the neckes.

³¹ So perish al thine enemies O Lord: but they that loue thee, as the Sunne shineth in his ryfing, fo let them glitter.

³² And the Land refted for fourtie yeares.

^a Iahel the figure was bleffed amongft wemen: much more the moft holie virgin mother of God is bleffed aboue al wemen.

Chapter 6

The people falling againe to finne, are oppressed by the Madianites. 12. An Angel appearing to Gedeon, fendeth him to deliuer Ifrael, 17. confirming his mifsion by miracle. 25. So he firft deftroyeth Baals altar, 34. then gathereth an armie againft Idolaters, 36. and is afured againe of Gods protection by two miracles in a fleece of woolle.

And the children of Ifrael did euil in the fight of our Lord: who deliuered them into the hand of Madian feuen yeares, ² & they were fore oppressed of them. And they made them felues dennes and caues in the mountaines, and very wel fenfed places to refit. ³ And when Ifrael had fowen, Madian came vp and Amalec, and the reft of the Eaft nations: ⁴ and pitching their tentes by them wafted al thinges as they were in the blade vnto the entring of Gaza: and they left nothing at al in Ifrael that perteyned to mans life, not fheepe, not oxen, not affes. ⁵ For they and al their flockes came with their tabernacles, and like vnto locuftes filled al places, an innumerable multitude of men, and of camels, wafting whatfoeuer they touched. ⁶ And Ifrael was fore humbled in the fight of Madian. ⁷ And he cried to our Lord defiring helpe againft the Madianites. ⁸ Who fent vnto them ^a)a man that was a prophet, and he fpake: Thus fayeth our Lord the God of Ifrael: I made you to come vp out of Ægypt, and brought you out of the houfe of feruitude, ⁹ and deliuered you out of the handes of the Ægyptians, and of al the enemies, that afflicted you: and I caft them out at your entring, and deliuered you their Land. ¹⁰ And I faid: I the Lord your God, feare not the goddes of the Amorrheites, in whose land you dwel. And you would not heare my voice. ¹¹ And

^a S. Auguftin (*q. 31. in Iudic.*) fupposeth that this meffenger fent from God called *a man* & *a prophete* (for the forme, wherein he appeared) was the fame Angel which fate vnder the oke and fent Gedeon to deliuer Ifrael. *v. 11. 12. Ec.*

an Angel of our Lord came, and fate vnder an oke, that was in Ephra, and perteyned to Ioas the father of the familie of Ezri. And when Gedeon his sonne did thresh and purge wheate in a winepreffe, to flee Madian, ¹² the Angel of our Lord appeared to him, and said: Our Lord be with thee ô moft valiant of men. ¹³ And Gedeon said to him: I befech thee my Lord, if our Lord be with vs, why haue thefe euils apprehended vs? where are his meruelous workes, which our fathers haue told vs, and said: Out of Ægypt did our Lord bring vs? but now our Lord hath forfaken vs, and deliuered vs into the hande of Madian. ¹⁴ And our Lord looked toward him, and said: Goe in this thy ftrength, and thou shalt deliuer Ifrael out of the hand of Madian: know that I haue fent thee. ¹⁵ Who anfwering said: I befech thee, my Lord, wherein fhall I deliuer Ifrael? behold my familie is the meaneft in Manaffes, and I the leaft in my fathers houfe. ¹⁶ And our Lord said to him: I wil be with thee: and thou fhalt ftrike Madian as it were one man. ¹⁷ And he said: If I haue found, quoth he, grace before thee, geue me a figne that it is thou which fpeakeft to me. ¹⁸ Neither depart thou hence, til I returne to thee, bringing a facrifice, and offering ^a)to thee. Who answered: I wil tarie thy coming. ¹⁹ Gedeon therefore went in, and boyled a kidde, and of a bufhel of flowre baked vnleuened loaues: and putting the flesh in a basket, and the broth of the flesh into a pottle, he caried al vnder the oke, and offered to him. ²⁰ To whom the Angel of our Lord said: Take the flefh and the vnleuened loaues, and put them vpon that rocke, and powre out the broth thereon. And when he had done, ²¹ the Angel of our Lord ftretched forth the tippe of the rodde, which he held in his hand, and touched the flesh and the vnleuened loaues: and there arofe a fyre from the rocke, and confumed the flesh,

^a He meant not to offer facrifice to the Angel, but that either the Angel, or himfelfe in prefence of the Angel, fhould offer it to God and fo in dede the Angel partly directed him what to do, partly executed the office himfelfe, by touching the oblation with his rodde; and miraculoufly bringing fire to confume the facrifice.

and the vnleuened loaues: And the Angel of our Lord vanifhed from his eies. ²² And Gedeon feeing that it was the Angel of our Lord, faid: Alas my Lord God: that I haue feene the Angel of our Lord face to face. ²³ And our Lord faid to him: Peace be with thee: feare not, thou fhalt not die. ²⁴ And Gedeon built there ^a)an altar to our Lord, and called it, our Lords peace, vntil this prefent day. And when he was yet in Ephra, which is of the familie of Ezri, ²⁵ that night our Lord faid to him: Take a bullocke of thy fathers, and an other bullocke of feuen yeares, and thou fhalt deftroy the altar of Baal, which is thy fathers: and cut downe the groue, that is about the altar: ²⁶ and thou fhalt build an altar to the Lord thy God in the toppe of this rocke, whereupon thou didft lay the facrifice before: and thou fhalt take the fecond bullocke, and fhalt offer an holocauft vpon a pile of wood, which thou fhalt cut downe out of the groue. ²⁷ Gedeon therfore taking to him ten men of his feruantes, did as our Lord had commanded him. But fearing his fathers houle, and the men of that citie, he would not doe it by day, but accomplifhed al thinges by night. ²⁸ And when the men of that towne were rifen in the morning, they faw the altar of Baal deftroyed, and the groue cut downe, and the other bullocke laid vpon the altar, which then was built. ²⁹ They faid one to an other: Who hath done this? And when they inquired for the author of the fact, it was faid: Gedeon the fonne of Ioas did al thefe thinges. ³⁰ And they faid to Ioas: Bring forth thy fonne hither, that he may die: becaufe he hath deftroyed the altar of Baal, and hath cut downe his groue. ³¹ To whom he answered: Why are you reuengers of Baal, that you fight for him? he that is his aduerfarie, let him die before to morrow light appeare: if he be God, reuenge he him felf, on him that hath rayfed his altar. ³² From that day Gedeon was called ^b)Ierobaal, becaufe Ioas had faid: Let Baal reuenge him felf on him, that hath rayfed his altar. ³³ Therfore al Madian, and Amalec, and the eaft

^a An altar for a monument, not for facrifice.

^b The ftrength of Baal, or ftronger then Baal.

peoples were gathered together, and paffing ouer Iordan, camped in the vaile Iezrael. ³⁴ But the fpirit of our Lord reuefted Gedeon, who founding with a trumpet called together the houle of Abiezer, to folow him. ³⁵ And he fent meffengers into al Manaffes, which it felfe alfo did folow him: and other meffengers into Afer and Zabulon and Nepthali, which mette him. ³⁶ And Gedeon faid to God: If thou faue Ifrael by my hand, as thou haft fpoken, ³⁷ I wil putte this fleece of wool on the floore: if there fhall be ^adew in the fleece onlie, and on al the ground driened, I fhall know that by my hand, as thou haft fpoken, thou wilt deliuer Ifrael. ³⁸ And it came fo to paffe. And ryfing in the night wringing the fleece, he filled a veffel with the dew. ³⁹ And he faid againe to God: Let not thy furie be angry againft me if I tempt once againe, feeking a figne in the fleece. I defire that the fleece onlie may be drie, and al the ground wette with dew. ⁴⁰ And God did that night as he had requested: and there was driened in the fleece onlie, and dew on al the ground.

Chapter 7

Gedeon marching with thirtie two thoufand men, al that are fearful, and that drinke water kneeling are dimifed, & onlie three hundred that drinke litle remaine. 9. By a Madianites dreame Gedeon is encouraged. 16. By a ftratageme the enemie is frighted & ouerthrowne. 24. The Ephraites kil Oreb and Zeb.

Therfore Ierobaal, which is alfo Gedeon, ryfing in the night, and al the people with him, came to the fountaine that is called Harad, and the campe of Madian was in the valley on the North fide of the high hil. ² And our Lord faid to Gedeon: There

^a Dew firft in the fleece and after on the ground fignified grace and true religion firft in one people, after in al nations. *Sainct Amb. Ser. 13. de Natal. Dom. Venr. Beda qq. in Iudic. c. 4.* Alfo Chrifts Incarnation without detriment of his mothers virginite, of whole grace al are replenifhed. *S. Bernard ho. 2. in Miffus eft.*

is much people with thee, neither shal Madian be deliuered into their hand: Left Ifrael glorie againft me, and fay: By myne owne force I am deliuered. ³ Speake to the people, and proclame in al their hearing: He that is fearful and timorous, let him returne. And they departed from mount Galaad, and there returned two and twentie thoufand men, and onlie ten thoufand remained. ⁴ And our Lord faid to Gedeon: Yet there is a great multitude, leade them to the waters, and there I wil proue them: and of whom I shal forbid to goe, let him returne. ⁵ And when the people were come downe to the waters, our Lord faid to Gedeon: They that shal lappe the water with their tongues, as dogges are wont to lappe, thou shalt feparate them apart: but they that shal drinke bowing downe their knees, shal be on the other part. ⁶ The number therfore of them that had lappe water, their hand cafting it to their mouth, was three hundred men: and al the reft of the multitude had drunck kneeling. ⁷ And our Lord faid to Gedeon: In the three hundred men, that lapped water, I wil deliuer you, and geue Madian in thy hand: but let al the reft of the multitude returne into their place. ⁸ Taking therfore victuals and trumpettes according to the number, al the reft of the multitude he commanded to depart to their tabernacles: and him felfe with the three hundred gaue him felfe to the battel. And the campe of Madian was beneath in the valley. ⁹ The fame night our Lord faid to him: Arife, and goe downe into the campe: becaufe I haue deliuered them into thy hand. ¹⁰ But if thou be afraid to goe alone, let Phara thy feruant goe downe with thee. ¹¹ And when thou shalt heare what they fpeake, then shal thy handes be ftrenghned, and thou shalt goe downe more fecure to the enemies campe. He therefore went downe and Phara his feruant into part of the campe, where the watch was of men in armes. ¹² But Madian and Amalec, and al the Eaft peoples lay fcattered in the valley, as a multitude of locuftes: their camels alfo were innumerable, as the fand that lieth in the fea shore. ¹³ And when Gedeon was come, one told

his neighbour ^a)a dreame: & in this manner he reported that which he had feene: I faw a dreame, & there femed to me as it were a harth loafe of barlie to roll, & to come into the campe of Madian: and when it was come to the tabernacle, it ftroke it, and ouerthrew it, and beate it al flatte with the earth. ¹⁴ He to whom he fpake, answered: This is no other thing, but the fword of Gedeon the fonne of Ioas the man of Ifrael. For the Lord hath deliuered Madian into his handes, and al their campe. ¹⁵ And when Gedeon had heard the dreame, and the interpretation therof, he adored: and turned to the campe of Ifrael, and faid: Arife ye, for our Lord hath deliuered the campe of Madian into our handes. ¹⁶ And he diuided the three hundred men into three partes, and gaue them trumpettes in their handes, and ^b)emptie pitchers, and lampes in the middes of their pitchers. ¹⁷ And he faid to them: What you shal fee me doe, that doe ye: I wil enter into part of the campe, and that which I shal doe folow you. ¹⁸ When the trumpet shal found in my hand, doe you alfo found and crie together round about the campe: To our Lord ^c)and to Gedeon. ¹⁹ And Gedeon went in, and the three hundred that were with him, into part of the campe, the watch of midnight beginning, and rayfing vp the watch men they began to found with their ^d)trumpettes, and to clappe the pitchers one againft an other. ²⁰ And when they founded in three places round about the campe, and had broken the pitchers, they held the lampes in the left handes, and with the right they founded the trumpettes, and cried: The fword of our Lord and of Gedeon: ²¹ ftanding euerie one in his place

^a Obseruation of dreames is generally forbid. *Leuit. 19. v. 26. Deut. 18. v. 10.* Yet here, and in other places, it is euident, God would haue fome obserued. See *Annot. Gen. 40.*

^b Thefe things were ridiculous (faith Venerab. Beda c. 5. qq. in *Iudic.* if they had not bene terrible to the enemies.

^c It is no derogation to God, that honour is alfo geuen to his feruantes.

^d Trumpetes fignified preachers of Chrift, pitchers the bodies of Martyres, & lampes their vertues and miracles. *Vener. Beda. qq. in Iudic. c. 3.*

round about the enemies campe. Therefore the whole campe was trubled, and crying out and howling they fled: ²² and the three hundred men neuertheles perfited founding with the trumpettes. And our Lord fent in the fword in al the campe, and they murdered one an other, ²³ fleeing as farre as Bethfetta, and the brinke of Abelmehula in Tebbath. But the men of Ifrael of Nepthali, and Afer shoutting together, and al Manaffes purfewed Madian. ²⁴ And Gedeon fent meffengers into al mount Ephraim, faying: Come downe to meete Madian, and take the waters before them to Bethbera and Iordan. And al Ephraim shouted, and tooke the waters before them and Iordan vnto Bethbera. ²⁵ And two men that were apprehended of Madian, Oreb, and Zeb: Oreb he flew in the Rocke of Oreb, Zeb in the Preffe of Zeb. And they purfewed Madian, carying the heades of Oreb and Zeb to Gedeon beyond the ftreames of Iordan.

Chapter 8

The Ephraimites quareling becaufe they were not called to the warres, are pacified by Gedeon. 4. The men of Soccoth and Phaniel denying victuals for the campe, Gedeon (in the meane time 10. ouerthrowing the enemy) 15. reuengeth their reprochful contempt, 18. killeth Sebee and Salmana, 22. refufeth dominion, 24. but receiueth as a gift, the iewels taken in the praye: 27. maketh therof an Ephod, which turneth to the ruine of his familie. 30. Hauing feuentie fonnes by his wiues, and one by a concubine, dieth in good old age. 33. And the people fal againe to idolatrie.

And the men of Ephraim faid to him: What is this that thou didft meane to doe, that thou wouldest not cal vs when thou didft goe to fight againft Madian? chydng bitterly and almoft offering violence. ² To whom he answered: ^a)What could I

^a A foft anſwer breaketh anger: hard ſpeech ſtirreth vp furie. *Prou. 35.*

haue done like to that, which you haue done. Is not the clufter of Ephraim better then the vintages of Abiezer?
³ Into your handes hath our Lord deliuered the princes of Madian, Oreb and Zeb, what could I haue done the like as you haue done? Which when he had fpoken, their fpirit refted, wherwith they did fwel againft him. ⁴ And when Gedeon was come to Iordan, he paffed ouer it with the three hundred men, that were with him: and for wearines, they could not purfew them that fled. ⁵ And he faid to the men of Soccoth: Geue, I befeech you, bread to the people, that is with me, becaufe they are verie faint: that we may purfew Zebee, and Salmana the kinges of Madian. ⁶ The princes of Soccoth answered: Peraduenture the palmes of the handes of Zebee and Salmana are in thy hand, & therfore thou requireft that we geue bread to thy armie. ⁷ To whom he faid: When our Lord therfore fhall haue deliuered Zebee and Salmana into my handes, I wil teare your flesh with the thornes, and briers of the defert. ⁸ And going vp from thence, he came into Phanuel: and he fpake to the men of that place the like thinges. To whom they alfo answered, as the men of Soccoth had answered. ⁹ He faid therfore to them alfo: When I fhall be returned conquerour in peace, I wil deftroy this towre. ¹⁰ But Zebee and Salmana refted with al their armie. For fiftene thoufand men were remayning of al the troupes of the Eaft peoples, an hundred and twentie thoufand fighting men and thofe that drew fword, being flayne. ¹¹ And Gedeon going vp by the way of them, that dwelt in tabernacles, on the Eaft fide of Nobe, and Iegbaa, ftroke the campe of the enemies, which were fecure, and fufpected no mifchance. ¹² And Zebee and Salmana fled, whom Gedeon purfewing apprehended, al their hofte being put out of aray. ¹³ And returning from the battel before funne ryfing, ¹⁴ he tooke a boy of the men of Soccoth: and he asked him the names of the princes and ancientes of Soccoth, and he defcribed feuentie feuen men. ¹⁵ And he came to Soccoth, and faid to them: Behold Zebee, and Salmana

concerning whom you vpbraided me, faying: Peraduenture the handes of Zebee and Salmana are in thy handes, and therfore thou defireft that we geue bread to the men that be wearie, and are fainte. ¹⁶ He tooke therfore the ancientes of the citie, and thornes and briers of the defert, and tore them with the fame, and cut the men of Soccoth into pieces. ¹⁷ The tower alfo of Phaniel he ouerthrew, killing the inhabitantes of the citie. ¹⁸ And he faid to Zebee and Salmana: What manner of men were they, whom you flew in Thabor? Who answered: Like vnto thee, and one of them as it were the fonne of a king. ¹⁹ To whom he answered: They were my brethren, the fonnes of my mother. Our Lord liueth, that if you had faued them, ^aI would not kil you. ²⁰ And he faid to Iether his eldest fonne: Arife, and kil them. Who drew not out his fword: for he was afraid, becaufe he was yet a boy. ²¹ And Zebee and Salmana faid: Doe thou rife, and runne vpon vs: becaufe according to his age is the ftrengh of a man. Gedeon rofe vp, and flew Zebee and Salmana: and he tooke the ornamentes and boffes, wherwith the neckes of kinges camels are wont to be adorned. ²² And al the men of Ifrael faid to Gedeon: ^bRule thou ouer vs, and thy fonne, and thy fonnes fonne: becaufe thou haft deliuered vs from the hand of Madian. ²³ To whom he faid: I wil not rule ouer you, neither shal my fonne rule ouer you, but our Lord shal rule ouer you. ²⁴ And he faid to them: One petition I request of you: Geue me the earlettes of your praye. For the Ifmalites were accuftomed to haue golden earlettes. ²⁵ Who answered: We wil geue them moft willingly. And fpreading a mantel on the ground, they caft on it the earlettes of the praye: ²⁶ and the weight of the earlettes that he defired, was a thoufand fiue hundred ficles of gold, befides the ornamentes, and iewels, and purple vesture,

^a Zebee and Salmana were not of anie of the feuen nations, whom God commanded to deftroy and therfore Gedeon might haue fpared their liues, if he would.

^b Kinges may do anie thing not contrarie to the law: but Iudges & Dukes may onlie do according to the law. See *1. Reg. 8.*

which the kinges of Madian were wont to vse, and besides the golden chaines of the camels. ²⁷ And Gedeon made therof an Ephod, and put it in his citie Ephra. And al Ifrael did fornicate in it, and it became a ruine to Gedeon and to al his houe. ²⁸ But Madian was humbled before the children of Ifrael, neither could they any more lift vp their neckes: but the land refted for fourtie yeares, wherin Gedeon ruled. ²⁹ Ierobaal therfore the fonne of Ioas went, and dwelt in his owne houe: ³⁰ and he had feuentie fonnes, which came out of his thigh, becaufe he had manie wiues. ³¹ And his ^a)concubine, which he had in Sichem, bare him a fonne named Abimelec. ³² And Gedeon the fonne of Ioas died in a good old age, & was buried in the fepulchre of his father in Ephra of the familie of Ezri. ³³ But after that Gedeon was dead, the children of Ifrael were auerted, and did fornicate with Baalim. And they made a couenant with Baal, that he should be their God: ³⁴ neither did they remember our Lord their God, which deliuered them out of the handes of al their enemies round about: ³⁵ neither did they mercie with the houe of Ierobaal Gedeon, according to al the benefites that he had done to Ifrael.

Chapter 9

Abimelech Gedeons concubins fonne killeth his brethren, 7. onlie the yongest efcapeth, & by a parable expoſtulateth the iniurie donne to his fathers houe. 23. Shortly the Sichemites detest Abimelech. 26. Gaal confpireth againſt him, but is ouercome. 50. Finally Abimelech is wounded to death by a woman.

A

nd ^b)Abimelech the fonne of Ierobaal went into Sichem to his mothers brethren and ſpake

^a His handmaide or ſeruant not a harlotte: to wit, ſuch a one as had not the priuiledge of a wife. As *Gen. 25. v. 6.*

^b This fonne of Gedeon by his ſeruant prefigured Antichriſt who wil perfecute the Church and reigne for a while: but in the end ſhal be deſtroyed. *S. Beda c. 6. qq. in Iudic.*

to them, and to al the kinred of the houle of his mothers father, faying: ² Speake to al the men of Sichem: whether it is better for you, that feuentie men haue dominion ouer you al the fonnes of Ierobaal, or that one man haue dominion ouer you? and withal confider that I am your bone, and your flefh. ³ And his mothers brethren fpake of him to al the men of Sichem, al thefe wordes, and inclined their hartes after Abimelech, faying: He is our brother. ⁴ And they gaue him feuentie weight of filuer out of the temple of Baalberit. Who hyred therewith vnto him felf needie men and vagaboundes, and they folowed him. ⁵ And he came into his fathers houle in Ephra, and murdered his brethren the fonnes of Ierobaal feuentie men, vpon one ftone: and there remayned Ioatham the youngeft sonne of Ierobaal, and was hidde. ⁶ And al the men of Sichem affembled together al the families of the citie of Mello: and they went & made Abimelech king, befide the oke, that ftood in Sichem. ⁷ Which being told to Ioatham, he went, ^aand ftode in the toppe of mount Garizim: and lifting vp his voice, he cried, and faid: Heare me ye men of Sichem, fo as God may heare you. ⁸ ^bThe trees went to anointe a king ouer them: and they faid to the ^boliue tree: Reigne ouer vs. ⁹ Which answered: Can I forfake my fatnes, which both goddes do vse, and men, and come to be promoted among the trees? ¹⁰ And the trees faid to the ^cfigge tree: Come, and take the kingdome ouer vs. ¹¹ Which answered them: Can I forfake my sweetnes, and my moft fweete fruites, and go to be promoted among the other trees? ¹² And the trees fpake to the ^dvine: Come, and reigne ouer vs. ¹³ Which answered them: Can I forfake my wine, that chereth God and

^a True paftores in the time of Antichrift wil ftill auouch the truth and the right of the Church.

^b Oyle fpiritually signifieth the grace of the Holie Ghofte, making peace of confcience in mens foules towards God.

^c The fweetnes of Gods law producing good workes.

^d Contemtable in outward fhew, but bringing forth liquour of meruelous force; which forte of workes God is moft delighted withal: and men moft admire. *Pfal.* 85.

men, & be promoted among the other trees? ¹⁴ And the trees said to ^athe rhamnus: Come, and reigne ouer vs. ¹⁵ Who answered them: If in deede you make me your king, Come, and rest vnder my shadow: but if you meane it not, let there fyre issue forth of the rhamnus, and deuoure the ceders of Libanus. ¹⁶ Now therefore, if you haue wel, and without finne appointed Abimelech king ouer you, and haue dealt wel with Ierobaal, and with his house, and haue requitted him the like for his benefites, who fought for you, ¹⁷ and put his life in dangers, that he might deliuer you from the hand of Madian, ¹⁸ who now are risen against my fathers house, and haue killed his sonnes feuentie men vpon one stone, and haue made Abimelech the sonne of his handmaide king ouer the inhabitantes of Sichem, because he is your brother. ¹⁹ If therefore you haue dealt wel, and without fault with Ierobaal, and his house, reioyce this day in Abimelech, and reioyce he in you. ²⁰ But if vniustly: let there fyre issue forth from him, and consume the inhabitantes of Sichem, and towne of Mello: and let there fire goe forth from the men of Sichem, and from the towne of Mello, and deuoure Abimelech. ²¹ Which thinges when he had said, he fled, and went into Bera: and dwelt there for feare of Abimelech his brother. ²² Abimelech therefore reigned ouer Ifrael three yeares. ²³ And our Lord sent ^ba verie euil spirit between Abimelech and the inhabitantes of Sichem: Who began to detest him, ²⁴ and to lay the wickednes of the murdering of the feuentie sonnes of Ierobaal, and the shedding of their blood vpon Abimelech their brother, and vpon the rest of the princes of the Sichemites, that had holpen him. ²⁵ And they sette an ambushment against him on the toppe of the mountaines: and whiles they taried for his coming,

Brierre, bramble, or thistle.

^a The rhamnus signifieth base and ambitious men.

^b God doth suggest only good cogitations: as remorse of conscience in the Sechemites, for their ingratitude towards Gedeon and for so wicked and cruel a murder of his sonnes. Whereupon they began to detest Abimelech and, so hatred grew between him & them, which is a most euil spirit. But their former finne, not God, was the cause thereof. *S. Aug. q. 45. in Iudic.*

they committed robberies, taking prayes of them that paffed by: and it was told Abimelech. ²⁶ And Gaal the fonne of Obed came with his brethren, and paffed into Sichem. At whofe coming the inhabitantes of Sichem taking courage, ²⁷ iffued forth into the fieldes, wafting the vineyardes, and treading the grapes: and gathering companies of muficians went into the temple of their god, and in the bankettes and cuppes curfed Abimelech. ²⁸ Gaal the fonne of Obed crying: Who is Abimelech, and what is Sichem, that we fhould ferue him? Is he not the fonne of Ierobaal, and hath made Zebul his feruant prince ouer the men of Emor the father of Sichem? Why then fhall we ferue him? ²⁹ Would God that fome man would geue this people vnder my hand, that I might take Abimelech out of the way. And fome faid to Abimelech: Gather together a multitude of an armie, and come. ³⁰ For Zebul the prince of the citie, hearing the wordes of Gaal the fonne of Obed, was very wrath, ³¹ and fent meffengers fecretely to Abimelech, faying: Behold, Gaal the fonne of Obed is come into Sichem with his brethren, and rayfeth the citie againft thee. ³² Arife therefore in the night with the people, that is with thee, and lie hidde in the field: ³³ and betimes in the morning at funne ryfing, fette vpon the citie. And when he iffueh forth againft thee with his people, do to him what thou fhalt be able. ³⁴ Abimelech therefore arofe with al his armie in the night, and laide ambuflhementes nere to Sichem in foure places. ³⁵ And Gaal the fonne of Obed went forth, & ftoode in the entrance of the gate of the citie. And Abimelech rofe, and al his armie with him from the place of the ambuflhmentes. ³⁶ And when Gaal had feene the people, he faid to Zebul: Behold a multitude cometh downe from the mountaines. To whom he answered: Thou feeft the fhadowes of the mountaines as it were heades of men, and with this error thou art deceiued. ³⁷ Againe Gaal faid: Behold there cometh downe people from the nauel of the land, and one troupe cometh by the way, that looketh to the oke. ³⁸ To whom Zebul faid: Where is now thy mouth, wherwith thou didft fpeake? Who is Abimelech that we

should ferue him? Is not this the people, which thou didst despise? Goe forth, and fight against him. ³⁹ Gaal therefore went, the people of the Sichemites looking on, and fought against Abimelech, ⁴⁰ who pursued him fleeing, and drove him into the citie: and there were slain of his part manie, vnto the gate of the citie: ⁴¹ and Abimelech fate in Ruma: but Zebul expelled Gaal, and his companions out of the citie, neither did he suffer them to abide in it. ⁴² Therefore the day following the people went forth into the field. Which being told to Abimelech, ⁴³ he tooke his armie, and diuided it into three troupes, setting ambushmentes in the fieldes. And seeing that the people came out of the citie, he arose, & set vpon them ⁴⁴ with his owne troupe, oppugning and besieging the citie: and two troupes scattered through the field pursued the aduersaries. ⁴⁵ Moreover Abimelech al that day oppugned the citie: which he tooke, & killed the inhabitantes therof, and destroyed it, so that he showedfalt in it. ⁴⁶ Which when they had heard that dwelt in the towre of Sichem, they entered into the temple of their god Berith, where they had made a couenant with him, and therof the place had taken his name, which was exceeding well fenced. ⁴⁷ Abimelech also hearing that the men of the towre of Sichem were gathered together, ⁴⁸ he went vp into mount Selmon with al his people: and taking an axe, he cut of the bough of a tree, and laying it on his shoulder & carying it, he said to his companions: That which you see me do, doe ye out of hand. ⁴⁹ They therefore cutting of boughes from the trees, euerie man as fast as he could, followed their captaine. Who compassing the forte burnt it: and so it came to passe, that with the smoke and the fyre a thousand persons were slain, men and women together, of the inhabitantes of the towre of Sichem. ⁵⁰ And Abimelech departing thence came to the towne of Thebes, which compassing he besieged with his armie. ⁵¹ And there was in the middes of the citie an high towre, to the which were fled both men

^a For more reuenge he sowed the citie with false, which maketh ground barren. *Theod. q. 17. in lib. Iudic.*

and wemen together, and al the princes of the citie, the gate being fhut very ftrongly, and they fstanding vpon the batlementes of the towre by the bulwarkes. ⁵² And Abimelech coming nere the towre, fought manfully: and approaching to the doore, endeouored to put fire vnder it: ⁵³ and behold one woman cafting from aboue a peece of a milftone, ^a)dafhed it againft the head of Abimelech, and brake his brayne. ⁵⁴ Who called by and by his efquire, and faid to him: Draw out thy fword, and ftrike me: left perhaps it be faid that I was flaine of a woman. Who doing as he was commanded flew him. ⁵⁵ And when he was dead, al that were with him of Ifrael, returned into their feates: ⁵⁶ and God repayed the euil, that Abimelech had done againft his father, killing his feuentie brethren. ⁵⁷ The Sichemites were alfo rewarded for that which they had wrought, and the curfe of Ioatham the fonne of Ierobaal came vpon them.

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8 The trees went to annoint a king.) According to the hiftorie Ioatham Gedeons youngeft fonne, by a parable iuftly expoſtulateth the iniurie donne by the Sichemites to his fathers houſe, in preferring a baſe bound womans fonne, and cruelly murdering the reſt of his ſonnes: who with much trauel, and manie dangers of his owne life, had deliuered them from ſeruitude. But in the ſpiritual ſenſe, which (as the ancient fathers note) is chiefly intended, Idolaters and Heretikes are reproued, who rather accept of vniuſt vfurpers, that wil ſerue their licentious appetites, and maintaine vice and wickednes, then to be ruled by iuſt and lawful Superiors, appointed by Gods ordinance, indued with grace of the Holie Ghoſt (ſignified by *the oliue tree*;) ſuch as bring forth wholfome fwete vertues (ſignified by *the figge tree*;) and are replenifhed with admirable fortitude (ſignified by the vine tree) and in their places ſet vp baſe, ambitious, cruel, and crabbed ſpirites, ſignified by the bramble, or brere. Thus Nemrod, Abimelech, Mahomet, and innumerable other tyrantes haue benne aduanced, & eſpecially Antichriſt *ſhal be extolled aboue al that is called God, or is vvorſhipped*, and ſhal moſt cruelly perfecute al Catholiques, that wil not conforme them ſelues to his proceedings. But in fine (as here

Vngratful people render iniuries for benefites.

Infidels promote wicked men to authoritie.

Abimelech a figure of Antichriſt.

2. Theff. 2.

^a Euels ſhal betide the vniuſt man to deſtruction. *Pfal.* 139.

is prefigured in Abimelech) *fire shal rife againft this bramble Antichrift, and shal deuoure him and al his together. S. Beda. qq. in lib. Iudic. c. 6.*

Chapter 10

Thola ruleth in Ifrael twentie three yeares. 3. Iair twentie two. 6. The people fal againe to idolatrie, are afflicted by the Philifthimes, and Ammonites. 10. They crie to God for helpe, who biddeth them cal for helpe to the goddes whom they haue ferued, 16. but crying ftill to God, and throwing away their idoles, he hath compafsion of them.

After Abimelech there arofe Ruler in Ifrael Thola the fonne of Phua the vncle of Abimelech, a man of Iffachar, which dwelt in Samir of mount Ephraim: ² and iudged Ifrael three and twentie yeares, and died and was buried in Samir. ³ After him fucceded Iair the Galaadite, who iudged Ifrael for two and twentie yeares, ⁴ hauing thirtie fonnes fitting vpon thirtie affe coltes, & princes of thirtie cities, which of his name were called Hauoth Iair, that is, the townes of Iair, vntil this prefent day in the Land of Galaad. ⁵ And Iair died, and was buried in the place, which is called Camon. ⁶ But the children of Ifrael ioyning new finnes to their old, did euil in the fight of our Lord, & ferued the Idols, Baalim and Aftaroth, & the goddes of Syria and of Sidon and of Moab and of the children of Ammon and of the Philifthimes: and they left our Lord, and did not ferue him. ⁷ Againft whom our Lord being wrath, deliuered them into the handes of the Philifthijms and of the children of Ammon. ⁸ And they were afflicted, and fore opreffed for eightene yeares, al that dwelt beyond Iordan in the Land of the Amorrheite, which is in Galaad: ⁹ in fo much, that the children of Ammon paffing ouer Iordan, wafted Iudas and Beniamin and Ephraim: and Ifrael was afflicted exceedingly. ¹⁰ And crying to our Lord, they faid: We haue finned

to thee, becaufe we haue forfaken our Lord God & haue ferued Baalim. ¹¹ To whom our Lord fpake: Haue not the Egyptians and the Ammorrheites, and the children of Ammon and the Philiftijms, ¹² the Sidonians alfo and Amalech and Chanaan oppreffed you, & you cried to me, and I deliuered you out of their hand? ¹³ And yet you haue forfaken me, and haue worfhipped ftrange goddes: therefore I wil not adde to deliuer you any more: ¹⁴ goe and inuocate the goddes which you haue chofen: let them deliuer you in the time of diftreffe. ¹⁵ And the children of Ifrael faid to our Lord: We haue finned, tender to vs whatfoeuer pleafeth thee: only now deliuer vs. ¹⁶ In faying which thinges, ^a)they threw away out of their coaftes al the idols of ftrange goddes, and ferued our Lord God: who forowed for their miferies. ¹⁷ Therefore the children of Ammon crying together pitcht their tentes in Galaad: againft whom the children of Ifrael being affembled camped in Mafpha. ¹⁸ And the princes of Galaad faid euerie one to their neighbours: Who of vs fhall firft beginne to fight againft the children of Ammon, fhall be the duke of the people of Galaad.

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Chapter 11

Iephte reiected by his brethrens, is intreated by the ancientes of Galaad to returne and fight for them againft the Ammonites: 12. with whom he firft pleadeth the caufe of Ifrael by iuft reaſons, 26. and long preſcription. But they perfifting obftinate, he (30. inconfideratly vow- ing) 32. ouerthroweth them, 34. and facrificeth his onlie daughter.

There was at that time Iephte the Galaadite a moſt valiant man and a warrier, the ſonne of

^a Not euerie one that fayeth: *Lord, Lord*, but he that doth the wil of God, &c. *Mat. 7.*

a woman that was ^{a)}an harlot, who was borne of Galaad. ² And Galaad had a wife of whom he had fonnes: who after they were growen, caft out Iephte, faying: Thou canft not be heyre in the houle of our father, becaufe thou art borne of an other mother. ³ Whom he fleeing and auoyding, dwelt in the Land of Tob: and there were gathered to him needie men, and theeuifh, and folowed him as their prince. ⁴ In thofe dayes the children of Ammon fought againft Ifrael. ⁵ Who preffing fore vpon them, the ancientes of Galaad went to take Iephte out of the Land of Tob to helpe them: ⁶ and they faied to him: Come and be our prince, and fight againft the children of Ammon. ⁷ To whom he answered: Are not you they that hated me, and caft me out of my fathers houle, and now are come to me forced by neceffitie. ⁸ And the princes of Galaad faid to Iephte: For this caufe be we now ^{b)}come to thee, that thou goe forth with vs, and fight againft the children of Ammon, and be the captaine of al that dwell in Galaad. ⁹ Iephte alfo faid to them: If you be come to me fincerly, that I fhould fight for you againft the children of Ammon, and if our Lord deliuer them into my handes, fhall I be your prince? ¹⁰ Who answered him: Our Lord which heareth thefe thinges, him felfe is mediatour and witnes that we wil doe as we haue promifed. ¹¹ Iephte therefore went with the princes of Galaad, and al the people made him their prince. And Iephte fpake al his wordes before our Lord in Mafpha. ¹² And he fent meffengers to the king of the children of Ammon, which should fay in his perfon: What is betwen me and thee, that thou art come againft me, to waft my Land? ¹³ To whom he answered: Becaufe Ifrael tooke my land, when he afcended out of Ægypt, from the coafte of Arnon vnto Iaboc and Iordan:

^a The hebrew word *Zonah* fignifieth alfo *an in keeper*.

^b If they had not concurred to his expulfion, it might haue fufficed to haue fent for him, but in this cafe the ancientes iudged it meete to goe in perfon, and to intreat him. So Chrift was reiected by the Iewes, and returneth not to them til in the end of the world they fhall feeke vnto him. *S. Aug. q. 49. in Iudic. poft mediū.*

now therfore with peace reftore the fame to me. ¹⁴ By whom Iephthe againe fent word, and commanded them that they should fay to the king of Ammon: ¹⁵ Thus fayth Iephthe: Ifrael did not take the Land of Moab, nor the Land of the children of Ammon: ¹⁶ but when they afcended out of Ægypt, he walked through the defert vnto the Readfea, and came into Cades. ¹⁷ And he fent meffengers to the king of Edom, faying: Suffer me that I may paffe through thy land. Who would not condefcend to his requestes. He fent alfo to the king of Moab, who alfo him felfe contemned to geue paffage. He abode therfore in Cades, ¹⁸ and compaffed the Land of Edom at the fide, and the land of Moab: and came againft the Eaft quarter of the Land of Moab, and camped beyond Arnon: neither would he enter the boundes of Moab: for Arnon is the border of the Land of Moab. ¹⁹ Ifrael therfore fent meffengers to Sehon the king of the Amorrhaites, who dwelt in Hefebon, and they faid to him: Suffer me to paffe through thy land vnto the riuer. ²⁰ Who alfo him felfe defpifing the wordes of Ifrael, fuffered him not to paffe through his borders: but gathering an infinite multitude went forth againft him into Iafa, and refifted ftrongly. ²¹ And our Lord deliuered him into the handes of Ifrael with al his armie, and he ftroke him, and poffeffed al the Land of the Amorrhaites the inhabiter of that countrie, ²² and al the coaftes therof from Arnon vnto Iaboc, & from the wildernes vnto Iordan. ²³ Our Lord therfore the God of Ifrael fubuerted the Amorrhaites, his people of Ifrael fighting againft him, and wilt thou now poffeffe his land? ²⁴ Are not thofe thinges which ^a)Chamos thy god poffeffed, dew to thee by right? But the thinges that our Lord God hath obteyned conquerour, shal come to our poffeffion: ²⁵ vnleffe perhaps thou be better then Balac the fonne of

^a In the opinion of infidels, it femed that they poffeffed countries by the helpe of falfe goddes, and fo they thought them felues to haue iuft title. Much more iuft is the title when God almighty geueth victorie of conquest. *S. Aug. q. 48. in Iudic.*

Sephor the king of Moab: or canst shew, that he wrangled againſt Iſrael, and fought againſt him, ²⁶ when he dwelt in Heſebon, and the litle townes therof, and in Aroer, and the townes therof, or in al the cities nere Iordan, for ^{a)}three hundred yeares. Wherefore haue you ſo long attempted nothing for reclaime? ²⁷ Therefore I doe not finne againſt thee, but thou doeſt euil againſt me, denouncing me vniuſt warres. Our Lord be iudge the arbiter of this day between Iſrael, and between the children of Ammon. ²⁸ And the king of the children of Ammon would not harken to the wordes of Iephte, which he ſent him by the meſſengers. ²⁹ Therefore the ſpirite of our Lord came vpon Iephte, and circuiting Galaad, and Manaffes, Maſpha alſo of Galaad, and thence paſſing to the children of Ammon, ³⁰ he vowed a vow to our Lord, ſaying: If thou wilt deliuer the children of Ammon into my handes, ³¹ ^{b)}whoſoeuer ſhal firſt come forth out of the doores of my houſe, and ſhal meete me returning with peace from the children of Ammon, him wil I offer an holocauſte to our Lord. ³² And Iephte paſſed to the children of Ammon, to fight againſt them: whom our Lord deliuered into his handes, ³³ and he ſtroke from Aroer til thou come to Mennith, twentie cities, and as farre as Abel, which is fette with vineyardes, with a very great plague, and the children of Ammon were humbled by the children of Iſrael. ³⁴ But Iephte returning into Maſpha to his houſe, his onlie begotten daughter mette him with tymbrels and daunces. For he had not other children. ³⁵ Whom when he ſaw, he rent his garmentes, and ſaid: Wo is me my daughter thou haſt deceiued me, and thy ſelf art deceiued: for I haue opened my mouth to our Lord, and I can doe no other thing. ³⁶ To whom ſhe answered: My father, if thou haſt opened thy mouth to our Lord, do vnto me whatſoeuer thou haſt promiſed,

^a He argueth vpon preſcription of 300. yeares being nere ſo much, for there wanted ſcarce thirtie: being from the conqueſt made by Moyſes (*Num. 21.*) til the time of Iephte about 270. yeares.

^b This vow was vnlawful, for the law forbiddeth to offer man or woman in ſacrifice. *Exo. 34. v. 20. Deut. 12. v. 31.*

the reuenge and victorie of thyne enemies being granted to thee. ³⁷ And she said to her father: This only graunt me which I desire: Suffer me that two monethes I may goe about the mountaines, and ^a)bewayle my virginie with my felowes. ³⁸ To whom he answered: Goe. And he dismissed her two monethes. And when she was gone with her felowes and companions, she mourned her virginie in the mountaines. ³⁹ And the two monethes being expired, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed, who knew not man. Thence forth a fashion in Israel, and a custome was kept: ⁴⁰ that after the compasse of a yeare the daughters of Israel assemble together, and mourne the daughter of Iephthe the Galaadite foure dayes.

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³⁹ Did to her as he had vowed.) Whether Iephthe did well or no in sacrificing his daughter, hauing vowed to offer in sacrifice whoeuer (or whatfoeuer) should first mete him returning with victorie, as it hapened she did, is a great and hard question, saith S. Augustin (*q. 49. in lib. Iudic.*) and not easily decided, the holie scripture neither approving nor reproving his fact.

Neuertheles by conference of other scriptures and discourse of reason, he iudgeth it most probable that Iephthe offended in vowing without special warrant from God, to sacrifice, that which by the law was not sacrificable; yet finned not in performing his vow, but rather pacified God thereby, whose will it seemed to be, that for punishment of his sinne he should sacrifice his daughter, because by his diuine providence she first mette him: and the omission might rather haue benne for his natural loue towards his onlie childe, then for the vnlawfulness of the sacrifice: seeing it once pleased God to command Abraham to immolate his sonne Isaac, though when it came to execution, he forbade the same, appointing an other hoste in place of the childe, which here he did not. Neither was it iniurious to the daughter, seeing she, as all mankind, must once die when God appointeth. Yea further she offered herself freely (which seemed to be by Gods instinct) willing her father to do to her whatfoeuer he had promised to God. This is the summe of S. Augustins large discourse. Likewise S. Ambrose

Iephthe offended in vowing vndiscretely. But not in performing his vow as ancient fathers thinke more probable. S. Augustin.

S. Ambrose.

^a In the old testament marriage was ordinarily preferred before single life but in the new, it is better to keepe virginity. *1. Cor. 7. v. 38.*

(*li. 3. de Officiis c. 12.*) supposeth assuredly that this prince Iephte offended in vowing vnaduifedly, for it also repented him, when his daughter first mette him: yet that with *godlie feare and dreade* he performed to his owne bitter paine that which he had promised: instituting an anniuersarie lamentation of his daughter, for a warning to posteritie of more circumspection in making vowes. S. Hierom also (*li. 1. aduers. Iouinian.*) approueth their opinion that say: It was Gods ordinance Iephte should feeble the error of his vnaduifed vow, by the death of his daughter, for a document to others. The very same teacheth S. Chrysoftom, (*ho. 14. ad pop. Antioch.*) that God would haue this error to be thus punished, that others might be warned from vowing the like. S. Gregorie Nazianzen (*orat. de Machabæis*) preferring the martyrdome of the feuen brothers and their mother, before this sacrifice of Iephte as *more aduifed, and more honorable*, yet condemneth not this, but recounteth it amongst other commendable actes. Theodoret (*q. 19. in Iudic.*) and al the aforefaid fathers do highly commend the daughters promptnes in offering her self to be sacrificed, which either much extenuated her fathers fault, or wholly iustified his fact. Thus the ancient fathers moderate their censures. Yet a new gloffe of the English Bible without scruple sayeth, that by his rash vow, *and vicked performance his victorie was defaced*; and againe, that he was overcome *with blinde zeale, not confidering* whether the vow was lawful or no. *Bible 1603.*

Chapter 12

Ephraites rising againſt Iephte, fourtie two thousand of them are ſlaine. 8. Abefan is Iudge. 11. After him Ahialon. 13. Then Abdon.

But behold in Ephraim there aroſe a fedition. For they paſſing againſt the North, ſaid to Iephte: Going to fight againſt the children of Ammon, why wouldſt thou not call vs, that we might goe with thee? Therefore we wil burne thy houſe. ² To whom he answered: I and my people were at great ſtrife againſt the children of Ammon: and I called you, that you ſhould ayde me, and you would not doe it. ³ Which I ſeeing ^aput my life in myne owne handes, and paſſed

^a That is, expoſed my ſelf to danger truſting to Gods helpe & myn owne handes, when others would not aſſiſt me.

to the children of Ammon, and our Lord deliuered them into my handes. What haue I deferued, that you rise againſt me in battel. ⁴ Therefore al the men of Galaad being called to him, he fought againſt Ephraim: and the men of Galaad ſtroke Ephraim, becauſe he had ſaid: ^a)Galaad is a fugitiue of Ephraim, and dwelleth in the middes of Ephraim and Manaffes. ⁵ And the Galaadites tooke the fordes of Iordan, by the which Ephraim was to returne. And when there had come to the ſame one of the number of Ephraim, fleeing, and had ſaid: I beſeech you let me paſſe: The Galaadites ſaid to him: Art thou not an Ephraite? Who ſaying: I am not: ⁶ they asked him: Say then Schibboleth, which is interpreted an Eare of corne. Who answered, Sibboleth, not being able by the ſame letter to expreſſe, an eare of corne. And immediatly being apprehended they killed him in the very paſſage of Iordan. And there fel at that time of Ephraim two and fourtie thouſand. ⁷ Therefore Iephte the Galaadite iudged Iſrael fix yeares: and he died, and was buried in his citie of Galaad. ⁸ After him Abefan of Bethlehem iudged Iſrael: ⁹ who had thirtie ſonnes, and as manie daughters, which he ſending abroad, gaue to huſbandes, and tooke wiues for his ſonnes of the ſame number, bringing them into his houſe. Who iudged Iſrael ſeuene yeares: ¹⁰ and died and was buried in Bethlehem. ¹¹ To whom ſucceeded Ahialon a Zabulonite: and he iudged Iſrael ten yeares: ¹² and he died and was buried in Zabulon. ¹³ After him Abdon iudged Iſrael, the ſonne of Illel a Pharathonite: ¹⁴ who had fourtie ſonnes, and of them thirtie nephewes, mounting vpon ſeuentie aſſe coltes, and he iudged Iſrael eight yeares: ¹⁵ and he died, and was buried in Pharathon of the Land of Ephraim, in the mount of Amalec.

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^a Iephte being of Manaffes tribe the Ephraites enuied his glorie and calumniouſly objected that he and his followers were fugitiues ſo raiſed a tumulte to their owne loſſe.

Chapter 13

The people fall againe to idolatrie and are afflicted by the Philistines. 3. An Angel telleth Manue his wife, that she shall haue a sonne, and that he shall be a Nazareite from his birth, 11. confirmeth the same to Manue. 16. They offer sacrifice to God. 24. The child is borne, called Samson, and blessed of God.

And againe the children of Israel did euill in the sight of our Lord: who deliuered them into the hands of the Philistines fourtie yeares. ² And there was a certaine man of Sarai, and of the stocke of Dan, named Manue, hauing a wife barren. ³ To whom an Angel of our Lord appeared, and said to her: Thou art barren and without children: but thou shalt conceiue & beare a sonne: ⁴ beware therefore that thou ^adrinke not wine & ficer, nor eate any vncleane thing: ⁵ because thou shalt conceiue and beare a sonne, whose head the razor shall not touch: for he shall be a Nazareite of God, ^bfrom his infancie, and from his mothers wombe, and he shall beginne to deliuer Israel from the hands of the Philistines. ⁶ Who when she was come to her husband, said to him: A man of God came to me, hauing an Angelical countenance, exceeding terrible. Whom when I had asked, who he was, and whence he came, and by what name he was called, he would not tell me: ⁷ but this he answered: Behold thou shalt conceiue and beare a sonne: beware thou drinke not wine, nor ficer, and that thou eate not any vncleane thing: for the child shall be the Nazareite of God from his infancie, and from his mothers wombe vntill the day of his death. ⁸ Manue therefore prayed to our Lord, and

^a Abstinence not only from things vncleane by the law but also from wine and ficer was a preparation to the child, who should abstaine from them all his life.

^b Other Nazarites obserued a prescripte rule of abstinence for a time only. *Num. 6.* But Samson all his life; as a more perfect figure of Christ.

faid: I befech thee ô Lord, that the man of God, whom thou didft fend, may come againe, and teach vs what we ought to doe concerning the child, that ſhal be borne. ⁹ And our Lord heard Manue praying, and the Angel of our Lord appeared againe to his wife fitting in the field. But Manue her hufband was not with her. Who when ſhe had ſeene the Angel, ¹⁰ haftened, and ranne to her hufband: and ſhe told him, ſaying: Behold the man hath appeared to me, whom I ſaw before. ¹¹ Who roſe, and folowed his wife: and comming to the man, ſaid to him: Art thou he that didft ſpeake to the woman? And he answered: I am. ¹² To whom, Manue, when, ſayd he: Thy word ſhal be fulfilled, what wilt thou that the child doe? or from what ſhal he keepe him ſelf? ¹³ And the Angel of our Lord ſaid to Manue: From al thinges, which I haue ſpoken to thy wife, let him refraine him ſelf: ¹⁴ and whatſoeuer groweth of the vineyard, let him not eate: wine and ficer let him not drinke, let him not eate any vncleane thing: and whatſoeuer I haue commanded her, let him fulfil and keepe. ¹⁵ And Manue ſaid to the Angel of our Lord: I befech thee that thou condeſcend to my petitions, and let vs ^a)make to thee a kidde of goates. ¹⁶ To whom the Angel answered: If thou conſtraine me, I wil not eate thy breade: but if thou wilt make holocaust, offer it to our Lord. And Manue knew not that it was an Angel of our Lord. ¹⁷ And he ſaid to him: What is thy name, that, if thy word ſhal be fulfilled, we may honour thee? ¹⁸ To whom he answered: Why aſkeſt thou my name, which is merueilous? ¹⁹ Manue therfore tooke a kidde of the goates, and the libamentes, and put them vpon a rocke, offering to our Lord, who doeth merueilous thinges: and he and his wife looked on. ²⁰ And when the flame of the altar aſcended into heauen, the Angel of our Lord aſcended together in the flame. Which

^a Manue taking the Angel for a holie prophete iuſtly thought he would not admitte, nor cōmand anie thing but that was lawfull. And ſo did as the Angel appointed him, though he was no prieſt, nor the place proper to ſacrifice, but by extraordinarie diſpenſation.

when Manue and his wife had feene, they fel flatte on the ground, ²¹ and the Angel of our Lord appeared to them no more. And forthwith Manue vnderftood that it was an Angel of our Lord, ²² and he faid to his wife: Dying we fhall die, becaufe we haue feene ^a)God. ²³ To whom his wife answered: If our Lord would haue killed vs, he would not haue taken of our handes holocaustes and libamentes, neither would he haue shewed vs al thefe thinges, nor haue told vs thefe thinges that are to come. ²⁴ She therfore bare a fonne, and called his name Samfon. And the child grewe, and our Lord bleffed him. ²⁵ And the Spirit of our Lord beganne to be with him in the campe of Dan betwixt Saraa and Efthaol.

ANNOTATIONS

Proteftantes either contradict themfelues, or teach Arrianifme.

10 The man hath appeared.) Al ancient fathers and Catholique writers fay, this was an Angel, which appeared in the forme of a man, and it is plaine by the text. Yet fome proteftantes wil haue this perfon to be Chrift, *the eternal vvord of God*. VVho afterwards became man. And neuertheles where by & by (*v. 16.*) *Bible 1603.* he admonifheth Manue to offer facrifice to God, they note that *he fought not his ovvne honour but Gods, vvhofe meffenger he vv*as: either plainly contradicting themfelues, or els teaching Arrianifme, as though the Sonne of God were not God; or inferiour to God the Father.

Chapter 14

Samfon defirous to marrie a Philifthime woman. 5. By the way killeth a lion. 8. In whose mouth after few dayes, finding honey, 12. he propofeth therof a riddle to the Philifthiims for a wager: 15. which reueling to his wife, she telleth it to his aduerfaries. 19. He killeth and fpoyleth thirtie men, fo payeth the wager: and his wife taketh an other man.

^a Though Manue faw not God in his owne perfon, yet feing him in his meffenger feared death. *S. Aug. q. 54. in Iudic.*

Samfon therefore went downe into Thamnatha, and feeing there a woman of the daughters of the Philifthims, ² he went vp, and told his father and his mother, faying: I faw a woman in Thamnatha of the daughters of the Philifthijms: which I befech you take for me to wife. ³ To whom his father and mother faid: ^a)Is there not a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, and in al my people, that thou wilt take a wife of the Philifthijms, which are vncircumcised? And Samfon faid to his father: Take this for me: becaufe she hath pleafed mine eyes. ⁴ But his parentes knew not that the thing was done of our Lord, and he fought an occafion againft the Philifthims. For at that time the Philifthiims had dominion ouer Ifrael. ⁵ Samfon therefore went downe with his father and mother into Thamnatha. And when they were come to the vineyardes of the towne, there appeared a lions whelpe cruel, and roaring, and mette him. ⁶ And the Spirit of our Lord came vpon Samfon, and he tore the lion, as if he fhould teare a kidde into peeces, hauing nothing at al in his hand: and this thing he would not tel to his father and mother. ⁷ And he went downe and fpake to the woman, that had pleafed his eies. ⁸ And after fome dayes returning to take her, he went afide to fee the carcaffe of the lion, and behold there was a fwarme of bees in the mouth of the lion and a honie combe. ⁹ Which when he had taken in his handes, he did eate in the way: and coming to his father and mother, he gaue them part, who alfo them felues did eate: neither would he for al that tel them, that he had taken the honie from the bodie of the lion. ¹⁰ His father therefore went downe to the woman, and made his fonne Samfon a feaft, for fo yong men were accuftomed to doe. ¹¹ When the citizens therefore of that place had feene him, they gaue him thirtie companions to be with him. ¹² To whom Samfon fpake: I wil propofe you a riddle, which if you fhall folue me

^a It was prohibited (*Deut. 7. v. 3.*) to make mariage with the Gentiles, but God fome times difpenfed: as here it appeareth he did. *v. 4.*

within the feuen dayes of the feaft, I wil geue you thirtie findones, and as many coates: ¹³ but if you shal not be able to folue it, you shal geue me thirtie findones, and cotes of the fame number. Who answered him: Propound the riddle, that we may heare it. ¹⁴ And he said to them: Out of the eater came forth meate, and out of the strong issued forth sweetenes. Neither could they for three dayes folue the propofition. ¹⁵ And when the feuenth day was come, that said to the wife of Samfon: Speake to thy husband, and vse perfwafion to him, that he tel thee what the riddle fignifieth. Which thing ^aif thou wilt not doe, we wil burne thee, and thy fathers houfe: haue you therfore called vs to the bridal that you might fpoyle vs? ¹⁶ Who shed teares before Samfon, and complained faying: Thou hateft me, and loueft me not: therfore the probleme, which thou haft propounded to the fonnes of my people, thou wilt not expound to me. But he answered: I would not tel it to my father and mother: and can I tel it to thee? ¹⁷ The feuen daies therfore of the feaft ſhe wept before him: and at the length of the feuenth day for that ſhe moleſted him he expounded it. Who immediately told her countrie men. ¹⁸ And they told it him the feuenth day before the going downe of the funne: What is fweeter then honie, and what ſtronger then a lyon? Who ſaid to them: If you had not ploughed with my hayfer, you had not found out my propofition. ¹⁹ The Spirit therfore of our Lord came vpon him, and he went downe to Aſcalon, and ſtroke there thirtie men, whoſe garmentes being taken away he gaue to them, that had ſolued the probleme. And being exceding wrath he went vp into his fathers houfe: ²⁰ but his wife tooke a husband one of his freindes and bridal companions.

ANNOTATIONS

^a By threatnes they made her betray her husband: and neuertheles deftroied both her and her father. *cha. 15. v. 6.* So perfecuters of the Church deale with fuch, as trayterouſly or of frailtie ferue their turne.

Chapter 15

Samfon tying firebrandes to foxes tayles burneth the Philifthiims corne. 6. They burne his wife and her father. 8. He beateth them and hideth him felfe. 10. His owne countrimen to get peace with the Philifthimes, take and bind him, fo meaning to deliuer him. 14. But he breaketh the cordes, and with the iaw bone of an affe killeth a thoufand of his enemies. 18. Being exceding drie, is refreshed with water, from the tooth of the fame iaw.

And after a certaine time, when the dayes of wheate harueft were at hand, Samfon came, meaning to vifite his wife, and he brought her a kidde of goates. And when he would enter into her chamber as he was wont, her father prohibited him, faying: ² I thought that thou hadft hated her, and therefore I deliuered her to thy freind: but she hath a fifter, which is yonger & fayrer then she, let this be thy wife in fteade of her. ³ To whom Samfon answered: From this day there fhall be no fault in me againft the Philifthimes: for I wil doe you euils. ⁴ And he went, and ^a)caught three hundred foxes, and he coupled them tayle to tayle, and tyed fyrebrandes in the middes: ⁵ which kindling with fyre, he let them goe, that they might runne abroad hither and thither. Who immediately went on into the corne of the Philifthimes. Which being fette on fire, both the corne now caried together, and that which yet ftoode in the ftalke, was al burnt, in fo much, that the flame confumed the vineyardes alfo and the oliuetes. ⁶ And the Philifthijmes faid: Who hath done this thing? To whom it was faid: Samfon the fonne in law of the Thamnathate: becaufe he tooke his wife, and gaue her to an other, he hath wrought thefe thinges. And the Philifthims went vp, and burnt both the woman and her father. ⁷ To whom Samfon faid: Although you haue

^a Being Iudge of the people he had helpe of others to take fo manie foxes with nettes, or otherwife, being great ftore in that countrie.

done theſe things, notwithstanding yet wil I requite reuenge of you, and then I wil reſt. ⁸ And he ſtroke them with a great plague, ſo that aſtonied they laid the calfe of the leg vpon the thigh. And going downe he dwelt in the caue of the rocke Etam. ⁹ Therefore the Philifthijms going vp into the Land of Iuda camped in the place, which afterward was called Lechi, that is, the iaw bone, where their armie was ſpred abroad. ¹⁰ And they of the tribe of Iuda ſaid to them: Why are you come vp againſt vs? Who answered: That we may bind Samſon, we are come, and may repay him the things that he hath wrought againſt vs. ¹¹ There went downe therefore three thouſand men of Iuda, to the caue of the flint Etam, and ſaid to Samſon: Knoweſt not thou that the Philifthijms reigne ouer vs? Why wouldeſt thou doe this thing? To whom he ſaid: As they did to me ſo haue I done to them. ¹² To bind thee, quoth they, we are come, and to deliuer thee into the handes of the Philifthijms. To whom Samſon: Sweare, quoth he, & promiſe me that you kil me not. ¹³ They ſaid: We wil not kil thee, but wil deliuer thee bound. And they bound him with two new cordes, and tooke him from the rocke Etam. ¹⁴ Who when he was come to the place of the Iawbone and the Philifthijms shouting were come againſt him, the Spirit of our Lord fel vpon him: and as flax is wont to be confumed at the fauour of fyre, ſo the bandes wherwith he was bound, were diffipated and looſed. ¹⁵ And finding a iawe bone, to witte, the iawe bone of an aſſe, which lay there, catching it, ^ahe flewe therwith a thouſand men, ¹⁶ and ſaid: In the iawe bone of an aſſe, in the iawe of the colt of the aſſes haue I deſtroyed them, and haue ſtrooke a thouſand men. ¹⁷ And when he had ended theſe wordes finging, he threw the iaw bone out of his hand, and called the name of that place Ramathlechi, which is interpreted the lifting vp of the iawbone. ¹⁸ And being very thirſtie, he cried to our Lord, and ſaid: Thou haſt

^a A notorious miracle to kil ſo manie with ſo meane a weapon without other helpe of man. And by common reaſon as vncredible, as the great myſteries of Catholique Religion.

geuen in the hand of thy feruant this very great faluation and victorie: and behold I die for thirft, and shal fal into the handes of the vncircumcised. ¹⁹ Our Lord therefore ^a)opened a great tooth in the iawe of the affe, & there iffued out of it waters. Which being drunke, he refreshed his fpirit, and receiued ftrength againe. Therefore the name of that place was called: The fountaine of him that inuocated from the iawbone, vntil this present day. ²⁰ And he iudged Ifrael in the daies of the Philifthijms twentie yeares.

ANNOTATIONS

Chapter 16

Samfon enuironed in a citie taketh away the gates, and carieth them on his shoulders into a mountaine. 4. Is at laft deceiued by Dalila, 21. his eyes put out, and fcornfully abufed. 26. But finally God reftoring his ftrength, he ftriking two pillars the houfe falleth, and with himfelf, killeth three thoufand Philifthiims.

or, an Inkeeper.

He went alfo into Gaza, and faw there a woman that was an harlot, and went in vnto her. ² Which when the Philifthiims had heard, and it was bruted among them, that Samfon was entered into the citie, they compaffed him, keepers being fette in the gate of the citie: and there al the night wayting with filence, that in the morning they might kil him going out. ³ But Samfon flept vntil midnight, and then arifing he ^b)tooke both the leaues of the gate, with

^a It was a greater miracle to draw water out of a drie bone, then out of the earth or ftones: but al things are poffible to God, which he pleafeth to do.

^b For fuch admirable ftrength the hethnifh people thought Samfon to be Hercules. *S. Aug. li. 18. c. 19. ciuit.* But he was in deede farre ftronger then they feared of Hercules, who they faid, was not able to fight againft two: whereas Samfon alone killed a thoufand with the iaw bone of an affe. *c. 15. v. 15.*

their poftes and locke, and laying them on his shoulders, caried them to the toppe of the mountaine, which looketh toward Hebron. ⁴ After thefe thinges he loued a woman, which dwelt in Valley Sorec, and she was called Dalila. ⁵ And the princes of the Philifthiims came to her, and faid: Deceiue him, and learne of him, wherein he hath fo great ftrengh, and how we may be able to ouercome him, and being bound to afflict him. Which if thou shalt doe, we wil geue thee euerie one a thoufand and an hundred peeces of filuer. ⁶ Dalila therfore fpake to Samfon: Tel me, I befech thee, wherein thy greateft ftrengh is, and what it is wherewith being bound thou canft not breake forth. ⁷ To whom Samfon answered: If I shal be bound with feuen cordes of finewes not yet drie, and moyfte as yet, I shal be weake as other men. ⁸ And the princes of the Philifthimes brought vnto her feuen cordes, as he had faid: with the which she bound him, ⁹ ambufhementes lying fecretely in wayte neere her, and in the chamber expecting the end of the thing, and she cried to him: The Philifthijms vpon thee Samfon. Who brake the bandes, as if a man should breake a thread of toe twyned with fpittle, when it hath taken the fauor of fyre: and it was not knowen wherein his ftrengh was. ¹⁰ And Dalila faid to him: Behold thou haft deluded me, and haft fpoken falfe: not at the leaft tel me wherewith thou mayeft be bound. ¹¹ To whom he answered: If I shal be bound with new cordes, that were neuer occupied, I shal be weake, and like to other men. ¹² With the which Dalila againe bound him, and cried: The Philifthijmes vpon thee Samfon, ambufhementes being prepared in the chamber. Who did fo breake the bandes as threades of linnen cloth. ¹³ And Dalila faid to him againe: How long deceiueft thou me, and fpeakeft falfe? Shew wherewith thou mayeft be bound. To whom Samfon answered: If thou platte feuen heares of my head with a heare lafe, and faften a nayle tyed round about them in the ground, I shal be weake. ¹⁴ Which when Dalila had done, she faid to him: The Philifthijms vpon thee Samfon. Who ryfing vp from fleepe drew out the nayle with the heares and the heare lafe. ¹⁵ And Dalila faid to him: How doeft thou

say that thou louest me, whereas thy mind is not with me? These three times thou hast lied to me, & wouldest not tel wherein thy greatest strength is. ¹⁶ And when she molested him, and continually hong vpon him for many daies, not geuing him space to rest, his foule faynted, and was wearied euen vnto death. ¹⁷ Then opening the truth of the thing, he said to her: There neuer came yron vpon my head, because I am a Nazareite, that is to say, consecrated to God from my mothers wombe: if my head shal be shauen, ^a)my strength shal depart from me, and I shal fayle, and shal be as other men. ¹⁸ And she feing that he had confessed to her al his minde, sent to the princes of the Philisthijms and willed them: Come vp yet once more, for now he hath opened his hart to me. Who went vp taking with them the money which they had promised. ¹⁹ But she made him to sleepe vpon her knees, and to lay his head in her bosome. And she called a barber, and shaued his beuen heares, and beganne to driue him away, and thrust him from her: for immediately the strength departed from him: ²⁰ and she said: The Philisthijms vpon thee Samson. Who arising from sleepe, said in his mind: I wil goe forth as I did before, and wil shake my self, not knowing that our Lord was departed from him. ²¹ Whom when the Philisthijmes had apprehended, forthwith they plucked forth his eies, and led him to Gaza bound with chaynes, and being shut vp in prison they made him grinde. ²² And now his heares had begone to grow againe, ²³ and the princes of the Philisthijms affembled in one, that they might immolate magnifical hostes to Dagon their god, and might feast, saying: Our god hath deliuered our enemy Samson into our handes. ²⁴ Which thing the people also feing, prayed their god, and said the same thinges: Our god hath deliuered our aduersarie into our handes, who destroyed our countrie, and killed verie manie. ²⁵ And reioyning through out their bankettes, when they had now taken their good cheere, they commanded that

^a Supernatural strenght, or grace departeth when any leaue the rule of their profession.

Samfon should be called, and should play before them. Who being brought out of prifon played before them, and they made him to ftand betwen two pillers. ²⁶ Who faid to the feruant that gouerned his fteppes: Suffer me to touch the pillers, on which al the houfe ftayeth, and let me leane vpon them, and reft a litle. ²⁷ And the houfe was ful of men and wemen, and there were al the princes of the Philifthijms, alfo from the roofe and higher part, about three thoufand of both fexe beholding Samfon playing. ²⁸ But he inuocating our Lord, faid: Lord God remember me, & reftore now to me myne old ftrength my God, that I may ^areuenge me of myne enemies, and for the loffe of two eies may receiue one reuenge. ²⁹ And taking both the pillers, on which the houfe refted, and holding the one in his right hand, and the other in his left, ³⁰ he faid: ♪Let me die with the Philifthijms. And the pillers being ftrongly shaken, the houfe fel vpon al the princes, and the reft of the multitude, that was there: and he killed manie moe dying, then before he had killed liuing. ³¹ And his brethren going downe and al his kinred, they tooke his bodie, and buried it betwixt Saraa and Efthaol in the fepulchre of his father Manue, and he iudged Ifrael twentie yeares.

ANNOTATIONS

Samfon excufed in killing himfelf with his enemies.

30 Let me die with the Philifthiims.) Manie thinges do iuftifie Samfons fact in killing himfelf with the Philifthiims. Firft it appeareth by the miracle, that God directly and extraordinarily concurred by reftoring in that moment his admirable ftreingth, that he could pull downe two fuch pillers. And conformably we may gather, that God infpired his mind to attempt this fact, and fo he erred not, but obeyed God herein: as S. Auguftin noteth. *li. 1. c. 21. & 26. de ciuit Dei*. Secondly he was moued with zeale of Gods honour, hearing the Idolaters praife their falfe god Dagon. Thirdly, he had a good and pure intention to reuenge him felfe for Gods more glorie, praying to him for reftauration of ftreingth. Fourthly he did not directly defire to kil himfelfe, but

^a He defired to be reuenged, not of rancour of mind but of zeale of iuftice. And fo al the elect & glorified Sainctes defire reuēge. *Luc. 18. v. 8. Apoc. 6. v. 10.*

to kil the Philifthims, though himfelfe muft alfo die with them. And in this act efpecially he was a figure of Chrif, who chiefly by his death conquered his enemies.

Samfon a figure of Chrif.

Chapter 17

Michas and his mother caufe a grauen, and a molten idol to be made of filuer. 5. He maketh one of his fonnes prieft for the idol, 10. and for the fame purpofe hyreth alfo a Leuite.

The third part. Of certaine accidents which happened in the time of the Iudges.

There was at that time a certaine man of mount Ephraim named Michas, ² who faid to his mother: The thoufand and hundred filuer peeces, which thou hadft feperated to thy felfe, and concerning the which thou didft fweare in my hearing, behold I haue, and they are with me. To whom she faid: Bleffed be my fonne to the Lord. ³ He therfore rendred them to his mother, who had faid to him: I haue confecrated and vowed this filuer to the Lord, that my fonne may receiue it of my hand, and make ^aa grauen and a molten (god) and now I deliuer that to thee. ⁴ He rendred them therfore to his mother: who tooke two hundred filuer peeces and gaue them to the filuerfmith, that he might make of them a grauen and a molten (god) which was in the houfe of Michas. ⁵ Who feperated alfo therein a litle houfe to the god, and made an Ephod, and Theraphim, that is to fay, a prietlie veftiment, and idoles: and he ^bfilled the hand of one of his fonnes, and he became his prieft. ⁶ In thofe daies there was not a king in Ifrael,

^a In hebrew *pefel vmaffecah*, in Latin *sculptile & conflatile*, a *grauen & molten thing*, an image or forme made in mettle for a god, and fo called, *v. 5.* was in dede an idol of Gentilitie, and nothing at al againft facred Images of Chrif and his Sainctes in the Catholique Church. Wherof more is noted, *Gen. 31. Exo. 20.*

^b Anointed his hâdes with oyle, as was prefcribed. *Exo. 29. Leu. 8.* But fuch an apifh imitation was of no value, where was neither true vocation in the annointed (for he defcended not of Aaron, but of Moyfes, *chap. 18. v. 30.*) nor authoritie in him that vfed this ceremony.

but euerie one did that, which femed right to him felf.
⁷ There was alfo an other yong man of Bethlehem Iuda,
 of the kinred therof: and he was a Leuite, and dwelt
 there. ⁸ And going forth out of the citie of Bethle-
 hem, he would feiourne wherefoeuer he should find it
 comodious for him. And when he was come into mount
 Ephraim, making his iourney, and had turned afide a
 litle into the houfe of Michas, ⁹ he was demanded of him
 whence he came. Who answered: I am a Leuite of Beth-
 lehem Iuda, and I goe to dwel where I shal be able, and
 shal perceiue it to be profitable for me. ¹⁰ And Michas
 faid: Abide with me, and be to me a father and a priest,
 and I wil geue thee euerie yeare tenne filuer peeces, and
 duple liuerie, and the thinges that be neceffarie for vict-
 ual. ¹¹ He was content, and abode with the man, and
 was vnto him as one of his fonnes. ¹² And Michas filled
 his hand, and had the yong man for a priest with him,
 faying: ¹³ Now I know that God wil do me good ^ahauing
 a priest of the Leuitical kinde.

ANNOTATIONS

Chapter 18

*Firft fending fpies to difcouer, 11. fix hundred armed
 men of the tribe of Dan goe to feeke poffeffions. 14. By
 the way they take the idol, and idolatrical priest from
 Michas, 27. furprife the towne of Lais, 30. and there fet
 vp idolatrie.*

In thofe dayes there was not a king in Ifrael, and
 the tribe of Dan fought poffeffion for it felfe, that
 it might dwel therein: for vntil that day it had

^a An Apoftata Leuite was accounted more fufficient then an idola-
 trical priest to ferue an idol. So he that is a Priest or a Deacon
 once catholikly confecrated, is a fufficient (yea too fufficient) a
 minifter with proteftantes.

a)not receiued a lotte among the other tribes. ² Therefore the children of Dan fent fiue men of their stocke and familie moft valiant from Saraa and Efthaol, that they might view the land, and diligently behold it, and they faid to them: Goe, and confider the land. Who going forward when they were come into mount Ephraim, and had entered into the houfe of Michas, they refted there: ³ and knowing the voice of the yong man the Leuite, and vſing his lodging, they faid to him: Who brought thee hither? What doeſt thou here? For what cauſe wouldeſt thou come hither? ⁴ Who answered them: Theſe, and theſe thinges hath Michas done to me, & hath hyred me for wages to be his prieſt. ⁵ And they deſired him that he would conſult ^b)the Lord, that they might know whether they ſhould goe on a prosperous iourney, and the thing ſhould haue effect. ⁶ ^c)Who answered them: Goe in peace: The Lord regardeth your way, and the iourney that you goe. ⁷ The fiue men therfore going came to Lais, & they ſaw the people dwelling in it without any feare, according to the cuſtome of the Sidonians, ſecure and quiet, no man at al reſiſting them, & of greater riches, and ſeparated farre from Sidon and from al men. ⁸ And returning to their brethren in Saraa and Eſtaol, and asking what they had done they answered them: ⁹ Arife, and let vs goe vp to them: for we haue ſeene the Land exceding rich and plentiful: neglect not, ſlacke not: let vs goe, and poſſeſſe it, it wil be no labour. ¹⁰ We ſhal enter vnto them being ſecure, into a moſt large countrey, and our Lord wil deliuer to vs the place, wherein is penurie of nothing, of thoſe thinges that grow on the earth. ¹¹ There departed therfore from the kinred of Dan, that is to ſay, from Saraa and Efthaol fix hundred men, furniſhed with warlike armour, ¹² and going

^a Their whole portiō was affigned (*Ios. 19.*) but through their owne ſlouth they poſſeſſed litle of it, ſo that hitherto the greateſt part was not receiued.

^b They ment the falſe god which the apoſtata Leuite ſerued.

^c The diuel answered, as his maner is obſcurly, ſome times truly & ſometimes falſly.

vp they taried in Cariathiarim of Iuda: which place from that time tooke the name of the Tentes of Dan, and it is at the backe of Cariathiarim. ¹³ Thence they paffed into mount Ephraim. And when they were come to the houle of Michas, ¹⁴ the fiue men, that before had been fent to view the Land of Lais, faid to the reft of their brethren: You know that in thefe houfes there is an Ephod, and Theraphim, and a grauen, and molten god: See what pleafeth you. ¹⁵ And when they had turned a litle afide, they entred into the houle of the yong man the Leuite, which was in the houle of Michas: and faluted him with peacable wordes. ¹⁶ And the fix hundred men fo as they were armed, ftoode before the doore. ¹⁷ But they, that were entred the houle of the yong man, endeuoured to take away the grauen, the Ephod and the idols, and molten god, and the prieft ftoode before the doore, the fix hundred moft valiant men expecting not farre of. ¹⁸ They therfore that were entred tooke the grauen, the Ephod, the Theraphim, and molten god. To whom the prieft faid: What doe you? ¹⁹ To whom they answered: Hold thy peace, and put thy finger vpon thy mouth and come with vs, that we may haue thee for a father, and a prieft. Whether is better for thee, that thou be a prieft in the houle of one man, or in one tribe and familie in Ifrael? ²⁰ Which when he had heard, he agreed to their wordes, and tooke the Ephod, and idols, and grauen god, and departed with them. ²¹ Who when they went forward, and had made the children and the cattel to goe before them, and al that was precious, ²² and were now farre from the houle of Michas, the men that dwelt in the houle of Michas crying out together folowed, ²³ and at their backe began to shoute. Who looking backe, faid to Michas: What meaneft thou? Why doeft thou crie? ²⁴ Who answered: My goddes, which I made me, you haue taken away, and the prieft, and al that I haue, and doe you fay: What aileth thee? ²⁵ And the children of Dan faid to him: Beware thou fpeake no more vnto vs, and there come vnto thee men prouoked in mind, and thou with al thy houle perish. ²⁶ And fo they went on their iourney begone. But Michas feing that they were

ftstronger then he, returned into his houfe. ²⁷ And the fix hundred men tooke the prieft, and the thinges which we fpake of before, and came into Lais to a people that was quiet and fecure, and ftroke them in the edge of the fword: and the citie they deliuered to fyre, ²⁸ no man at al bringing them fuccour, for that they dwelt farre from Sidon, and had with no men anie focietie and affayres. And the citie was fituated in the countrie of Rohob: which building agayne they dwelt in it, ²⁹ calling the name of the citie Dan, according to the name of their father, whom Ifrael had begotten, which before was called Lais. ³⁰ And they fette vp to them felues the ^agrauen idol, and Ionathan the fonne of Gerfon the fonne of Moyfes, and his fonnes prieftes in the tribe of Dan, vntil the day of their captiuitie. ³¹ And the idol of Michas remayned with them al the time, that the houfe of God was in Silo. In thofe daies there was not a king in Ifrael.

ANNOTATIONS

Chapter 19

A Leuite bringing homeward his reconciled wife, 15. at Gabaa in the tribe of Beniamin hardly getteth lodging. 25. His wife is there vilanoufly abufed by wicked men, and in the morning found dead. 29. Whereupon her hufband cutteth her bodie, and fendeth peeces to euerie tribe of Ifrael, requiring them to reuenge the wicked fact.

There was a certaine man a Leuite, dwelling on the fide of mount Ephraim, who tooke a wife of Bethlehem Iuda: ² which left him, and returned vnto her fathers houfe into Bethlehem, and abode with him foure monethes. ³ And her hufband folowed

^a pefel, eidolon, fculptile, the grauen thing, falfly called god. c. 17. v. 5.

her, willing to be reconciled vnto her, and to fpeake her fayre, and to bring her backe with him, hauing in his companie a feruant and two affes: who receiued him, and brought him into her fathers houfe. Which when his father in law had heard, and had feene him, he mette him ioyful, ⁴ and embraced the man. And the fonne in law taried in the houfe of his father in law three daies, eating with him and drinking familiarly. ⁵ But the fourth day aryfing before day, he would depart. Whom his father in law held, and faid to him: Taft firft a litle bread, & ftrengthen thy ftomacke, and fo thou shalt depart. ⁶ And they fate together, and did eate and drinke. And the father of the yong woman faid to his fonne in law: I befech thee that thou tarie here to day, and let vs make merie together. ⁷ But he ryfing vp, beganne as if he would depart. And neuertheles with much adoe his father in law ftayed him, and made him to tarie with him. ⁸ But when morning was come, the Leuite prepared to goe his iourney. To whom his father in law againe: I befech thee, quoth he, that thou take a litle meate, and making thy felf ftrong, til the day be farder fpent, afterward thou mayeft depart. They did eate therfore together. ⁹ And the yong man arofe, that he might fette forward with his wife and feruant. To whom his father in law fpake againe: Confider that the day is more declining to the weft, and draweth nigh to euening: tarie with me to day alfo, and fpend the day in mirth, and to morrow thou shalt depart that thou mayft goe into thy houfe. ¹⁰ His fonne in law would not condefcend to his wordes: but forthwith went forward, and came ouer againft Iebus, which by an other name is called Ierufalem, leading with him two affes loden, and his ^a)concubine. ¹¹ And now they were come nigh to Iebus and the day changed into night: & the feruant faid to his maifter: Come, I befech thee, let vs turne into the citie of Iebufeites, and tarie in it. ¹² To whom

^a She was his lawful wife and fo called *v. 1. & 9.* yet is alfo called concubine becaufe fhe had no dawrie, nor as yet enjoyed the priuiledges of a miftris in her hufbands houfe.

his maister answered: I wil not enter into the towne of a strange nation, which is not of the children of Israel, but I wil passe as farre as Gabaa: ¹³ and when I shal come thither, we wil lodge in it, or at the least in the citie of Rama. ¹⁴ They passed therefore by Iebus, and went on their iourney begone, and the sonne went downe to them byfide Gabaa, which is in the tribe of Benjamin: ¹⁵ and they turned into it, that they might lodge there. Whither when they were entred, they fate in the streate of the citie, and no man would receiue them to lodge. ¹⁶ And behold there appeared an old man, returning out of the field and from his worke in the euening, who himself also was of mount Ephraim, and dwelt as a stranger in Gabaa; but the men of that countrie were the children of Iemini. ¹⁷ And lifting vp his eyes, the old man saw the man fitting with his fardels in the streate of the citie, and said to him: Whence comest thou? and whither goest thou? ¹⁸ Who answered him: We departed from Bethlehem Iuda, and we goe to our place, which is on the side of mount Ephraim, from whence we went into Bethlehem: and now we goe to the house of God, and none wil receiue vs vnder his rooffe, ¹⁹ hauing straw and hay for prouender of the asses, and bread and wine for the vse of my self and of thy handmaid, and of the seruant that is with me: we lacke nothing but lodging. ²⁰ To whom the old man answered: Peace be with thee, I wil geue al thinges that are necessarie: only, I beseech thee, tarie not in the streate. ²¹ And he brought him into his house, and gaue prouender to his asses: and after they had washed their feete, he receiued them to a bankette. ²² They making merie, and after the labour of their iourney, refreshing their bodie with meate and drinke, there came men of that citie, the children of Belial (that is to say, without yoke) and besetting the old mans house, beganne to knocke at the doores, crying to the maister of the house, and saying: Bring forth the man, that entred into thy house, that we may abuse him. ²³ And the old man went out to them, and said: Doe not so brethren, doe not this euil: because this man is entered to my lodging, and cease from this folie: ²⁴ I haue a daughter that

is a virgin, and this man hath a concubine, I wil bring them forth to you, that you may humble them, & fulfil your luft: only, I befeche you, worke not this wickednes againft nature on the man. ²⁵ They would not agree to his wordes which the man feing, he brought forth his concubine to them, and he deliuered her to them to be illuded: whom when they had abufed al the night, they let her goe in the morning. ²⁶ But the woman, when the darkenes departed, came to the doore of the houfe, where her lord lodged, and there fel downe. ²⁷ Morning being come, the man arofe, and opened the doore, that he might finifh his iourney begone: and behold his concubine lay before the doore, her handes fpredde on the threhold. ²⁸ To whom he, thinking that fhe tooke her reft, fpake: Arife, and let vs walke. Who anfwering nothing, perceiuing that fhe was dead; he tooke her, and laid her vpon his affe, & returned into his houfe. ²⁹ Which when he was entered vnto, he tooke a fword, and cutting the carcaffe of his wife with her bones into twelue partes and peeces, he fent them into al the borders of Ifrael. ³⁰ Which when euerie one had feene, they cried together: There was neuer fuch a thing done in Ifrael, from that day, when our fathers afcended out of Ægypt, vntil this prefent time: geue fentence, and decree in common what is needeful to be done.

ANNOTATIONS

Chapter 20

Al the other tribes fighting againft Beniamin, 13. becaufe they wil not punish the malefactors, 21. haue the worfe, 25. alfo the fecond time. 29. But the third time the Beniamites are al flaine fauing fix hundred men.

Therfore al the children of Ifrael went forth, and were gathered together, as it were one man, from Dan to Berfabee, and the Land of Galaad, to our Lord in Mafpha: ² and al the corners

of the people, and al the tribes of Ifrael affembled into the church of the people of God foure hundred thoufand footemen warriors. (3 Neither were the children of Beniamin ignorant that the children of Ifrael were come vp into Mafpha.) And the Leuite the hufband of the woman that was killed being asked, how fo great wickednes had beene cōmitted, 4 anfwered: I came into Gabaa of Beniamin with my wife, and there I tooke my lodging: 5 and behold the men of that citie by night befette the houfe wherein I taried, meaning to kil me, and vexing my wife with incredible furie of luft, finally she died. 6 Whom being taken I did cutte into peeces, and fent the partes into al the borders of your poffeffion: becaufe neuer was there fo heinous an offense, and fo great an abomination done in Ifrael. 7 You are al prefent the children of Ifrael, determine what you ought to doe. 8 And al the people fstanding, anfwered as it were by the word of one man: we wil not depart into our tabernacles, neither shal any man enter into his houfe: 9 but this wil we doe in common againft Gabaa. 10 Let ten men be chofen of an hundred out of al the tribes of Ifrael, and an hundred of a thoufand, and a thoufand of ten thoufand, to bring victuals for the armie, and that we may fight againft Gabaa of Beniamin, & render to it for the wicked fact, which it deferueth. 11 And al Ifrael affembled to the citie, as it were one man with one minde, and one counfel: 12 and they fent meffengers to al the tribe of Beniamin, which should fay: Why is there foe great abomination found in you? 13 Deliuer the men of Gabaa, that haue committed this heinous fact, ^athat they may die, and the euil may be taken away out of Ifrael. Who would not heare the commandment of their brethren the children of Ifrael: 14 but out of al cities, which were of their lotte, they affembled into Gabaa, to ayde them, and to fight againft al the people of Ifrael. 15 And there were found fue and twentie thoufand of Beniamin of them that drew fword, befide the inhabitantes of Gabaa, 16 which were

^a Omiffion & contempt to punifh hainous crimes is a iuft caufe to make warre againft anie people.

feuen hundred moſt valiant men, fo fighting with the left hand as with the right: and fo directly caſting ſtones with flinges, that they could ſtrike a heare alſo, and the ſtroke of the ſtone ſhould not be caried awry on either part. ¹⁷ Of the men of Iſrael alſo, beſide the children of Benjamin, were found foure hundred thouſande of them that drew ſwordes, & were prepared to fight. ¹⁸ Who riſing came into the houſe of God, that is, into Silo: and they conſulted God, and ſaid: Who ſhal be in our armie general of the battel againſt the children of Benjamin? To whom our Lord answered: Let ^aIudas be your cap-
 tayne. ¹⁹ And forthwith the children of Iſrael ariſing in the morning, camped beſide Gabaa: ²⁰ and thence proceeding to fight againſt Benjamin, beganne to affault the citie. ²¹ And the children of Benjamin iſſuing out of Gabaa, flew of the children of Iſrael that day two and twentie thouſand men. ²² Agayne Iſrael hauing confidence ^bin their ſtrength and number, ſette the armie in aray in the ſame place, wherein they had fought before: ²³ yet ſo that they did firſt goe vp and weepe before our Lord vntil night: and conſulted him, and ſaid: Shal I procede any more to fight againſt the children of Benjamin my brethren, or not? To whom he answered: ^cGoe vp to them, and enter battel. ²⁴ And when the children of Iſrael the next day had proceeded againſt the children of Benjamin to battel, ²⁵ the children of Benjamin brake forth out of the gates of Gabaa: and meeting them they raged with ſo great a ſlaughter againſt them, that they ouerthrew eightene thouſand men that drew ſword. ²⁶ For the which thing al the children of Iſrael came into the houſe of God, and fitting wept before our Lord: and they faſted that day vntil euening, and offered to him holocauſtes, and pacifique victimes, ²⁷ and

^a One of the tribe of Iuda.

^b Being farre more in number & hauing the iuſt cauſe, yet had the worſe, becauſe they truſted in their owne ſtrength.

^c God alſo puniſhed al Iſrael by this ciuil warre, for ſuffering idolatrie in the tribe of Dan. *cha. 18. v. 30.* which they ought to haue puniſhed. *Deut. 13. v. 12.*

asked him concerning their ftate. At that time the arke of the couenant of our Lord was there, ²⁸ and ^{a)}Phinees the fonne of Eleazarus the fonne of Aaron prouoft of the houle. They therfore confulted our Lord, and faid: Shal we goe forth any more to fight againft the children of Beniamin our brethren, or reft? To whom our Lord faid: Goe vp, for to morrow I wil deliuer them into your handes. ²⁹ And the children of Ifrael fette ambuſhmentes round about the citie of Gabaa: ³⁰ and the third time, as once and twife, they brought forth their armie againft Beniamin. ³¹ But the children of Beniamin alfo iffued forth boldly out of the citie, and purfewed a long way the aduerſaries fleeing, fo that they wounded of them, as the firſt day and the fecond, and flew them turning their backes by two wayes, wherof the one went into Bethel, and the other into Gabaa, and ouerthrew about thirtie men: ³² for they thought to kil them after their accuſtomed maner. Who feyning artificially as though they fled tooke aduife to draw them away from the citie, & as it were fleing to bring them to the pathes aforeſayd. ³³ Therefore al the children of Ifrael ryfing out of their feates, fette their armie in battel aray, in the place which is called Baalthamar. The ambuſhmentes alfo, which were about the citie, began by litle and litle to open them felues, ³⁴ and to proceede from the Weſt part of the citie. Yea and other ten thouſand men of al Ifrael prouoked the inhabitantes of the citie to ſkirmiſhes. And the battel grew fore againft the children of Beniamin: and they vnderſtoode not that on euerie ſide deſtruction hong ouer them. ³⁵ And our Lord ſtroke them in the fight of the children of Ifrael, and they flew of them in that day fife and twentie thouſand, and an hundred men, al warryers and that drew ſword. ³⁶ But the children of Beniamin when they ſaw them felues to be inferiour, beganne to flee. Which the children of Ifrael feing, gaue them place to flee, that they might come to

^a By this it appeareth that this hiftorie happened not long after the death of Eleazarus. *Iof. 24. v. 33.* to whom his fonne Phinees ſucceded in the ſpiritual Supremacie of the Church.

the ambushmentes prepared, which they had sette neere the citie. ³⁷ Who when they had suddenly risen out of their dens, and Benjamin turned their backs to the fleeters, they entered the citie, and strooke it in the edge of the sword. ³⁸ And the children of Israel had given a signe to them, whom they had laid in the ambushmentes, that after they had taken the citie, they should kindle a fire: that the smoke ascending on high, they might see that the citie was taken. ³⁹ Which when the children of Israel saw being in the very fight (for the children of Benjamin thought that they fled, and pursued more instantly, having slain thirty men of their armie,) ⁴⁰ and they saw as it were a pillar of smoke to rise up from the citie. Benjamin also looking backe, when he saw the citie taken, and the flames carried on high: ⁴¹ they that before had feigned as if they fled, turning their face resisted more manfully. Which when the children of Benjamin had seen, they were turned into flight, ⁴² and beganne to goe the way of the desert, the adversaries pursuing them thither also. But they also that had fired the citie, mette them. ⁴³ And so it came to passe, that on both sides they were slain of the enemies, neither was there any rest of men dying. They fell, and were overthrowen on the east side of the citie of Gabaa. ⁴⁴ And there were that were slain in the same place, eightene thousand men, all most valiant warriors. ⁴⁵ Which when they had seen, that were remaining of Benjamin, they fled into the wilderness, and went on to the rocke, the name whereof is Remmon. In that flight also stragling, and going diuers waies, they slew five thousand men. And whereas they went farther, they pursued them, and slew also other two thousand. ⁴⁶ And so it came to passe, that all which were slain of Benjamin in diuerse places, were five and twenty thousand one hundred fighting men, most prompt to warres. ⁴⁷ There remained therefore of all the number of Benjamin that could escape, and flee into the wilderness, six hundred men: and they abode in the Rocke Remmon foure monethes. ⁴⁸ But the children of Israel retreating, strooke all the remains of the citie with the sword from

men euen to beaftes, and al the cities and villages of Benjamin the deuouring flame did confume.

ANNOTATIONS

Chapter 21

The tribe of Benjamin is repayred, 8. by foure hundred virgins referued in the flaughter of Iabes Galaad: 19. and by other virgins taken, that come forth of Silo to daunce.

The children of Ifrael fware alfo in Mafpha, and faid: None of vs shal geue of his daughters to the children of Benjamin to wife. ² And they came al to the houle of God in Silo, and fitting in his fight vntil euening, lifted vp their voice, and with great wayling beganne to weepe faying: Wherefore ô Lord God of Ifrael is this euil done in thy people, that this day one tribe fhould be taken away out of vs? ³ And on the morrow riling early, they built an altar: and offered there holocaufte, and pacifique victimes, and faid: ⁴ Who hath not afcended in the hofte of our Lord of al the tribes of Ifrael? For they had bound them felues with a great othe, when they were in Mafpha, that they fhould be flayne which had beene wanting. ⁵ And the children of Ifrael being ^a)moued with repentance vpon their brother Benjamin, beganne to fay: One tribe is taken away out of Ifrael, ⁶ whence shal they take wiues? For we haue al fworne in common, that we wil not geue our daughters to them. ⁷ Therefore they faid: Who is there of al the tribes of Ifrael, that went not vp to our Lord into Mafpha? And behold the inhabitantes of Iabes Galaad were found not to haue bene in that armie. (⁸ At that time alfo when they were in Silo, none of them was found there.) ⁹ They fent therefore ten thoufand the ftrongeft

^a Left either iuftice be ouer fharme, or mercie too relaxe, with great art of difcretion, gouernours muft obferue *mercie iuftly aduifing, and difcipline pioufly chafticing*. *S. Greg. li. 1. Epift. 24.*

men, and commanded them: Goe, and ftrike the inhabitantes of Iabes Galaad in the edge of the fword, as wel their wiues as their litle ones. ¹⁰ And this fhall be it which you fhall obferue: Al of the male kinde, and wemen, that haue knowen men, kil ye, but the virgins referue. ¹¹ And there were found of Iabes Galaad foure hundred virgins, that knew not mans bedde, and they brought them to the campe in Silo, into the Land of Chanaan. ¹² And they fent meffengers to the children of Benjamin, that were in Rocke Remmon, and commanded them that they fhould receiue them in peace. ¹³ And the children of Benjamin came at that time, and there were geuen vnto them wiues of the daughters of Iabes Galaad: but others they found not, which they might geue them in like maner. ¹⁴ And al Ifrael was very forie, and repented for the killing of one tribe out of Ifrael. ¹⁵ And the ancientes faid: What fhall we doe to the reft, that haue not taken wiues? For al the wemen in Benjamin are dead. ¹⁶ And we muft very carefully, and with great ftudie prouide, that one tribe be not deftroyed out of Ifrael. ¹⁷ For our owne daughters we can not geue them, being bound with an oath and a curfe, wherby we faid: Curfed be he that fhall geue to Benjamin anie of his daughters to wife. And they tooke counfail, and faid: Behold there is an anniueraire folemnie of our Lord in Silo, which is fituate on the North of the citie of Bethel, on the Eaft fide of the way, that goeth from Bethel to Sichem, and on the South of the towne of Lebona. ¹⁸ And they commanded the children of Benjamin, and faid: Goe, and lie hidde in the vineyardes. ¹⁹ And when you fhall fee the daughters of Silo come forth after the maner to lead daunfes, iffue forth fodenly out of the vineyardes, and catch of them euerie one his wife, and goe into the Land of Benjamin. ²⁰ And when their fathers fhall come, and their brethren, and fhall beginne to complaine againft you, and to chide, we wil fay to them: Haue pittie on them: for they tooke them not away by the right of warryers and conquerours, but when they defired to receiue them, you gaue them not, and on your part the fault was committed. ²¹ And the children of Benjamin did, as it had

beene commanded them: and according to their number, they tooke away to them felues of thofe that ledde the daunfes, euerie one his wife: and they went into their poffeffion, building cities, and dwelling in them. ²² The children of Ifrael alfo returned by their tribes, and families into their tabernacles. In thofe daies there was not a King in Ifrael: but euerie one did that ^{a)}which femed right to him felfe.

ANNOTATIONS

^a In the time of the Iudges the people prefumed more to do *that femed to them felues right*, or good, though it was nought; which afterwarde the kinges more refrained and punifhed.

