Chapter 08

Vho ^a)shal giue to me thee my brother, fucking the breafts of my mother, that I may finde thee without, and kiffe thee, and now no man defpife me? ² I wil take hold of thee, and wil bring thee into my mothers houfe: there thou shalt teach me, and I wil give thee a cuppe of fpiced wine, and new wine of my pomegranats. ³ His left hand vnder my head, and his right hand shal embrace me. ⁴ ^{b)}I adiure you ô daughters of Ierufalem, that you rayle not vp, nor make the beloued to awake til herfelfe wil. ⁵ c)Who is this, that cometh vp from the defert, flowing with delightes, leaning vpon her beloued? Vnder the appletree I rayfed thee vp: d)there thy mother was corrupted, there she was defloured that bare thee. ⁶ Put me as a feale vpon thy hart, as a feale vpon thyne arme: becaufe loue is ftrong as death: ieloufie is hard as hel, the lampes thereof lampes of fyre and flames. ⁷ Manie waters can not quench charitie, neither shal floudes ouerwhelme it: if a man shal give all the fubftance of his houfe for love, as nothing he shal defpife it. ⁸ e)Our fifter is litle, and hath no breafts. What shal we doe to our fifter in the day when she is to be fpoken vnto? ⁹ If she be a wal, let vs build vpon it bulwarkes of filuer: if she be a doore,

- ^b Chrift admonisheth vvorldlie men not to moleft thofe that ferue him in contemplation, & other fpiritual vertues.
- ^c Angels and other Sainctes of the triumphant Church admire the beautie of the Gentiles conuerted; which is alfo vnderftood of euerie holie foule afcending from this world into heauen. And more fingularly of the moft glorious virgin mother of God.
- ^d The Synagogue of the Iewes was corrupt vnder the tree of Chrifts Croffe, when they cried: Crucifie him, Crucifie him. And againe: His bloud be vpon vs, and vpon our children. Againe: VVe haue no King but Cæfar. &c.
- ^e Chrift againe fheweth his affection towards his Church of the Gentiles: calling her his owne fifter, and the Synagogs fifter, promifing and beftowing on her manie excellent benefites.

^a The Synagogue profecuteth her prayer, defiring Chrifts Incarnation.

let vs ioyne it together with bordes of ceder. $^{10 a)}$ I am a wal: and my breafts are as a towre, fince I was made before him as one finding peace. 11 The peacemaker had a vinyard, in that which hath peoples: he deliuered the fame ^b)to keepers, a man bringeth for the fruite thereof a thoufand peeces of filuer. $^{12 c)}$ My vineyard is before me. A thoufand are thy peacemakers, and two hundred for them, that keepe the fruites thereof. 13 Thou that dwelleft in the gardens, the frends doe harken: make me heare thy voice. $^{14 d}$ Flee, ô my beloued, and be like to the roe, and to the fawne of harts vpon the mountaines of aromatical fpices.

^a The Church of Gentiles reioyceth in the ftrong defence, vvhervvith her Sauiour hath eftablished her.

^b Keepers of this vinyard, vvere the Prophetes and Apoftles, and their Succeffors are ftil the kepers therof.

^c Chrift fhevveth that together vvith the paftors, himfelf efpecially hath care of his Church, alvvayes affifting the vifible gouerners thereof vvith his inuifible grace.

^d The vvhole Church militant vvel contented, yea defiring Chrifts Afcenfion into heauen, for the good of al that here ferue him, prayeth him from thence to fend abundance of his grace, that vve may afcend the high mountaines of perfect charitie, and zele of Gods honour, that he vvil make our foules fuch hilles, the garden of al vertues, & fo voutfafe to dwel therin. Amen.