

Chapter 15

Remission of debtes in the feuenth yeare to the Ifraelites, but not to ftrangers. 4. Albeit there wil alwayes be fome poore, yet they muft fo lend to their needie bretheren, that none be forced to begge. 12. A bought feruant that is an hebrew muft be fet free in the feuenth yeare, 16. except he desire to ferue ftill. 19. The firftborne in al cattel muft be confecrated to God, without making priuate profite therof.

In the feuenth yeare thou shalt make a remiffion,² which shal be celebrated in this order. He to whom any thing is owing of his freind or neighbour and brother, can not aske it againe, because it is the yeare of remiffion of our Lord.³ Of the feiourner and ftranger thou shalt exact: of thy countrie man and neighbour thou shalt not haue power to require it.⁴ And^{a)} needie perfon and begger there shal be none among you: that our Lord thy God may bleffe thee in the land, which he wil geue thee in poffeffion.⁵ Yet fo if thou heare the voice of our Lord thy God, and keepe al thinges that he hath bid, and which I command thee this day, he wil bleffe thee, as he hath promifed.⁶ Thou shalt lend to manie nations, and thy felfe shalt borrow of no man. Thou shalt haue dominion ouer verie manie nations, and no man shal haue dominion ouer thee.⁷ If one of thy brethren that abideth within the gates of thy citie in the land, which our Lord thy God wil geue thee, come to pouertie: thou shalt not harden thy hart, nor clofe thy hand,⁸ but shalt open it to the poore man, and shalt lend him, that which thou perceiueft he hath neede of.⁹ Beware left perhaps an impious cogitation fteale in vpon thee, and thou fay in thy hart: The feuenth yeare of remiffion draweth nigh, & turne away thy eies from thy poore brother denying to lend him that which he

^a The Ifraelites were boūd to do their endeouour that none should be needie among them: notwithstanding for exercife of loue & charitie Gods prouidence suffered fome to be poore. *v. 7. & 11.*

asketh: left he crie againft thee to our Lord, and ^a)it become a finne vnto thee. ¹⁰ But thou shalt geue to him: neither shalt thou doe any thing craftely in releuing his neceffities: that our Lord thy God may bleffe thee at al times, and in al thinges whereunto thou shalt put thy hand. ¹¹ There shal not want poore in the land of thy habitation: therefore I command thee that thou open thy hand to thy needie and poore brother, that liueth in the Land. ¹² When thy brother an Hebrew man, or Hebrew woman is fold to thee, and hath ferued thee fix yeares, in the feuenth yeare, thou shalt let him goe free: ¹³ and to whom thou geueft freedom, thou fhalt in no cafe fuffer him to depart emptie: ¹⁴ but geue him his wayfare of thy flockes, and of thy barne floore, and thy preffe, wherwith our Lord thy God fhall bleffe thee. ¹⁵ Remember that thy felf alfo didft ferue in the Land of Ægypt, and our Lord thy God made thee free, and therefore doe I now command thee. ¹⁶ But if he fay: I wil not depart: becaufe he loueth thee, and thy houfe, and feeleth that he is wel with thee: ¹⁷ thou fhalt take an awle, and bore through his eare in the dore of thy houfe, and he fhall ferue thee for euer. To thy woman feruant alfo thou fhalt doe in like maner. ¹⁸ Turne not away thine eies from them, when thou makeft them free: becaufe he hath ferued thee fix yeares after the wages of an hireling: that our Lord thy God may bleffe thee in al the workes that thou doeft. ¹⁹ Of the firft borne, that come forth in thy heardes and fheepe, whatfoeuer is of the male fexe, thou fhalt fanctifie to our Lord thy God. Thou shalt not worke with the firft borne of an oxe, and thou shalt not sheare the firft borne of thy fheepe. ²⁰ In the fight of our Lord thy God shalt thou eate them euerie yeare in the place, that our Lord shal choofe, thou and thy houfe. ²¹ But if it haue blemish, and be either lame, or blind, or in any part diffigured or feeble, it shal not be immolated to our Lord thy God: ²² but within the gates of thy citie shalt thou eate it: as wel the cleane as the vncleane in like maner

^a He that can and wil not feede his neighbour in extremitie, killeth him. *S. Amb. li. 2. de Offic. c. 7.*

shal eate them as the doa, and the hart. ²³ This onlie
shalt thou obferue, that their bloud thou eate not, but
power it out on the earth as water.