

Chapter 18

In fteed of other inheritance Prieftes and Leuites haue prouifion by Sacrifices and oblations. 9. Al fuperftition to be auoided. 15. Perpetuitie of prophetes, and finally one fpecial PROPHEET (to wit, CHRIST) is promifed. 20. Falfe prophetes muft be flaine.

The prieftes and Leuites, and al that are of the fame tribe, shal haue no part nor inheritance with the reft of Ifrael, becaufe they shal eate the facrifices of our Lord, and his oblations, ² and nothing els shal they receiue of the poffeffion of their brethren: for our Lord him felfe is their inheritance, as he hath fpoken to them. ³ This shal be the right of the prieftes from the people, and from them that offer vic-times: whether they immolate oxe, or sheepe, they shal geue to the priefte the shoulder and the mawe: ⁴ the firft fruites of corne, of wine, and oile, and a part of the woole of their sheepe shearing. ⁵ For him hath our Lord chofen of al thy tribes, that he might ftand, and minifter to our Lord, he and his fonnes for euer. ⁶ If a Leuite goe out of one of thy cities of al Ifrael in the which he dwelleth, and would come defiring the place which our Lord shal choofe, ⁷ he shal minifter in the name of our Lord his God, as al his brethren the Leuites, that shal ftand at that time before our Lord. ⁸ He shal receiue the fame portion of meates, that the reft doe: befide that, which in his owne citie is dew to him by fuceffion from his fathers. ⁹ When thou art entred the Land, which our Lord thy God shal geue thee, beware thou be not willing to imitate the abominations of thofe nations. ¹⁰ Neither let there be found in thee any that shal expiate his fonne, or daughter, making them to paffe through the fyre: or that demandeth of fouthfayers, and obferueth dreames and diuinations, neither let there be a forcerer, ¹¹ nor inchanter, nor that confulteth with pithone, or diuiners, and feeketh the truth of the dead. ¹² For al thefe thinges our Lord abhorreth, and for thefe abominations wil he deftroy them at thy entring in. ¹³ Thou shalt be perfect;

and without spotte with our Lord thy God. ¹⁴ These nations, whose land thou shalt possesse, heare fouthfayers and diuiners: but thou art otherwise instructed of our Lord thy God. ¹⁵ ^aA PROPHET of thy nation and of thy brethren like vnto me, wil our Lord thy God raise vp to thee: him thou shalt heare, ¹⁶ as thou didst request of our Lord thy God in Horeb, when the affembly was gathered, and saidst: I wil no more heare the voice of our Lord my God, and this exceding great fire I wil see no more, lest I die. ¹⁷ And our Lord said to me: They haue spoken al things wel. ¹⁸ A prophete wil I raise vp to them out of the middes of their brethren like to thee: and I wil put my wordes in his mouth, and he shall speake al things that I shall command him. ¹⁹ But he that wil not heare his wordes, which he shall speake in my name, I wil be the reuenger. ²⁰ And the prophet that being depraued with arrogancie wil speake in my name, the thinges ^athat I did not command him to say, ^bor in the name of strange goddes, shall be flaine. ²¹ And if in secreete cogitation thou answer: How shall I vnderstand the word, that our Lord spake not? ²² This signe thou shalt haue: That which the same prophete foretellet, in the name of the Lord and cometh not to passe: that our Lord hath not spoken, but by the arrogancie of his minde the prophet hath forged it: and therefore thou shalt not feare him.

ANNOTATIONS

¹⁵ A PROPHET of thy nation.) Amongst other places this plainly proueth that the same wordes in holie Scripture may haue diuers literal senses. For first the coherence of the text sheweth, that God here promised to geue his people an other extraordinarie prophet, after Moyse's death, of their owne nation: as wel to take away occasion of seeking to fouthfayers, diuiners, and other prophane prophetes of false goddes, strictly forbidden in the wordes

The same wordes may haue diuers literal senses.

^a This sorte of false prophets signified Heretikes, that preach false things in Christs name.

^b These prefigured Apostates, which renouncing Christ, expressly professe false goddes.

going immediatly before; as in approbation of their conuenient desire, mentioned in the wordes folowing, to heare Gods wil, not by him felf, nor by an Angel, but by Moyfes, who was now fhortly to be taken from them. And fo this promife was firft performed in Iofue, fucceding next after Moyfes in gouernment. And as neede required God ceafed not to fend more prophetes besides their ordinarie Priests. Againe this place is alfo vnderftood of Chrifft our Sauour, chief Prophete, and mafter of al prophetes; S. Peter fo expounding it. *Act. 3. v. 22. & 23.*