

Chapter 32

A Canticle of the Law, wherin the people are exhorted to ferue God, for his perfect goodnes, for his fingular benefites, for their former ingratitude, and for his mercie ftill mixed with his punishmentes. 44. Al which being earnestly commended to them to remember and teach their children, 48. Moyfes is commanded to goe into a mountaine, whence he shal fee the promifed land, but not enter into it.

Hear ye ^{a)}heauens what thinges I fpeake, the earth heare the wordes of my mouth. ² **T**hy ^{b)}doctrine grow together as raine, my fpeech flow as the dew, as it were a flower vpon the herbe, and as it were droppes vpon the graffe.

³ **B**ecaufe I wil inuocate the name of our Lord: geue magnifence to our God.

⁴ The workes of God be perfect, and al his waies iudgementes: God is faithful, and without any iniquitie, iuft and right.

⁵ They ^{d)}haue finned to him, and not his children in filthines: a froward and peruerfe generation.

⁶ Thefe thinges doeft thou render to our Lord thou foolifh and vnwife people? Is not he thy father, that hath poffeffed thee, and made, and created thee?

⁷ Remember the old daies, thinke vpon euerie generation: aske thy father, and he wil declare to thee: thy elders, and they wil tel thee.

⁸ When the higheft ^{e)}diuided the nations: when he feparated the fonnes of Adam, he appointed the limites

^a Al thinges in heauen and in earth teftifie, that God dealeth wel with his people.

^b Doctrine doth fructifie in good foules as raine & dew in the ground.

^c Mans firft dutie is to praife God.

^d The next, to acknowledge his owne finnes & defectes.

^e At the towre of Babel.

of people according to ^{a)}the number of the children of Ifrael.

⁹ But our Lords part, is his people: Iacob the corde of his inheritance.

¹⁰ He ^{b)}found him in a defert land, in a place of horroure, and of waft wildernes: he ledde him about, and taught him: and kept him as the apple of his eye.

¹¹ As the eagle prouoking her young to flie, and houering ouer them, hath he fpred his winges, and he hath taken him, and caried him on his shoulders.

¹² Our Lord onlie was his guide: and there was not with him a ftrange God.

¹³ He placed him ouer an high land: that he might eate the fruites of the fieldes, that he might fucke ^{c)}honie out of the rocke, and ^{d)}oile out of the hardeft ftone.

¹⁴ Butter from the heard, and milke of the fheepe with the fatte of lambes, and of rammes the fonnes of Bafan: and bucke goates with the marow of wheate, and might drinke the bloud of the grape moft pure.

¹⁵ The ^{e)}beloued was made groffe, and fpurned: made groffe, fatted, dilated, he left God his maker, and departed from God his faluation.

¹⁶ They prouoked him in ftrange goddes, and in abominations ftirred him to anger.

¹⁷ They immolated to diuels and not to God, to goddes, which they knew not: there came ^{f)}new & frefh ones, whom their fathers worshipping not.

¹⁸ God that begatte thee thou haft forfaken, and haft ^{g)}forgotten our Lord thy creatour.

¹⁹ Our Lord faw, and was moued to wrath: becaufe his fonnes and daughters prouoked him.

^a Ifrael being but one people poffeffed the inheritance of feuen other nations.

^b God chofe Ifrael to be his peculiar people of mere grace and protected them.

^c Bees without mens induftrie made honie in the rockes.

^d Oliue trees prospered in ftonie places.

^e Temporal prosperitie occafion of the Iewes reuolting from God.

^f Noueltie allureth carnal people to idolatrie and herefie.

²⁰ And he said: ^a)I wil hide my face from them, and wil confider their laft: for it is a peruerfe generation, and vnfaithful children.

²¹ They ^b)haue prouoked me in that, which was no God, and haue angred me in their vanities: and I wil prouoke them in that, which is no people, and in ^c)a foolish nation wil I anger them.

²² A fyre is kindled in my wrath, and shal burne euen to the loweft partes of hel: and shal deuoure the earth with her fpring, and shal burne the foundations of mountaines.

²³ I wil heape euils vpon them, and myne arrowes I wil fend in them.

²⁴ They shal be confumed with famine, and birdes shal deuoure them with moft bitter biting: the teeth of beaftes wil I fend vpon them, with the furie of thofe that traile vpon the ground, and creepe.

²⁵ Without shal the fword deuoure them, & within fearefulnes, the young man and the virgin together, the fucking child with the old man.

²⁶ I said: Where are they? I wil make their memorie to ceafe from among men.

²⁷ But ^d)for the wrath of the enemies I haue differred: left perhaps their enemies might be proude, and would fay: Our mightie hand, and not the Lord, hath done al thefe thinges.

²⁸ A nation without counfel is it, and without wifedome.

²⁹ O that they were ^e)wife, and vnderftoode, and would prouide for their laft.

³⁰ How should one purfew a thoufand, and two put ten thoufand to flight? was it not therfore, becaufe their God fold them, and our Lord inclofed them?

^a For their peruerfnes God withdrew his helpe from them.

^b God firft loueth, before anie man loueth him, but men firft forfake God, before he forfake them.

^c The Iewes reputed moft Gētiles foolifh yet now they are inferior to al.

^d For iuft caufes God fome times differreth punifhment.

^e True wifdome *confidereth* thinges pafte, *vnderftandeth* thinges prefent, and *prouideth* for things to come.

31 For our Lord is not as their goddes: ^{a)}our enemies also are iudges.

32 Of the vineyard of Sodom, is their vineyard, and of the fuburbes of Gomorrha: their grape the grape of gall, and the clufters moft bitter.

33 The gall of dragons their wine, and the venime of Apes vncurable.

34 Are not thefe things laid vp with me, and figned in my treafures?

35 Reuenge is myne, and I wil repay them in time, that their foote may flide: the day of perdition is at hand, and the times make haft to be prefent.

36 Our Lord wil iudge his people, and wil haue mercie on his feruantes: he shal fee that their hand is weakened, and ^{b)}the shut vp also haue fayled, and the refidew be confumed.

37 And he shal fay: Where are their goddes, in whom they had confidence.

38 Of whofe vicitimes they did eate fatte, and dranke the wine of their libamentes: ^{c)}let them arife, and help you, and protect you in neceffitie.

39 See ye that I am onlie, and there is no other God befides me: I wil kil, and I wil make to liue: I wil ftrike, and I wil heale, and there is none that can deliuer out of my hand.

40 I wil lift vp my hand to heauen, and wil fay: I liue for euer.

41 If I shal whette my fword as the lightening, and my hand take iudgement: I wil repay vengeance to myne enemies, and them that hate me wil I requite.

42 I wil embrew my arrowes with bloud, and my fword fhall deuoure flesh, of the bloud of the flaine and of captiuitie, of ^{d)}the bare head of the enemies.

^a Al infidels confesse more Maiefty in the true God and in his Religio, then in their owne.

^b Euen fuch offenders as thinck them felues fecure, efcape not.

^c It is vnpoſſible that falſe goddes ſhould helpe their folowers in neceffitie.

^d The vaine counfel of the wicked being detected ſhall be puniſhed.

⁴³ You gentiles prayfe his people, becaufe he wil reuenge the bloud of his feruantes: and wil repay vengeance vpon their enemies, and wil be propitious to the land of his people.

⁴⁴ Moyfes therefore came and fpake al the wordes of this canticle in the eares of the people, he and Iofue the fonne of Nun. ⁴⁵ And he finished al thefe wordes, fpaking to the children of Ifrael. ⁴⁶ And he faid to them: Sette your hartes on al the wordes, which I teftifie to you this day: that you command them to your children to keepe and to doe, and to fulfil al thinges of this law that are written: ⁴⁷ for not in vaine are they commanded you, but that euerie one should liue in them: which doing you may continew a long time in the Land, which paffing ouer Iordan you enter to poffeffe. ⁴⁸ And our Lord fpake to Moyfes in the fame day, faying: ⁴⁹ Goe vp into this mount Abirim, that is to fay, of paffages, into mount Nebo, which is in the Land of Moab againft Iericho: and fee the Land of Chanaan, which I wil deliuer to the children of Ifrael to obteyne, and die thou in the mount. ⁵⁰ Which going vp vnto thou shalt be ioyned to thy peoples, as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was layd to his people: ⁵¹ becaufe you did preuaricate againft me in the middes of the children of Ifrael at the Waters of contradiction in Cades of the defert of Sin: and you did not fanctifie me among the children of Ifrael. ⁵² Ouer againft shalt thou fee the Land, and shalt not enter into it, which I wil geue to the children of Ifrael.

ANNOTATIONS

18 For gotten our Lord.) Caluin (*li. 1. Inftit. c. 11. parag. 9.*) contending that it is idolatrie, to worfhip Chrift in his picture, faieth the idolatrie committed about the molten calfe (*Exod. 32.*) confited in worfhipping the true God in that image of a calfe: affirming that *the Ievves vvere not fo inconfiderate, as not to remember, that is vvas God vvhich had brought them out of the Land of Ægypt.* Quite contrarie to this text, which faieth: God that begate thee thou haft forfaken, and *haft forgotten* our Lord thy creator. Caluin therefore was either ignorant or forgetful, that the Holie Ghoft here chargeth them, to haue forfaken and

Caluin contradicteth the holie Scripture.

forgotten God the Creator; or els (which is worfe) knowing and remembering it, he was moft impudent in auouching the contrarie.

43 Praife his people.) In the people of the Iewes were alwayes fome good, & worthie of praife, that ferued God; and fometimes fuffered perfecution for iuftice; whose bloud God promifed here to reuenge, and for their fakes to be merciful to others. Al which we fee was performed, in that God reduced them from captiuitie, and conferued them after in their countrie til Chrifts time. For fo he was *propitious to the land of his people*.

Alwaies fome good
in the Church of
the old Teftamēt.