

Chapter 4

Moyfes receiuing power to vvorke miracles in confirmation of his mifsion, 14. and his brother Aaron being defigned to afsift him, 20. goeth vvith vvife and children towards Ægypt, 25. is in danger to be flaine for not fooner circumcifing his fonne. 27. Aaron meeteth him, 29. fo they goe together, and declare to the people, that God wil deliuer them.

Moyfes anfwering faid: ¹They wil not beleue me, nor heare my voice, but they wil fay: Our Lord hath not appeared to thee. ²Therefore he fayd to him: What is that thou holdeft in thy hand? He answered: A rodde. ³And our Lord fayd: Caft it vpon the ground. He did caft it, and it was turned into a ferpent, fo that Moyfes fled. ⁴And our Lord fayd: Stretch thy hand, and catch the tayle therof. He ftretched it forth, & tooke hold of it, and it was turned into a rodde. ⁵That they may beleue, quoth he, that the Lord God of their fathers hath appeared to thee, the God of Abraham, the God of Ifaac, & the God of Iacob. ⁶And our Lord fayd agayne: Put thy hand into thy bofome. Which when he had put into his bofome, he brought it forth ful of leprofie like fnow. ⁷Draw backe, quoth he, thy hand into thy bofome. He drew it backe, and brought it forth agayne, & it was like the other flefh. ⁸If they wil not beleue thee, quoth he, nor heare the word of the former figne, they wil beleue the word of the figne folowing. ⁹And if fo be they wil beleue neither of thefe two fignes, nor heare thy voice: take water of the riuier, & powre it out vpon the drie land, and whatfoeuer thou draweft of the riuier, fhall be turned into bloud. ¹⁰Moyfes fayd: I befech thee, Lord, I am not eloquent from yefterday and the day before: and fince thou haft fpoken to thy feruant, I haue more impediment & flownes of tongue. ¹¹Our Lord fayd to him: Who made the mouth of man? or who framed the dumme and deafe, the feeing and the blinde? did not I? ¹²Goe on therefore, and I wil be in thy mouth: &

wil teach thee what thou fhalt fpeake. ¹³ But he fayd: I befech thee, Lord, fend whom thou wilt fend. ¹⁴ Our Lord being angrie at Moyfes, fayd: Aaron thy brother the Leuite, I know that he is eloquēt: behold he cometh forth to meete thee, & feeing thee fhall be glad at the hart. ¹⁵ Speake to him, and put my wordes in his mouth: & I wil be in thy mouth, and in his mouth, and wil fhew you what yee muft doe. ¹⁶ He fhall fpeake in thy fteed to the people, and fhall be thy mouth: but thou fhalt be to him in thofe thinges that pertain to God. ¹⁷ ^{a)}This rodde alfo take in thy hand, wherwith thou fhalt doe the fignes. ¹⁸ Moyfes went his way, & returned to Iethro his father in law, and fayd to him: I wil goe and returne to my brethren into Ægypt, that I may fee if they be yet aliue. To whom Iethro fayd: Goe in peace. ¹⁹ Therefore our Lord fayd to Moyfes in Madian: Goe, and returne into Ægypt: for they are al dead that fought thy life. ²⁰ Moyfes therefore tooke his wife, & his children, and fet them vpon an affe: and returned into Ægypt, carying the rodde of God in his hand. ²¹ And our Lord faid to him returning into Ægypt: See that thou doe al the wonders, which I haue put in thy hand, before Pharao: ^{b)}I wil indurate his hart, and he wil not difmiffe the people. ²² And thou fhalt fay to him: This fayeth the Lord: My firft begotten fonne is Ifrael. ²³ I fayd to thee: difmiffe my fonne that he may ferue me, & thou fouldeft not difmiffe him: behold I wil kil thy firft-begotten-sonne. ²⁴ And when he was in his iourney, in the Inne, our Lord mette him, and would haue killed him. ²⁵ Sephora by & by tooke a very sharp ftone, and circumcised the prepuce of her fonne, & ^{c)}touchd his feete, and fayd: A blouddie fpoufe thou art to me. ²⁶ And he let him goe after fhe had faid, A blouddie fpoufe thou art to me, becaufe of the circumcifion. ²⁷ And our Lord faid to Aaron:

^a God defigned a rodde for an intrument to work miracles.

^b See the *Annotations cha. 7. v. 3.*

^c Sephora caft the prepuce at Moyfes feete and faid: I had loft thee my fpoufe except I had redeemed thee with the bloud of my child. And the Angel let Moyfes goe. *S. Aug. q. 11. in Exod. iuxta 70.*

Goe to Moyfes into the defert. Who went forth to mete him vnto the Mountaine of God, and kiffed him. ²⁸ And Moyfes told Aaron al the wordes of our Lord, by which he had fent him, & the fignes that he had commanded. ²⁹ And they came together, and gathered together al the ancientes of the children of Ifrael. ³⁰ And Aaron fpake al the wordes which our Lord had faid to Moyfes: and he wrought the fignes before the people, ³¹ and ^a)the people beleued. And they heard that our Lord had vifited the children of Ifrael, and that he had looked vpon their affliction: & they adored prostrate.

ANNOTATIONS

1 They vvil not beleue me.) Moyfes wifely confidering that the children of Ifrael, much leffe Pharao, would hardly beleue his bare word, affirming that he was fent to them by God, propofed this difficultie before he tooke the Embacie vpon him. For without good prooffe both the Ifraelites, and Ægyptians might haue reiected him, as feming to come of his owne priuate fpirite, being no ordinarie fuperior, neither of the whole people, not of his owne tribe, nor firft of his familie; for Aaron was his elder brother. Therefore God gaue him powre of working miracles, to proue his extraordinary miffion true and lawful. VVhich fufficed to make euen Pharao him felfe to know, that he was fent from God almightie, though it mollified not his ftubborne hart, to obey Gods commandement: and it fully fatisfied the children of Ifrael touching al things which he denounced, beleuing him that God mercifully looked vpon their affliction & would deliuer them. VVherupon they adored prostrate as the laft wordes of this chapter testifie. VVhere we fee both the neceffitie, and fufficiencie of miracles to proue the extraordinary vocation of fuch as preach otherwise then was taught before. For this caufe our Sauour himfelfe confirming his doctrin by miracles, faid to the Iewes: *If you vvil not beleue me, beleue my vvorkes.* Again he faid of them: *If I had not done among them vvorkes that no other man hath done, they should not haue finne.* And cōformably fending his Apoftles to preach the Gofpel, gaue them powre to worke miracles in his name. So did S. Peter and S. Iohn heale the lame. *Act. 3.* And S. Paul auouched miracles for the fignes of his Apoftlefhip. *2. Cor. 12.*

Miracles neceffarie and fufficient to proue extraordinary vocation of new preachers.

Ioan. 10.

Ioan. 15.

Mat. 9. Mat. 16.

^a Miracles a motiue to true beleefe.