

Chapter 23

Lawes are appointed to Iudges, (the enemies oxe, or afse to be faued) 8. namely not to take bribes. 10. The feuenth yeare, and day al muft reft. 14. Three principal feaftes muft be folemnized euerie yeare. 20. Conduction and protection of an Angel is promifed. 24. The people is agane commanded to deftroy Idols. 29. VVhy their enemies fhall be deftroyed by litle and litle.

Thou fhalt not admitte a lying voice: neither fhalt thou ioyn thy hand to fay falfe teftimonie for a wicked perfon. ² Thou fhalt not folow the multitude to doe euil: neither fhalt thou in iudgement, agree to the fentence of the moft part, to ftray from the truth. ³ The ^apoore man alfo thou fhalt not pitie in iudgement. ⁴ If thou meete thy enemies oxe, or afse going aftray, bring it backe to him. ⁵ If thou fee the afse of him that hateth thee lye vnderneath his burden, thou fhalt not paffe by, but fhalt lift him vp with the fame. ⁶ Thou fhalt not decline the poore mans iudgement. ⁷ A lye thou fhalt auoide. The innocent and iuft perfon thou fhalt not put to death: becaufe I abhorre the impious man. ⁸ Neither fhalt thou take bribes, which doe blind alfo the wife, and peruert the wordes of the iuft. ⁹ The ftranger thou fhalt not moleft, for you know the hartes of ftrangers: becaufe your felues alfo were ftrangers in the Land of Ægypt. ¹⁰ Six yeares thou fhalt fow thy ground, and fhalt gather the corne therof. ¹¹ But the feuenth yeare thou fhalt let it alone, and make it to reft, that the poore of thy people may eate, and whatfoeuer fhall be leift, let the beates of the field eate it: fo fhalt thou doe in thy vineyard and thy oliuete. ¹² Six dayes thou fhalt worke: the feuenth day thou fhalt ceafe, that thy oxe may reft and thine afse: and the fonne of thy handmaide may be refreshed, and the ftranger. ¹³ Kepe al thinges that I haue faid to you. And by the

^a Al vertues being fouled in iuftice, ceafe to be true vertues, when iuftice is not firft oberued. *S. Hierom in Pfal. 32. et Prou. 31.*

name of foren goddes you shal not fweare, neither shal it be heard out of your mouth. ¹⁴ Three times euerie yeare you shal celebrate feastes to me. ¹⁵ Thou shalt keepe ^{a)}the folemnie of Azymes. Seuen dayes shalt thou eate azymes, as I commanded thee, in the time of the moneth of new corne, when thou didst come forth out of Ægypt: thou shalt not appeare in my fight emptie. ¹⁶ And the folemnie of the haruest ^{b)}of the first frutes of thy worke, whatfoeuer thou didst sow in the field. The folemnie also in the end of the yeare, ^{c)}when thou hast gathered al thy corne out of the field. ¹⁷ Thrife a yeare shal al thy male sexe appeare before the Lord thy God. ¹⁸ Thou shalt not sacrifice the bloud of my vic-time vpon leuen, neither shal the fatte of my folemnie remaine vntil the morning. ¹⁹ The first frutes of the corne of thy ground thou shalt carrie into the house of the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not boyle a kidde in the milke of his damme. ²⁰ Behold I wil send myne Angel, which shal goe before thee, and keepe thee in thy iourney, and bring thee into the place that I haue prepared. ²¹ Obserue him, and heare his voice, neither doe thou thinke him one to be contemned: for he wil not forgeue when thou hast finned, and my name is in him. ²² But if thou wilt heare his voice, and doe al that I speake, I wil be enemie to thyne enemies, & wil afflict them that afflict thee. ²³ And myne Angel shal goe before thee, and shal bring thee in vnto the Amorrhite, and Hethite, and Pherezeite, and Chananeite, and Heuite, and Iebuzeite, whom I wil deftroy. ²⁴ Thou shalt not adore their goddes, nor ferue them. Thou shalt not doe their workes, but shalt deftroy them, and breake their statues. ²⁵ And you shal ferue the Lord your God, that I may bleffe your bread & waters, and may take away infirmitie from the middes of thee. ²⁶ There shal not be a fruitlesse nor barren bodie in thy land: I wil fil the

Three principal feastes besides the Sabbath, & some others.

^a Pasch in memorie of their deliuerie from Ægypt.

^b Pentecost, when they receiued the Law.

^c Tabernacles in memorie of Gods protection fourtie yeares in the desert.

number of thy dayes. ²⁷ I wil fend my terrour to runne before thee, and wil kil al people, to whom thou shalt enter: and wil turne the backes of al thyne enemies before thee: ²⁸ fending forth hornets before, that shal chafe away the Heueite, and Chananeite, and Hetheite, before thou enter. ²⁹ I wil not cast them out from thy face in one yeare: lest the land be brought into a wilderneffe, and beastes encrease against thee. ³⁰ By litle and litle I wil expel them from thy fight, til thou be increased, and dost possesse the Land. ³¹ And I wil sette thy boundes from the Redde sea vnto the sea of the Palestines, and from the desert vnto the riuer: I wil deliuer the inhabitantes of the Land in your handes, and wil cast them out from your fight. ³² Thou shalt ^a)not enter league with them, nor with their goddes. ³³ Let them not dwel in thy land, lest perhapes they make thee to finne against me, if thou ferue their goddes: which vndoubtedly wil be a scandal to thee.

^a Peace with infidels forbidden to Gods people.