

Chapter 7

Elifeus prophecieth plentie of corne the next day, and death to a chief man that wil not beleue it. 3. Foure Lepers going to yeld themfelues to the Syrians, 6. who by Gods prouidence are frighted and fled away, 9. bring newes therof to Samaria, 12. which by trial is found true. 16. And fo there is plentie of corne, and the incredulous nobleman is trod to death, with preffe of multitude in the gate, as the prophet fortold.

And Elifeus fayd: Heare ye the word of our Lord: Thus fayth our Lord: At this time to morow a bushel of floure shal be at one ftater, and two bushels of barley at one ftater, in the gate of Samaria. ² One of the Dukes, vpon whose hand the king leaned, anfwering the man of God, fayd: If our Lord shal make fludgates in heauen, ^a)can that poffibly be which thou speakest? Who fayd: Thou shalt see it with thine eies, and shalt not eate therof. ³ There were therefore foure men lepers, beside the entrance of the gate: who fayd one to an other: What meane we to be here til we die? ⁴ Whether we enter into the citie, we shal die for famine: or whether we tarie here, die we must: come therefore, and let vs runne away to the campe of Syria. If they spare vs, we shal liue: but if they wil kil vs, we shal die neuertheleffe. ⁵ They arose therefore in the euening, to come to the campe of Syria. And when they were come to the beginning of the campe of Syria, they found no man there. ⁶ For our Lord had made them in the campe of Syria to heare the found of chariotes, and horfes, and of a verie great armie: and they fayd one to an other: Behold the king of Ifrael hath for wages hyred agaynst vs the kinges of the Hetheites, and of the Ægyptians, and they are come vpon vs. ⁷ They arose therefore, and fled in the darke, and leaft their tentes, and

^a Discourfe of mans reafon can not reach to the powre of God, who can do al that he wil, and wil doe al that he faith: therefore the incredulous are iuftly punished. *v. 20.*

their horfes and affes in the campe, and fled defirous to faue their liues only. ⁸ Therefore when thefe lepers were come to the beginning of the campe, they entered into one tabernacle, and did eate and drinke: and they tooke thence filuer, and gold, and rayment, and went, and hid it: againe they returned to an other tabernacle, and from thence likewife taking away they hid it. ⁹ And they faid one to an other: We doe not wel: for this is a day of good tydings. If we fhall hold our peace, and wil not tel vntil morning, we fhall be blamed of a heinous offence: Come, let vs goe, and make report in the kinges court. ¹⁰ And when they were come to the gate of the citie, they told them faying: We went to the campe of Syria, and found no man there, but horfes, and affes tyed, and the tentes pitched. ¹¹ The porters therfore went, and told it to the king within his palace. ¹² Who arofe in the night, & fayd to his feruants: I tel you what the Syrians haue done to vs: They know that we fuffer great famine, and therefore they are gone out of the campe and lie hid in the fieldes, faying: When they fhall come forth out of the citie, we wil take them aliue, and then we may enter into the citie. ¹³ But one of his feruantes answered: Let vs take fiue horfes that are remaining in the citie (becaufe they onlie are in the whole multitude of Ifrael for the other are confumed) and fending, we may trie. ¹⁴ They brought therfore two horfes, and the king fent into the campe of the Syrians, faying: Goe ye, and fee. ¹⁵ Who went after them as far as Iordan: and behold al the way was ful of rayment, and veffels, which the Syrians had caft away, when they were amafed, and the meffengers returning told the king. ¹⁶ And the people going forth fpoyled the campe of Syria: and a bufhel of floure became at one ftater, and two bufhels of barley at one ftater, according to the word of our Lord. ¹⁷ Moreouer the king appoynted that duke on whofe hand he leaned, to ftand at the gate: whom the multitude trode in the entrance of the gate, & he died, according as the man of God had fpoken, when the king came downe to him. ¹⁸ And it came to paffe according to the word of the man of God, which he fpake to the king, when he fayd: Two bushels of

barley shal be at one ftater, and a bushel of floure at one ftater, this verie tyme to morow in the gate of Samaria: ¹⁹ when that duke answered the man of God, and sayd: Although our Lord would make fludgates in the heauen, can this be done which thou speakeft? And he said to him: Thou shalt see with thine eyes, and shal not eate therof. ²⁰ It chanced therefore to him as it was foretold, and the people trode him in the gate, and he died.