

Chapter 10

The Samaritanes fearing the force of Iehu, choofe no other king, but offer him their feruice: 6. and by his commandment kil the late kings feuentie fonnes. 12. Fourtie two brothers of Ochozias late king of Iuda are flaine. 15. Iehu making league with Ionadab, vtterly deftroyeth Achabs houfe. 18. By a ftratagem killeth al the worshippers of Baal, 26. burneth his ftatua, & turneth his temple into a iakes: 28. but maintaineth Ieroboams golden calues. 32. The Afyrians afflict Ifrael. 34. Iehu dieth, and his fonne Ioachaz reigneth.

And Achab had feuentie fonnes in Samaria: Iehu therfore wrote letters, and fent into Samaria to the chiefe of the citie, and to the ancientes, and to them that brought vp Achabs children, faying: ² As fowne as you shal receiue thefe letters, ye that haue your maifters fonnes, and chariotes, and horfes, and fenfed cities, and armour, ³ choofe the better, and him that shal pleafe you of your maifters fonnes, and fet him vpon his fathers throne, and fight for the houfe of your lord. ⁴ They were fore afrayd, and faid: Behold two kinges could not ftand before him, and how fhall we be able to refift? ⁵ The ouerfeers therfore of the houfe, and the rulers of the citie, and the ancientes, and the tutors fent to Iehu, faying: We are thy feruantes, whatfoeuer thou shalt command we wil doe, neither wil we make vs a king: Doe thou whatfoeuer pleafeth thee. ⁶ And he wrote letters to them agayne, the fecond tyme, faying: If you be mine, and obey me, take the heades of your maifters fonnes, and come to me this verie houre to morow into Iezrahel. Moreouer the kinges fonnes, feuentie men were brought vp with the chiefe of the citie. ⁷ And when the letters were come to them, they tooke the kinges fonnes, and flew feuentie men, and put their heades in baskets, and fent them to him into Iezrahel. ⁸ And a meffenger came, & told him, faying: They haue brought the heades of the kinges fonnes. Who answered: Lay them in two heapes by the entrance of the gate vntil

morning. ⁹ And when it was light, he went forth, and standing sayd to al the people: You are iuft: If I haue confpired agaynft my maifter, and haue flayne him, who hath ftrooken al thefe? ¹⁰ See therefore now there hath not fallen of the wordes of our Lord on the ground, which our Lord fpake vpon the houfe of Achab, and our Lord hath done that which he fpake in the hand of his feruant Elias. ¹¹ Iehu therefore fmote al that were leaft of the houfe of Achab in Iezrahel, and al his nobles, and familiars, and prieftes, til there remayned no reliques of him. ¹² And he arofe, and came into Samaria: and when he was come to the cabbin of the fhepeheardes in the way, ¹³ he found the brethren of Ochozias the king of Iuda, and he fayd to them: What are you? Who answered: We are the brethren of Ochozias, and are come downe to falute the kinges fonnes, and the queenes fonnes. ¹⁴ Who fayd: Take them aliuie. Whom when they had taken aliuie, they killed them in a cefterne befide the cabbin, two and fourtie men, and he leaft not any of them. ¹⁵ And when he was gone thence, he found ^a)Ionadab the fonne of Rechab coming to meete him, and he bleffed him. And he fayd to him: Is thy hart right as my hart with thy hart? And Ionadab fayd: It is. If it be fo, quoth he, geue me thy hand. Who gaue him his hand. But he lifted him vp to him into the chariote, ¹⁶ and fayd to him: Come with me, and fee my zeale for our Lord. And being fette in his chariote, ¹⁷ he brought him into Samaria. And he ftroke al that were leaft of Achab in Samaria, til there was not one, according to the word of our Lord, which he fpake by Elias. ¹⁸ Iehu therefore affembled al the people, and fayd to them: Achab worshipped Baal a litle, but ^b)I wil worshipe him more. ¹⁹ Now therefore cal to me al the prophetes of Baal, and al his feruantes, and al his prieftes: let there be none but that he come, for

^a This Ionadab intituted a peculiar rule of religious abftinence: which his pofterity duly oberued. *Ierem. 35.*

^b Iehu finned in feaning, and caufing others to facrifice to Baal, his zeale wanting both difcretion and equitie for *euil muft not be done that good may come therof. Rom. 3.*

I haue a great sacrifice to Baal: He that shall be wanting shall not live. Moreover Jehu did this craftely, that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal. ²⁰ And he sayd: Sanctifie a solemn day to Baal. And he called ²¹ and sent into all the borders of Israel, and all the seruantes of Baal came: there was left not one that came not. And they entered into the temple of Baal: and the house of Baal was filled, from one end to the other. ²² And he sayd to them that were over the garments: Bring forth garments for all the seruantes of Baal. And they brought them forth garments. ²³ And Jehu going in, and Ionadab the sonne of Rechab into the temple of Baal, sayd to the worshippers of Baal: Search, and see left perhaps there be any with you of the seruantes of the Lord, but that there be the seruantes of Baal onlie. ²⁴ They therefore went in to make victims and holocaustes: but Jehu had prepared him without fourecore men, and sayd to them: Whosoever shall escape of these men, whom I will bring into your hands, his life shall be for the life of him. ²⁵ And it came to passe, when the holocauste was ended, Jehu commanded his fouldiars and captaynes: Goe in, and strike them, let none escape. And the fouldiars and captaynes strooke them in the edge of the sword, and cast them forth: and they went into the citie of the temple of Baal, ²⁶ and brought forth the statue out of Baals temple, and burnt it, ²⁷ and brake it in peeces. They destroyed also the temple of Baal, and made a iakes for it vntil this day. ²⁸ Jehu therefore destroyed Baal out of Israel: ²⁹ but yet from the finnes of Ieroboam the sonne of Nabat, who made Israel to finne, he departed not, neither forooke he the golden calves, that were in Bethel, and Dan. ³⁰ And our Lord sayd to Jehu: ^a)Because thou hast diligently done that which was right, and that pleased in mine eyes, and hast done all things that were in my hart, against the house of Achab: thy children shall sitte vpon the throne of Israel

^a *Moral good vvorkes done in state of mortal finne not meriting eternal life, are often rewarded temporally. S. Aug. cont. mend. c. 2.*

to the fourth generation. ³¹ Moreouer Iehu obserued not to walke in the law of our Lord the God of Ifrael in al his hart: for he departed not from the finnes of Ieroboam, who had made Ifrael to finne. ³² In thofe daies our Lord began to be wearie of Ifrael: and Hazael smote them in al the coftes of Ifrael, ³³ from Iordan agaynft the Eaft quarter, al the land of Galaad, and Gad, and Ruben, and Manaffes, from Aroer, which is vpon the Torrent Arnon, and Galaad, and Bafan. ³⁴ But the reft of the wordes of Iehu, & al that he did, and his ftrength, are not thefe thinges writen in the Booke of the wordes of the dayes of the kinges of Ifrael? ³⁵ And Iehu flept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria: and Ioac haz his fonne reigned for him. ³⁶ And the dayes which Iehu reigned ouer Ifrael, be eight and twentie yeares in Samaria.