

Chapter 17

Salmanazar king of Afsyrians maketh Ofee king of Ifrael tributarie, and perceuing his endeouour to be deliuered therof, imprifoneth him; after three yeares fiege taketh Samaria, and carieth the people captiue into Afsyria. 7. Al which God permitteth for diuers great finnes here recited. 25. The new inhabitantes of the countrie not knowing God, are deuoured by lions. VVherupon a true priest is fent to instruct them. 29. But they lerning the rites of true religion do mixe the fame with idolatrie.

In the twelfth yeare of Achaz king of Iuda, reigned Ofee the fonne of Ela in Samaria ouer Ifrael nine yeares. ² And he did euil before our Lord: but not as the kinges of Ifrael that had bene before him. ³ Againft him came vp Salmanafar king of the Affyrians, and Ofee was made feruant to him, and payd him tributes. ⁴ And when the king of the Affyrians had found, that Ofee endeuoring to rebel had fent meffengers to Sua the king of Ægypt, that he might not pay tributes to the king of the Affyrians, as euery yeare he was accuftomed, he befieged him, and caft him bound into prifon. ⁵ And he ranged through al the land: and going vp to Samaria, he befieged it three yeares. ⁶ And in the ninth yeare of Ofee, the king of Affyrians tooke Samaria, and transferred Ifrael vnto the Affyrians: and he put them in Hala, and in Habor befide the riuer of Gozan, in the cities of the Medes. ⁷ For it came to paffe, when the children of Ifrael had finned to our Lord their God, which brought them out of the land of Ægypt, and out of the hand of Pharaos the king of Ægypt, they worfhipped ftrange goddes. ⁸ And they walked according to the rite of the Gentiles, which our Lord had confumed in the fight of the children of Ifrael, and of the kinges of Ifrael: becaufe they had done in like maner. ⁹ And the children of Ifrael offended our Lord their God with wordes not right: & built them excelfes in al their cities from the Towre of watchmen vnto the fenfed citie. ¹⁰ And they made them ftatues

& groues on euerie high hil, and vnder euerie thicke wooddie tree: ¹¹ and burnt there incense vpon the altars after the maner of the Gentiles, which our Lord remoued from their face: and they did wicked things, prouoking our Lord. ¹² And they worhipped the filthes, wherof our Lord commanded them, that they should not doe this thing. ¹³ And our Lord testified in Ifrael and in Iuda by the hand of al the Prophetes and Seers, saying: Returne from your most wicked wayes, and keepe my precepts, and ceremonies according to al the law, which I commanded your fathers: and as I haue sent to you in the hand of my seruantes the Prophetes. ¹⁴ Who heard not, but hardened their necke according to the necke of their fathers, who would not obey our Lord their God. ¹⁵ And they cast away his ordinances, and the couenant that he made with their fathers, and the testifications, wherwith he contested them: and they folowed vanities, and did vaynly: and they folowed the Gentiles, that were round about them, concerning which our Lord had commanded them, that they should not doe as they did. ¹⁶ And they forfooke al the preceptes of our Lord their God: and made to them selues two molten calues, and groues, and adored al the hoste of heauen: and they serued Baal, ¹⁷ and consecrated their sonnes, and their daughters through fyre: and they gaue themselues to deuinations, and soothsayings: and they deliuered vp themselues to doe euil before our Lord, ^athat they might prouoke him. ¹⁸ And our Lord was wrath with Ifrael vehemently, and tooke them away from his sight, and there remayned but the tribe of Iuda onlie. ¹⁹ But neither Iuda it self kept the commandementes of our Lord their God: but walked in the errours of Ifrael, which it had wrought. ²⁰ And our Lord reiected al the feede of Ifrael, and afflicted them, & deliuered them into the hand of the spoylers, til he threwe them away from his face: ²¹ euen now from that time, when Ifrael was rent from the house of Dauid, and made Ieroboam the sonne of Nabat their king: for Ieroboam seperated Ifrael from our Lord, and

^a That is, consequently they did prouoke him. As *3. Reg. 14. v. 9.*

made them finne a great finne. ²² And the children of Ifrael walked in al the finnes of Ieroboam, which he had done: and they departed not from them, ²³ vntil our Lord tooke away Ifrael from his face, as he had spoken in the hand of al his feruantes the Prophetes: and Ifrael was transported out of their land vnto the Affyrians, vntil this day. ²⁴ And the king of the Affyrians brought from Babylon, and from Cutha, and from Auah, and from Emath, and from Sepharuaim: and placed them in the cities of Samaria for the children of Ifrael: who possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities therof. ²⁵ And when they began to dwel there, they feared not our Lord: and our Lord sent lions vpon them, which killed them. ²⁶ And it was told the king of the Affyrians, and sayd: The nations, which thou haft transferred, and made to dwel in the cities of Samaria, know not the ordinances of the God of the land: and the Lord hath sent lions vpon them: and behold they kil them, for that they know not the rite of the God of the land. ²⁷ And the king of the Affyrians commanded, faying: Bring thither one of the priestes, which you brought thence captiue, and let him goe, and dwel with them: and let him teach them the ordinances of the God of the land. ²⁸ Therefore when one of those priests, which were led captiue from Samaria, was come, he dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should worship our Lord. ²⁹ And euerie Nation framed their owne god, and put them in the highe temples, which the Samaritanes had made, Nation and Nation in their cities, where they dwelt. ³⁰ For the men of Babylon made Socothbenoth: and the Cutheites made Nergel: and the men of Emath made Afima. ³¹ Moreouer the Heueites made Nebahaz & Tharthac. And they that were of Sepharuaim burnt their children in fyre, to Adramelech, and Anamelech the goddes of Sepharuaim. ³² And neuertheles they ^aworhipped our Lord. And they made to themfelues of the vilest perfones priestes of the excelfes, and they placed them in the highe temples.

^a Not truly worhipped but made flew to worhippe. For true worhip of God admitteth not worhip of anie false god. *v. 34.*

³³ And when they worhipped our Lord, they ferued alfo their owne goddes according to the cuftome of the Nations out of the which they were tranſported to Samaria: ³⁴ vntil this preſent day they folow the old maner: they feare not our Lord, neither keepe they his ceremonies, and iudgements, and law, and the commandment, which our Lord commanded the children of Iacob, whom he furnamed Ifrael: ³⁵ and he had made a couenant with them, & had commanded them, ſaying: Feare not ſtrange goddes, and adore them not, neither worſhip them, and immolate not to them. ³⁶ But the Lord your God, which brought you out of the Land of Ægypt in great ſtrength, and a ſtretched out arme, him feare ye, and him adore, and to him doe ye immolate. ³⁷ The ceremonies alfo, and iudgements, and law, and the commandment, that he wrote you, keepe ye, that you may doe them alwaies: and feare not ſtrange goddes. ³⁸ And the couenant, that he made with you, forget not: neither doe ye worſhip ſtrange goddes, ³⁹ but feare our Lord your God, and he wil deliuer you out of the hand of al your enemies. ⁴⁰ But they heard not, but did according to their old cuftome. ⁴¹ Theſe Nations therfore were fearing of our Lord but neuertheleſſe feruing their idols alfo: for both their children and nephewes, as their fathers did, ſo doe they vntil this preſent day.