

Chapter 18

Ezechias defstroyeth al places of idolatrie in Iuda, breaking alfo the brafen ferpent, made by Moyfes, becaufe the people offered incenfe to it. 9. The captiuitie of the ten tribes is repeted. 13. Ezechias not able to refift the Affyrians payeth much money to them. 17. They neuertheles fend forces againft Ierufalem, reproch the king, blaſpheme God, and terrifie the people.

The fecond part. Actes of other kinges til the captiuitie of Iuda.

In the third yeare of Ofee the fonne of Ela king of Ifrael, reigned Ezechias the fonne of Achaz king of Iuda. ² Fiue and twentie yeares old was he when he began to reigne: and he reigned nine and twentie yeares in Ierufalem: the name of his mother was Abi the daughter of Zacharias. ³ And he did that which was good before our Lord, according to al thinges which Daud his father had done. ⁴ He defstroyed the excelfes, and brake the ftatues in peeces, and cut downe the groues, and brake the brafen ferpent, which Moyfes had made: for vntil that time the children of Ifrael ^a)burnt incenfe to it: and he called the name therof *Noheftan*. ⁵ He truſted in our Lord the God of Ifrael: therefore after him there was not the like to him in al the kings of Iuda, yea neither among them that were before him: ⁶ and he cleaued to our Lord, and departed not from his ſteppes, and he did his commandmentes, which our Lord commanded Moyfes. ⁷ Wherefore our Lord alfo was with him, and in al things, to the which he proceded, he behaued himſelfe wifely. He rebelled alfo agaynft the king of the Affyrians, and ferued him not. ⁸ He ftroke the Philifthians

A peece of braffe.

^a This image of a ferpent not only when it wrought miraculous health, but alfo long after was worthely referued in memorie of the benefite: but when the people offered ſacrifice vnto it, which is proper to God only, good Ezechias did laudably breake it. And to ſhew that there was no deitie in it: called it *Noheftan*, that is, a peece of braffe. And fo in the Catholique Church when anie holie Relique or Image is abuſed, it is taken away, or the error otherwife corrected. See *S. Aug. li. 10. c. 8. ciuit. Ser. 14. de verb. Apoft. & 101. de temp.*

as farre as Gaza, & al the borders, from the Towre of watchmen vnto the fenfed citie. ⁹ In the fourth yeare of king Ezechias, which was the feuenth yeare of Ofee the fonne of Ela the king of Ifrael, came vp Salmanafar the king of the Affyrians into Samaria, and affaulted it, ¹⁰ and tooke it. For after three yeares, in the fixt yeare of Ezechias, that is, the ninth yeare of Ofee the king of Ifrael, Samaria was taken: ¹¹ and the king of the Affyrians tranfported Ifrael vnto the Affyrians, and placed them in Hala, and in Habor riuers of Gozan in the cities of the Medes: ¹² becaufe they heard not the voice of our Lord their God, but tranfgreffed his couenant: al things, that Moyfes the feruant of our Lord commanded, they heard not, neither did they it. ¹³ In the fourteenth yeare of king Ezechias, came vp Sennacherib the king of Affyrians to al the fenfed cities of Iuda: and tooke them. ¹⁴ Then fent Ezechias the king of Iuda meffengers to the king of the Affyrians into Lachis, faying: I haue finned, retyre from me: and al that thou fhalt put vpon me, I will beare. Therefore the king of the Affyrians put a taxe vpon Ezechias the king of Iuda, three hundred talents of filuer, and thirtie talents of gold. ¹⁵ And Ezechias gaue al the filuer that was found in the houfe of our Lord, and in the kinges treafures. ¹⁶ At that time Ezechias brake the doores of the temple of our Lord, and the plates of gold, which he had faftened on them, and gaue them to the king of the Affyrians. ¹⁷ But the king of the Affyrians fent Tharthan, and Rabfaris, and Rabfaces from Lachis to king Ezechias with a ftrong powre to Ierufalem: who when they were come vp they came to Ierufalem, and ftoode beside the conduite of the vpper poole, which is in the way of the fullers field. ¹⁸ And they called the king: and there went out to them Eliacim the fonne of Helcias gouernour of the houfe and Sobna the Scribe and

Or recorder.

Ioah the fonne of Afaph, the regifter. ¹⁹ And Rabfaces fayd to them: Speake to Ezechias: Thus fayth the great king, the king of Affyrians: What is this confidence, that thou doeft ftay vpon? ²⁰ Perhaps thou haft taken counfel, to prepare thy felfe to battle. Wherin haft thou confidence, that thou dareft to rebel? ²¹ Doft thou hope

in Ægypt a staffe of reede and broken, vpon which if a man leane, broken into splinters it wil enter into his hand, and pearce it? So is Pharao the king of Ægypt, to al that haue confidence in him. ²² But if you wil say to me: We haue confidence in our Lord God: is not this he, whose excelfes and altars Ezechias hath taken away: and he commanded Iuda and Ierufalem: Before this altar shal you adore in Ierufalem? ²³ Now therefore passe to my lord the king of the Affyrians, and I wil geue you two thousand horses, and see whether you be able to haue ryders for them. ²⁴ And how can you refiste before one prince of the leaft seruantes of my lord? Haft thou confidence in Ægypt for the chariotes and horsfemen? ²⁵ Why am I come vp without the wil of the Lord to deftroy it? The Lord sayd to me: Goe vp to this land, ^a)and deftroy it. ²⁶ And Eliacim the sonne of Helcias, and Sobna, and Ioahel sayd to Rabfaces: We pray thee that thou speake to vs thy seruantes in Syryake: for we vnderstand this tongue: and speake not to vs in the Iewes language, the people hearing it, which is vpon the wal. ²⁷ And Rabfaces answered them, saying: What did my lord fend me to thee, that I should speake these wordes, and not rather to the men that sit vpon the wal, that they may eat their owne dung, and drinke their vrine with you? ²⁸ Rabfaces therefore stood, and cryed out with a lowd voyce in the Iewes language, and sayd: Heare ye the wordes of the great king, the king of the Affyrians. ²⁹ Thus sayth the king: Let not Ezechias seduce you: for he shal not be able to deliuer you out of my hand. ³⁰ Neither let him geue you confidence vpon the Lord, saying: Our Lord deliuering wil deliuer vs, and this citie shal not be geuen into the hand of the king of the Affyrians. ³¹ Doe not heare Ezechias. For thus sayth the king of the Affyrians: Doe with me that which is profitable for you, and come forth to me: and euery man shal eate of his

^a He falsly addeth of his owne that *he should deftroy it*. For Ifaias prophecied the contrarie, that the Affyrians campe should be deftroyed, *Ifaie. 37.* and so it came to passe. *ch. 19. v. 35. 2. Paral. 32.*

vineyard, and of his figge tree: and you shal drinke waters of your owne cefternes, ³² til I come, and tranfporte you into a land, that is like to your land, into a fruiteful land, and plentiful of wyne, a land of bread and of vineyardes, a land of oliuetes, and of oyle and honie, and you shal liue, and shal not die. Heare not Ezechias, who deceiueth you, faying: Our Lord wil deliuer vs. ³³ ^a)Did the goddes of Nations deliuer their land from the hand of the king of Affyrians? ³⁴ Where is the god of Emath & Arphad? Where is the god of Sepharuaim, of Ana, and Aua? did they deliuer Samaria out of my hand? ³⁵ What are they among al the goddes of nations, which haue deliuered their countrey out of my hand, that the Lord can deliuer Ierufalem out of my hand? ³⁶ The people therefore held their peace, and did not anfwere him any thing: for they had receiued the kings commandement that they should not anfwere him. ³⁷ And Eliacim the fonne of Helcias, gouernour of the houle, and Sobna the scribe, and Ioah the fonne of Afaph register came to Ezechias, their garments rent, and told him the wordes of Rabfaces.

^a Paganes and Heretikes are foolifh & impudent to compare their falfe goddes and phancies with God almightie and Catholique Religion.