

Chapter 23

Iofias reading the law before the people, they al promise to ferue God. 4. Al thinges belonging to Idolatrie are cast forth of the temple, 8. and other places of Iuda. 15. He also destroyeth the altar in Bethel (not remouing the bones of a prophet) 19. and other altares in Samaria: killeth the falfe priestes. 21. And maketh a notorious great Pafch. 26. Yet God threatneth the captiuitie of Iuda for their finnes. 29. Iofias is flaine in battle by the king of Ægypt: and his fonne Ioachaz reigneth. VWho after three monethes is depofed by the king of Ægypt, and his brother Eliacim, henceforth called Ioakim, made king.

And they reported to the king that which she had fayd. Who fent: and al the ancientes of Iuda and Ierufalem were affembled to him. ² And the king went vp to the temple of our Lord, and al the men of Iuda, and al that dwelt in Ierufalem with him priestes and prophetes, and al the people from litle to great: and in hearing of al he read al the wordes of the Booke of the couenant, which was found in the houfe of our Lord. ³ And the king ftood vpon the fteppe: and made a couenant with our Lord, to walke after our Lord, & kepe his preceptes, and teftimonies and ceremonies, with al their hart, and with al their foule, and to performe the wordes of this couenant, which were written in that booke: & the people agreed to the couenant. ⁴ And the king willed Helcias the high priest, & the priestes of the fecond order, & al the porters, that they fould cast out of the temple of our Lord al the veffels, that had bene made to Baal, and in the groue, and to al the hoft of heauen: & he burnt them without Ierufalem in the Valley cedron, and caried the duft of them into Bethel. ⁵ And he destroyed the Southfayers, which the kinges of Iuda had appointed to facrifice in the excelfes in the cities of Iuda, and round about Ierufalem: and them that burnt incense to Baal, and to the Sunne, and to the Moone, and to the twelue fignes, and to al the

hoft of heauen. ⁶ And he caufed the groue to be caried forth out of the houfe of our Lord without Ierufalem in the Valley cedron, & he burnt it there, and brought it into duft, and threw it vpon the fepulchres of the common people. ⁷ He deftroyed alfo the litle houfes of the effeminates, which were in the houfe of our Lord, for the which the wemen woue as it were litle houfes of the groue. ⁸ And he gathered together al the prieftes of the cities of Iuda: and he contaminated the excellfes, where the prieftes did facrifice from Gabaa vnto Berfabee: and he deftroyed the altars of the gates in the entrance of the doore of Iofue chief of the citie, which was on the left hand of the gate of the citie. ⁹ Howbeit the prieftes ^a)of the excellfes went not vp to the altar of our Lord in Ierufalem: but only they did eate azimes in the middes of their brethren. ¹⁰ He contaminated alfo Topheth, which is in the Valley of the fonne of Ennom: that no man fhould confecrate his fonne or daughter by fyre to Moloch. ¹¹ He tooke away alfo the horfes, which the kinges of Iuda had geuen to the Sunne, in the entrance of the temple of our Lord, befide the chamber of Nathan-melech the eunuch, who was in Pharurim: and the chariotes of the Sunne he burnt with fire. ¹² The altars alfo that were vpon the roofes of the vpper chamber of Achaz, which the kinges of Iuda had made, and the altars which Manaffes had made in the two cortes of the temple of our Lord, the king deftroyed: and he ranne from thence, and fprinkled the afhes of them into the Torrent cedron. ¹³ The excellfes alfo that were in Ierufalem on the right fide of the Mount of offence, which Salomon the king of Ifrael had built to Aftaroth the idol of the Sidonians, and to Chamos the fcandal of Moab, and to Melchom the abomination of the children of Ammon, the king deftroyed. ¹⁴ And he brake in peces the ftatues, and cut downe the groues: and he filled their places with the bones of dead men. ¹⁵ Moreouer the altar alfo, that was in Bethel, and the excelfe, which Ieroboam the fonne of

3. Reg. 11.

^a Because they had offered facrifice to falfe goddes and in vnlawful places they were fufpended from offering anie more facrifice at al.

Nabat had made, who made Ifrael to finne: and that altar, and excelfe he deftroyed, and burnt, and brake into powder, and the groue alfo he burnt. ¹⁶ And Iofias turning, faw there fepulchres, that were in the mount: and he fent and tooke the bones out of the fepulchres, and burnt them vpon the altar, and polluted it according to the word of our Lord, which the man of God fpake, who had foretold thefe things. ¹⁷ And he fayd: What title is that, which I fee? And the citizens of that citie answered: It is the fepulchre of the man of God, which came from Iuda, and foretold thefe things which thou haft done vpon the altar of Bethel. ¹⁸ And he fayd: Let him alone, let no man moue his bones. And his bones remayned vntouched with the bones of the prophet, that came out of Samaria. ¹⁹ Moreouer al the temples of the excelfes, which were in the cities of Samaria, which the kinges of Ifrael had made to prouoke our Lord, Iofias tooke away: and he did to them according to al the workes, which he had done in Bethel. ²⁰ And he flew al the prieftes of the excelfes, that were there vpon the altars: and he burnt mens bones vpon them: & turned into Ierufalem. ²¹ And he commanded al the people, faying: Make a Phafe to our Lord your God, according as it is written in the booke of this couenant. ²² For ^a)there was not fuch a Phafe made from the daies of the Iudges, which iudged Ifrael, and of al the daies of the kinges of Ifrael, and of the kinges of Iuda, ²³ as in the eighteenth yeare of king Iofias this Phafe was made to our Lord in Ierufalem. ²⁴ Yea and the Pythones, and Southfayers, and the images of idols, and the filthes, and the abominations, that had bene in the land of Iuda and Ierufalem, Iofias tooke away: that he might eftablifh the wordes of the law, that were written in the Booke, which Helcias the prieft found in the temple of our Lord. ²⁵ There was no king before him like to him, that returned to our

^a Iofephus writeth that this godlie king gaue thirtie thoufand lambes and kiddes to the poore people for their Pafch & three thoufand oxen for Holocauftes. The prieftes alfo & Leuites added more of their owne. *li. 10. Antiq. c. 5.*

Lord in al his hart, & in al his foule, and in al his powre according to al the law of Moyfes: neither after him did there arife the like to him. ²⁶ But yet our Lord was not auerted from the wrath of his great furie, wherwith his furie was wrath agaynft Iuda: for the prouocations, wherwith ^a)Manaffes had prouoked him. ²⁷ Our Lord therefore fayd Iuda alfo wil I take away from my face, as I haue taken away Ifrael: and I wil reiect this citie, which I chofe Ierufalem, and the houfe, wherof I fayd: My name fhall be there. ²⁸ But the reft of the wordes of Iofias, and al that he did, are not thefe thinges written in the Booke of the wordes of the daies of the kinges of Iuda? ²⁹ In his dayes came vp Pharao Nechao the king of Ægypt, agaynft the king of Affyrians to the riuier Euphrates: and Iofias the king went to meete him: and was flaine in Mageddo, when he had feene him. ³⁰ And his feruantes caried him dead from Mageddo: & they brought him into Ierufalem, and buried him in his fepulchre. And the people of the land tooke Ioachaz the fonne of Iofias: and they anynted him, and made him king for his father. ³¹ Three and twentie yeares old was Ioachaz when he began to reigne, and he reigned three monethes in Ierufalem: the name of his mother was Amital, the daughter of Ieremie of Lobna. ³² And he did euil before our Lord, according to al thinges which his fathers had done. ³³ And Pharao Nechao bound him in Rebla, which is in the land Emath, that he fhould not reigne in Ierufalem: and he fette a penaltie vpon the land, an hundred talentes of filuer, and a talent of gold. ³⁴ And Pharao Nechao made Eliacim king the fonne of Iofias, for Iofias his father: and turned his name Ioakim. Moreouer he tooke Ioachaz and brought him into Ægypt, and he died there. ³⁵ And Ioakim gaue the filuer and the gold to Pharao, when he had taxed the land vpon euerie man, that it might be payd according to the precept of Pharao: and he exacted of euerie man according to his

^a Albeit Manaffes repented, and was reftored to God fauour, & to his kingdome. *2. Paral. 3.* Yet his finnes were temporally punifhed, both in himfelf, and his pofteritie.

abilitie, as wel filuer as gold of the people of the land: to geue vnto Pharao Nechao. ³⁶ Fiue and twentie yeares old was Ioakim, when he began to reigne: and he reigned eleuen yeares in Ierufalem: the name of his mother was Zebida the daughter of Phadaia of Ruma. ³⁷ And he did euil before our Lord according to al thinges, which his fathers had done.