

Chapter 12

Abram commanded by God to leaue his countrie, with promise to be bleffed in his Seede, 5. taking his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot, 6. wandreth in the land of Chanaan, 7. erecteth an Altar in Sichem, 8. an other in Bethel. 10. Thence by occasion of famine pafseth into Ægipt. 14. Where his wife (called his fifter) is taken into the kings houle, 19. but vntouched is reftored to him.

The begining of the third age.

Act. 7.

And our Lord faid to Abram: Goe forth of thy countrie, and out of thy kinred, and out of thy fathers houle, and come into a land, which I wil fhew thee. ² And I wil make thee into a great nation, and I wil bleffe thee, and magnifie thy name, and thou fhalt be bleffed. ³ I wil bleffe them that bleffe thee, and curffe them that curffe thee, and ^a)IN

The fifth part of this booke. Of Abrahams leauing his coutrie, Gods bleffing of his feede, & commandment of Circumcifion.

Heb. 11.

THEE fhall al the kindreds of the earth be bleffed. ⁴ Abram therefore went out as our Lord had commanded him, and with him went Lot: feauentie fue yeares old was Abram when he went forth out of Haran. ⁵ And he tooke Sarai his wife, and Lot his brothers fonne, and al the fubftance which they had poffeffed, and the foules which they had gotten in Haran: and went forth to goe into the land of Chanaan. And when they were come into it, ⁶ Abram paffed through the countrie vnto the place Sichem, as farre as the noble vale: and the Cananite was at that time in the countrie. ⁷ And our Lord appeared to Abram, and faid to him: To thy feed wil I giue this land. Who builded there ^b)an altar to our Lord, that had appeared to him. ⁸ And marching on from thence to a mountaine, that was on the eaft fide of Bethel, there he pitched his tent, hauing Bethel on the weft, and Hay on the eaft: he builded there alfo an altar to our Lord, and called vpon his name. ⁹ And Abram went forward going, and proceding on to the

^a In Chrift borne of Abrahames feede al nations are bleffed. *Gal. 3.*

^b Abram dedicated Altars to God efpecially in thofe places where he receiued promifes, or benefites. *S. Chriftoft. ho. 31. in Gen.*

fouth. ¹⁰ And there came a famine in the countrie: and Abram descended into Ægypt, to be as a pilgrime there: for the famine was very fore in the land. ¹¹ And when he was nere to enter into Ægypt, he said to Sarai his wife: I know that thou art a fayre woman: ¹² and that when the Ægyptians shal see thee, they wil say: She is his wife: and they wil kil me, and referue thee. ¹³ ¶ Say therfore, I pray thee, that thou art my fifter: that I may be wel vsed for thee, and that my foule may liue for thy sake.

¹⁴ When Abram therfore was entred into Ægypt, the Ægyptians sawe the woman that she was passing beautiful. ¹⁵ And the princes told Pharaο, and praised her to him: and the woman was taken into the house of Pharaο. ¹⁶ And they vsed Abram wel for her sake. And he had sheepe and oxen and he asses, and men seruants, and maid seruants, and shee asses, and Cammels. ¹⁷ But our Lord ^a)scourged Pharaο with very fore plagues, and his house for Sarai Abrams wife. ¹⁸ And Pharaο called Abram, and said to him: What is this that thou hast done to me? why didst thou not tel me that she was thy wife? ¹⁹ For what cause didst thou say, she was thy fifter, that I might take her to my wife? Now therfore there is thy wife, take her, and goe thy ways. ²⁰ And Pharaο gaue certaine men commandment in the behalfe of Abram: and they conducted him, and his wife, and al that he had.

ANNOTATIONS

Gen. 15.

¹³ Say therfore.) Abraham concealed that Sarai was his wife, and lyed not in saying, she was his fifter: as he also called Lot his brother, being his brothers sonne, and she his brothers daughter. VVherby he preuented danger of his owne life, vsing such lawfull meanes as lay in him, committing his wiues chaftitie to Gods protection, which him self could not prouide for. In which case if he had not donne his owne endeouour, he had rather tempted God (faith S. Auguftin) then trusted in God. And so God preferred her, though she was in Pharaο his house. *v. 17.*

Men are bound to do their lawful deuoures, and to commit the rest to God.

li. 16. c. 19. ciuit.
& q. 26. in Gen.

^a God by corporal affliction hindered Pharaο and his men from doing violence to Sarai. *S. Chrifost. ho. 32. in Gen.*