

Chapter 20

Abraham feiorning in Geraris, his wife is taken into King Abimelechs houfe, but by Gods commandement is reftored vntouched, 14. with great giftes, 17. and Abraham praying Abimelechs houfe is cured.

Abraham remoued from thence into the fourth countrie, and dwelt betwene Cades, and Sur: and he liued as a pilgrime in Gerara. ² And he faid of Sara his wife: She is ^amy fifter. Abimelech therfore the king of Gerara fent, and tooke her. ³ And God came to Abimelech in a dreame by night, and faid to him: Loe thou fhalt dye for the woman that thou haft taken: for fhe hath a hufband. ⁴ But Abimelech had not touched her, and he faid: Lord wilt thou kil a nation that is ignorant and iuft? ⁵ Did not he fay to me: She is my fifter: and fhe fay, He is my brother? in fimplicite of my hart, and cleanenes of my hands haue I done this. ⁶ And God faid to him: And I do know that thou dideft it with a fincere hart: and therefore I kept thee that thou fhouldeft not finne againft me, and I permitted not that thou fhouldeft touch her. ⁷ Now therfore reftore the wife to her hufband, becaufe he is a prophet: and he fhall pray for thee, and thou fhalt liue: but if thou wilt not reftore her, know thou that dying thou fhalt dye, thou and al things that are thine. ⁸ And Abimelech forthwith rifing vp in the night, called al his feruantes: and he fpake al thefe words to their eares, and al the men were fore afraid. ⁹ And Abimelech called alfo for Abraham, and faid to him: What haft thou done to vs? what haue we offended againft thee, that thou haft brought vpon me and vpon my kingdom a great finne? that which thou oughteft not to doe, thou haft done to vs. ¹⁰ And again expoftulating, he faid: What faueft thou, that thou dideft this? ¹¹ Abraham answered: I thought with my felfe, faying: Perhaps there

^a See the Annot. to c. 12 v. 13.

is not the feare of God in this place: and they wil kil me for my wife: ¹² howbeit otherwife alfo in verie deed she is my fifter, ^a)the daughter of my father, and not the daughter of my mother, and I tooke her to wife. ¹³ And after that God brought me out of my fathers houfe, I faid to her: This mercie thou fhalt doe with me: In euerie place, which we shal come vnto, thou fhalt fay that I am thy brother. ¹⁴ Therefore Abimelech ^b)tooke shepe & oxen, and feruants, and handmayds, and gaue to Abraham: and reftored to him Sara his wife, ¹⁵ and faid: The land is before you, dwel wherfoeuer it fhall pleafe thee. ¹⁶ And to Sara he faid: Behold I haue geuen thy brother a thoufand pecces of filuer, this fhall ferue thee for a veile of thine eyes to al that are with thee, and whither foeuer thou shalt goe, remember alfo thou waft taken. ¹⁷ And Abraham praying, God healed Abimelech and his wife, and his handmaids, and they bare children: for our Lord had clofed vp euerie matrice of the houfe of Abimelech for Sara Abrahams wife.

^a Not his fathers owne daughter, but of his progenie. *S. Aug. li. 22. cont. Fauft. c. 35. & li. 16. c. 19. & 30. de ciuit.*

^b Kings of the earth efteming the Church only for a laudable people of God, feeke to fubiect her to them felues: but knowing her to be the inuiolable fpoufe of Chrift, fubiect them felues to her, and offer to her moft honorable giftes. *S. Aug. li. 22. cont. Fauft. c. 38.*