

Chapter 35

Iacob purging his whole familie of idols, goeth by Gods commandment into Bethel. 7. There buildeth an Altar. 8. Debora dieth. 9. God appearing againe to Iacob bleffeth him, and changeth his name into Ifrael. 16. Rachel bearing Benjamin dieth, and is buried in Bethleem. 22. Ruben lyeth with Bala. 23. Ifraels twelue fonnes are recited. 28. Ifaac dieth at the age of 180. yeares, and his fonnes Efau and Iacob burie him.

In the meane time God fpake to Iacob: Arife, and goe vp to Bethel, and dwel there, and make an altar to God that appeared to thee when thou diddeft flie from Efau thy brother. ² And Iacob hauing called together al his houfe, faid: ¹Caft away the ftrange goddes that are among you, and be clenfed and change your garments. ³ Arife, and let vs goe vp into Bethel, that we may make there an altar vnto God: who heard me in the day of my tribulation, and accompanied me in my iourney. ⁴ They gaue to him therfore al the ftrange goddes that they had, and the earelets which were in their eares: but he buried them vnder the terebinth, that is behind the citie of Sichem. ⁵ And when they were departed, ^athe terror of God inuaded al the cities rounde about, and they durft not purfew them going away. ⁶ And Iacob came to Luza, which is in the land of Chanaan, furnamed Bethel: he and al the people that was with him. ⁷ And he builded there an altar, and called the name of that place, The houfe of God: for there God appeared to him when he fled from his brother. ⁸ The fame time died Debora the nurfe of Rebecca, and was buried at the foote of Bethel vnder an oke: and the name of that place was called, The oke of weeping. ⁹ And God appeared again to Iacob after he returned from Mefopotamia of Siria, and he bleffed

An excrable tree.

^a God (when it pleafeth him) maketh the weake ftronger then the mightie; and few more terrible then manie. *S. Chriſoſt. ho. 59. S. Aug. q. 112. in Gen.*

him, ¹⁰ faying: Thou ^a)halt not be called any more Iacob, but Ifrael fhall be thy name. And he ^d)called him Ifrael, ¹¹ and faid to him: I am God almightie, encrease thou and multiplie: Of thee fhall be nations and peoples of nations, kinges fhall come forth of thy loynes. ¹² And the land which I gaue to Abraham and Ifaac, I wil geue to thee, and to thy feede after thee. ¹³ And he departed from him. ¹⁴ But he erected a title of ftone, in the place where God had fpoken vnto him: offering vpon it liquide offeringes, and powring oile on it: ¹⁵ and calling the name of that place, Bethel. ¹⁶ And being gone forth from thence, he came in the fpring time to the land which leadeth to Ephrata: wherin when Rachel was in trauaile, ¹⁷ becaufe of difficultie in her trauaile, fhe beganne to be in danger, and the midwife faid vnto her: Feare not, for thou shalt haue alfo this a fonne. ¹⁸ And her foule departing for paine, and death now at hand, she called the name of her fonne Benoni, that is the fonne of my paine: but his father called him Benjamin, that is the fonne of the right hand. ¹⁹ Rachel therfore died, and was buried in the hie way that leadeth to Ephrata, this fame is Bethleem. ²⁰ And Iacob erected a title ouer her fepulchre: This is the title of Rachels monument, vntil this prefent day. ²¹ Departing thence, he pitched his tent beyond the Flocke tower. ²² And when he dwelt in that countrie: Ruben went, and ^b)flept with Bala his fathers concubine: which thing he was not ignorant of. And the fonnes of Iacob were twelue. ²³ The fonnes of Lia: Ruben the firft begotten, and Simeon, and Leui, and Iudas, and Iffachar, and Zabulon. ²⁴ The fonnes of Rachel: Iofeph and Benjamin. ²⁵ The fonnes of Bala Rachels handmaid: Dan and Nepthali. ²⁶ The fonnes of Zelpha Lias handmaid: Gad and Afer: thefe are the fonnes of Iacob, that were borne to him in Mefopotamia of Siria. ²⁷ He came alfo to Ifaac his father in Mambre,

Math. 2.

^a The name of fupplanter not fufficiently expreffing his valure he is alfo called Ifrael. See the Annotation.

^b For this fact Ruben was excluded from the chiefe dignitie among his bretheren. *Gen. 49.*

the citie of Arbee, this is Hebron: wherein Abraham and Ifaac foiourned. ²⁸ And the dayes of Ifaac were complete an hundred eyghtie yeares. ²⁹ And fpent with age he died, and was put to his people, being old and ful of dayes: and Efau and Iacob his fonnes buried him.

ANNOTATIONS

2 Cast avway the ftrange goddes.) Iacob preparing to performe his vow of building a houfe & altar to God, firft extirpateth al Idolatrie from amongft his people; and then by Sacrifice appeafeth Gods wrath prouoked how foeuer and fppecially by Simeon and Leui killing the Sichemites. Duly confidering that what people or perfon defireth Gods protection & bleffings, muft firft be pure in Religion, and clenfed from finnes: *Quia ei nulla nocebit aduersitas, si nulla ei dominetur iniquitas*: becaufe no aduerfitie fhall hurt him, if no iniquitie haue dominion ouer him. *orat. fer. 6. poft cineres.*

Clenfing from finne is the firft office of the feruants of God.

10 Called him Ifrael.) As the Patriarch now performeth his vow to God: fo God fulfilleth his promife, geuing him a new name. For *Iacob a fupplanter*, fignifying too fmal force & praife for fuch a champion, God therefore honored him with the name of *Ifrael*. That is, *One that feeth and contemplateth God*, as moft ancient writers expound it. Alfo *A prince, or valient vvith God*, as S. Hierom fheweth *Tradit. Heb.* For *Ifra* in Hebrew fignifieth *To dominier, or rule ouer*, and *El* fignifieth God. And fo this name geuen to him teftifieth that he, by Gods gift and grace, was valient euen againft an Angel repreffing God, much more againft men, and other aduerfaries. Others interpret it, *The right one of God*: as witneffeth the fame S. Hierom both here, and in his *commentaries in 44. Ifaie*. Al do importe a great excellencie in this Patriarch. And the fucceffe of things confirmeth the fame. Particularly in that not onlie fome one of his fonnes (as in the iffue of Abraham and Ifaac, the reft being excluded) but his whole progenie of twelue fonnes, making twelue Tribes, were participant of the peculiar bleffings, in their ofspring poffeffing the promifed land, and excedingly increafing became the moft principal nation in the world, the felected people of God, called by the name and title *Of the children of Ifrael*. Of whom not only Moyfes, but al the old Testament moft fppecially treateth, and of whom and in whom the promifed Meffias, the Redemer of mankind fhould be borne.

The name ISRAEL fignifieth fpécial prerogatiues in the Patriarch Iacob.

Al his twelue fonnes in their pofteritie were heires of the promifed land.