

Chapter 9

Other nations fearing Ifrael ioyne their forces to fight againft them, 3. but the Gabaonites fend embaffadors, feyning craftily to come farre of, 14. with whom Iofue and the ancientes of Ifrael make league binding it by oath. 16. Within three dayes they are detected to be nere inhabitantes. VVherupon the people murmur againft their princes. VVho yet for their oath, let the Gabaonites liue, 20. only making them and their progenie perpetual feruantes, to cutte wood, and carie water.

V Which thinges being heard, al the kinges beyond Iordan, that dwelt by the fea fide and the fhore of the great fea, they alfo that dwelt befide Libanus, the Hetheite and Amorreite, the Chananeite, the Pherezeite, and the Heueite, and the Iebufeite, ² were gathered, to fight againft Iofue and Ifrael with one minde, and one fentence. ³ But they that dwelt in Gabaon, hearing al thinges that Iofue had done to Iericho and Hai: ⁴ fubtelly deuifing tooke prouifion for them felues, laying old fackes vpon their affes, and bottels of wine rent and fowed againe, ⁵ and fhoes very old which for a fhew of oldeneffe were clouted with fpeckes, putting on them old garmentes: the loaues alfo, which they caried for prouifion by the way, were heard, and broken into peeces: ⁶ and they went on to Iofue, who then abode in the campe at Galgal, and faid to him, and withal to al Ifrael: We are come from a farre countrie, defirous to make peace with you. And the children of Ifrael answered them, and faid: ⁷ Left perhaps you dwel in the Land which is dew to vs by lotte, and we can not enter a league with you. ⁸ But they faid to Iofue: We are thy feruantes. To whom Iofue faid: Who are you? and whence came you? ⁹ They answered: From a very farre countrie are thy feruantes come in the name of the Lord thy God. For we haue heard the fame of his might, al thinges that he did in Ægypt, ¹⁰ and to the two kinges of the Amorrheites that were beyond Iordan, Schon the king of Hefebon, and Og the king of Bafan, that were in

Aftaroth: ¹¹ and our ancientes, and al the inhabitantes of our Land faid to vs: Take in your handes victuals for a very long way, and goe meete them, and fay: We are your feruantes, enter a league with vs. ¹² Behold, theſe loaves we tooke hotte, when we departed from our houſes to come to you, now they are become drie, and broken for ouer much oldeneffe. ¹³ The bottels of wine we filled being new, now they are burſt & diffolued. The garmentes and fhoes that we haue vpon vs, and which we haue on our feete, for the length of the long way are worne, and almoſt confumed. ¹⁴ They tooke therfore of their victuals, and ^a)asked not the mouth of our Lord. ¹⁵ And Iofue made peace with them, and entring a league promiſed that they ſhould not be flaine: the princes alſo of the multitude fware to them. ¹⁶ But three daies after that the league was made, they heard that they dwelt nigh, and they ſhould be among them. ¹⁷ And the children of Ifrael remoued the campe, and came into their cities the third day, whoſe names are theſe, Gabaon, and Chaphira, and Beroth, and Chariathiarim. ¹⁸ And they ſtroke them not, becauſe the princes of the multitude had ſworne in the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael. Therefore al the common people murmured againſt the princes. ¹⁹ Who answered them: We haue ſworne to them in the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael, and therefore we may not touch them. ²⁰ But this we wil doe to them: Let them be referued in dede aliue, left the wrath of God be ftirred againſt vs, if we ſhal be forfworne: ²¹ but ſo let them liue, that for the vſes of the whole multitude they hew wood, and carie in water. Who ſpeaking theſe thinges, ²² Iofue called the Gabaonites, and faid to them: Why would you deceiue vs by fraude to fay: We dwel very farre of from you, wheras you are

^a In ſuch a caſe they ought to haue conſulted God, to witte, the high Prieſt, putting on the Ephod & Rationale, ſhould haue prayed at the dore of the tabernacle, where our Lord appointed to ſpeake vnto him. *Exo. 19. v. 42.* It was alſo ordained *Num. 17. v. 21.* that Eleazar ſhould cōſult our Lord, when anie thing was to be donne by Iofue, which omittig to do they were deceiued by theſe Gabaonites.

in the middes of vs? ²³ Therefore you shal be vnder a curfe, and they shal not faile of your ftocke a hewer of wood, and a carier of water into the houfe of my God. ²⁴ Who answered: It was told vs thy feruantes, that the Lord thy God had promifed Moyfes his feruant, that he would deliuer you al the Land, and would deftroy al the inhabitantes therof. Therefore we feared excedingly and prouided for our liues, cōpelled by your terrour, and we tooke this counfel. ²⁵ And now we are in thy hand: that which feemeth vnto thee good and right, doe to vs. ²⁶ Iofue therfore did as he had faid, and deliuered them from the hand of the children of Ifrael, that they should not be flaine. ²⁷ And he decreed in that day, that ^a)they should be in the minifterie of al the people, and of the altar of our Lord, hewing wood, and carying water, vntil this present time, in the place which our Lord hath chofen.

^a In thefe Gabaonites of Chanaans race was fulfilled Noes prophecie *Gen. 9.* that *Chanaan should be a feruant to his brethren.*