

Chapter 22

The tribes of Ruben and Gad, and half Manasses returne to their poffessions. 10. VVho building an altar by the fide of Iordan, the other tribes suspect that they wil make a schisme, and therefore purpose to fight againft them. 13. But firft fending an ambaffage to admonish them, 21. they anfwer that they made not an altar, for facrifice, but only for a monument, that notwithftanding they dwel on the other fide of Iordan, yet they are of the fame people of God, 30. wherewith al Ifrael is fatisfied.

The fourth part.
Two tribes & a halfe returne to their poffessions; Iofues godly admonitions; & his, and Eleazars death.

The fame time Iofue called the Rubenites, and Gadites, and the halfe tribe of Manaffes, ² and faid to them: You haue done al thinges that Moyfes the feruant of our Lord cōmanded you: me alfo haue you obeyed in al thinges, ³ neither haue you left your brethren a long time, vntil this prefent day, keeping the commandement of our Lord your God. ⁴ Therefore becaufe our Lord your God hath geuen your brethren quietnes and peace, as he promifed: returne, and goe into your tabernacles, and to the land of your poffeffion, which Moyfes the feruant of our Lord deliuered to you beyond Iordan: ⁵ ^{a)} alwayes fo that you keep attentiuely, and in worke fulfil the commandement, and the law which Moyfes the feruant of our Lord commanded you, that you loue our Lord your God, and walke in al his wayes, and obferue al his commandementes, & cleaue to him, and ferue him in al your hart, and in al your foule. ⁶ And Iofue ^{b)} bleffed them, and difmiffed them. Who returned into their tabernacles. ⁷ And to the halfe tribe of Manaffes Moyfes had geuen poffeffion in Bafan: and therefore to the halfe that remayned, Iofue gaue a lotte among the reft of their brethren beyond Iordan at the Weft fide. And when he difmiffed them into their tabernacles, & had bleffed them, ⁸ he faid to them:

^a It perteineth to al magiftrates, and other fuperiors to admonifh their fubiectes of their dutie towards God, before al other thinges.

^b Al fuperiors may impert bleffing to their fubiectes.

In much subſtance and riches returne to your feates, with filuer and gold, braſſe and yron, and varietie of rayment: diuide the praye of your enemies with your brethren. ⁹ And the children of Ruben, and the children of Gad, and the halfe tribe of Manaffes returned, and went from the children of Ifrael in Silo, which is ſituated in Chanaan, to enter into Galaad the Land of their poſſeſſion, which they had obteyned according to the commandement of our Lord in the hand of Moyſes. ¹⁰ And when they were come to the litle banckes of Iordan, into the Land of Chanaan, they built beſide Iordan an altar of an infinite greatnes. ¹¹ ^{a)}Which thing when the children of Ifrael had heard, and certaine meſſengers had reported to them that the children of Ruben, and Gad, and the halfe tribe of Manaffes had builded an altar in the Land of Chanaan, vpon the litle banckes of Iordan, againſt the children of Ifrael: ¹² they affembled al in Silo, that they might goe vp, and fight againſt them. ¹³ And in the meane time they ſent to them into the Land of Galaad, Phinees the ſonne of Eleazar the prieſt, ¹⁴ and ten princes with him, one of euerie tribe. ¹⁵ Who came to the children of Ruben, and Gad, and the halfe tribe of Manaffes into the Land of Galaad, and ſaid to them: ¹⁶ This meſſage doth al the people of our Lord ſend to you: What is this tranſgreſſion? Why haue you forſaken our Lord the God of Ifrael, building a ſacrilegious altar, and reuolting from the worſhippe of him? ¹⁷ Is it a ſmale thing to you that ^{b)}you finned in Beelphegor, and vntil this preſent day the ſpote of this abomination abideth in vs? and many of the people fel dead. ¹⁸ And you to day haue forſaken our Lord, and to morrow his wrath wil rage ^{c)}againſt al Ifrael.

^a So it behoueth al the ſeruantcs of God to ſee in time, that no ſchiſme be made. And therefore orderly to inquire of euerie flow of euil. *1. Theſ. 5.*

^b Sinnes paſt are imputed to ſuch as fal againe as agrauating their new finnes by reaſon of more ingratitude.

^c As before *chap. 7.* ſo if theſe had bene culpable al Ifrael might feare to be puniſhed, except iuſtice were donne vpon the offenders.

chap. 7.

¹⁹ But if you thinke the land of your poffeffion to be vn-cleane, paffe to the Land, wherein is the tabernacle of our Lord, and dwel among vs: only that you depart not from our Lord, and from our companie, an altar being built befide the altar of our Lord God. ²⁰ Did not Achan the fonne of Zare tranfgrefs the commandement of our Lord, and his wrath lay vpon al the people of Ifrael? And he was one man, and I would he alone had perished in his wicked fact. ²¹ And the children of Ruben, and Gad, and of the halfe tribe of Manaffes answered the princes of the legacie of Ifrael: ²² The moft mightie God our Lord, The moft mightie God our Lord, him felfe knoweth, and Ifrael together shal vnderftand: If with the mind of preuarication we haue erected this altar, let him not keepe vs, but punifh vs prefently: ²³ and if we did it with that minde, that we might lay vpon it holocaustes, and facrifice, and pacifique victimes, let him felfe examine it and iudge: ²⁴ and not rather with that meaning and deliberation, that we faid: To morrow your children wil fay to our children: What haue you to doe with our Lord the God of Ifrael? ²⁵ Our Lord hath put a border betwen vs and you, O ye children of Ruben, and children of Gad, the riuer Iordan: and therefore you haue no part in our Lord. And by this occafion your children fhall auert our children from the feare of our Lord. We therefore thought it better, ²⁶ and faid: Let vs build vs an altar, ^a)not for holocaustes, nor to offer victimes, ²⁷ but for a teftimonie betwen vs and you, and our iffue and your progenie, that we may ferue our Lord, and it may be our right to offer both holocaustes, and victimes, and pacifique hoftes: and that your children to morrow fay not to our children: You haue no part in our Lord. ²⁸ And if they wil fay fo, they fhall answer them: Behold the altar of our Lord, which our

^a In the law of Moyfes was one onlie altar for facrifice, for the whole people of God, to auoide fchifme and idolatrie. Now in the Church (being in al nations) are manie altares, & but one onlie Sacrifice prefigured by al the former, as S. Auguftin teacheth *li. 17. c. 20. de ciuit. S. Leo Ser. 8. de Pafsione.*

fathers made, not for holocaustes, nor for Sacrifice, but for our testimony and yours. ²⁹ God save us from this abomination that we should revolt from our Lord, and leave his steps, erecting an altar to offer holocaustes, and sacrifices, and victims, beside the altar of our Lord God, which is erected before his tabernacle. ³⁰ Which things being heard, Phinees the priest, and the princes of the legation, which were with him, were pacified: and they admitted most willingly the words of the children of Ruben, & Gad, and of the half tribe of Manasses. ³¹ And Phinees the priest the son of Eleazar said to them: Now we know that our Lord is with us, because you are not culpable of this prevarication, and have delivered the children of Israel from the hand of our Lord. ³² And he returned with the princes from the children of Ruben and Gad, out of the Land of Galaad, into the Land of Chanaan, to the children of Israel, and reported to them. ³³ And the saying pleased all that heard it. And the children of Israel prayed God, and they did no more say, that they would go up against them, and fight, and destroy the Land of their possession. ³⁴ And the children of Ruben, & the children of Gad called the altar, which they had built, Our testimony, that our Lord he is God.