

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 fufpect that they wil make a fchifme, and therefore purpofe to fight againft them. 13. But firft fending an ambaffage to admonifh them, 21. they anfwer that they made not an altar, for facrifice, but only for a monument, that notwithftãding they dwel on the other fide of Iordan, yet they are of the fame people of God, 30. wherwith al Ifrael is fatisfied.

The fourth part.
Two tribes & a halfe returne to their poffeffions; 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 cõmanded 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 Moyfes. 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 assembled 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 small thing to you that ^{b)}you sinned in Beelphegor, and vntil this present day the spotte 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. ¹⁹ But if you thinke the land of your possession to be vncleane, passe to the Land,

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

^b Sinnes past are imputed to such as fall 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.

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 beside the altar of our Lord God. ²⁰ Did not Achan the sonne of Zare transgress 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 most mightie God our Lord, The most mightie God our Lord, him selfe knoweth, and Ifrael together shal vnderstand: If with the mind of preuarication we haue erected this altar, let him not keepe vs, but punish vs presently: ²³ and if we did it with that minde, that we might lay vpon it holocaustes, and sacrifice, and pacifique victimes, let him selfe examine it and iudge: ²⁴ and not rather with that meaning and deliberation, that we said: To morrow your children wil say 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 occasion your children shal auert our children from the feare of our Lord. We therefore thought it better, ²⁶ and said: 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 issue and your progenie, that we may serue our Lord, and it may be our right to offer both holocaustes, and victimes, and pacifique hostes: and that your children to morrow say not to our children: You haue no part in our Lord. ²⁸ And if they wil say so, they shal answer them: Behold the altar of our Lord, which our fathers made, not for holocaustes, nor for Sacrifice, but for our teftimonie and yours. ²⁹ God faue vs from

^a In the law of Moyfes was one onlie altar for sacrifice, for the whole people of God, to auoide schisme 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 Passione.*

this abomination that we should reuolt from our Lord, and leaue his fteppes, erecting an altar to offer holocaustes, and facrifices, and victimes, beside the altar of our Lord God, which is erected before his tabernacle. ³⁰ Which thinges being heard, Phinees the priefte, and the princes of the legacie, which were with him, were pacified: and they admitted moft willingly the wordes of the children of Ruben, & Gad, and of the halfe tribe of Manaffes. ³¹ And Phinees the priefte the fonne of Eleazar faid to them: Now we know that our Lord is with vs, becaufe you are not culpable of this preuarication, and haue deliuered the children of Ifrael from the hand of our Lord. ³² And her 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 Ifrael, and reported to them. ³³ And the faying pleased al that heard it. And the children of Ifrael prayfed God, and they did no more fay, that they would goe vp againft them, and fight, and deftroy the Land of their poffeffion. ³⁴ And the children of Ruben, & the children of Gad called the altar, which they had built, Our teftimonie, that our Lord he is God.