

Chapter 23

Iofue being old admonisheth the people to keepe Gods commandementes, 12. and to auoide mariages, and al focietie with gentiles, left falling to idolatrie God as certainly punish them, as he hath benne beneficial, and bountiful to them.

And when much time was paffed, after that our Lord had geuen peace to Ifrael, al the nations being fubdewed round about, and Iofue now verie ancient, and of a great age: ² Iofue called al Ifrael, and the elders, and the princes and the iudges, and the maifters, and laid to them: I am old, and farre gone in age: ³ and you fee al thinges, that our Lord your God hath done to al the nations round about, ^a)how him felfe hath fought for you: ⁴ and now becaufe he hath by lotte diuided to you al the Land, from the Eaft part of Iordan vnto the great fea, and manie nations yet remaine: ⁵ Our Lord your God wil deftroy them, and take them away from your face, and you shal poffeffe the Land, as he hath promifed you. ⁶ Onlie take courage, and be careful, that you keepe al thinges which be written in the volume of the law of Moyfes: and decline not from them neither to the right hand nor to the left: ⁷ left after that you are entred in to the Gentiles, which fhall be among you, you fweare in the name of their goddes, and ferue them, and adore them: ⁸ but cleaue to our Lord your God: which you haue done vntil this day. ⁹ And then our Lord God wil take away in your fight the great nations and very ftrong, and no man shal be able to refift you.

^a God fought for the Ifraelites three māner of wayes: fometimes alone, they not fighting at al, as when the Ægyptians were drowned in the read fea: fometimes they doing his cōmandmentes he apparently affited them, as in the fiege of Iericho, the walles miraculoufly fel downe (*c. 6.*) & haile ftones killed their enimies (*chap. 10.*) but moft times inuifibly, as wel by geuing them courege, as by ftriking their enimies with terrour. And al thefe wayes God alfo fighteth for his feruantes in fpiritual warres againft the diuel, the flefh, & the world.

¹⁰ One of you shall pursue a thousand men of the enemies: because our Lord your God himself will fight for you, as he hath promised. ¹¹ This only beware very diligently before hand, that you love our Lord your God. ¹² But if you will cleave to the error of these nations, that dwell among you, and make marriages with them, and inye amitie: ¹³ euen now know ye that our Lord your God will not destroy them before your face, but they shall be a pitte and a snare for you, and a stumbling blocke at your side, and shall take in your eyes, till he take you away and destroy you from this excellent Land, which he hath deliuered to you. ¹⁴ Behold I this day enter into the way of all flesh, and you shall know with all your minde that all the wordes, which our Lord promised that he would performe to you, one is not escaped without effect. ¹⁵ Therefore as he hath fulfilled in deede that which he promised, and all thinges prosperous haue come: so will he bring vpon you what euils soeuer he hath threatened, till he take you away and destroy you from this excellent Land, which he hath deliuered to you, ¹⁶ because you haue transgressed the couenant of our Lord your God, which he hath made with you, and haue serued strange goddesses, and adored them: quickly and in haste shall the furie of our Lord rise against you, and you shall be taken away from this excellent Land, which he hath deliuered to you.