

Chapter 24

In confideration of diuers principal benefites here recited, 14. Iofue exorteth the people to ferue God fincerly, feing it is in their choife to do wel or euil. 16. They promife al true feruice and obedience to God. 25. VVherupon he reneweth the pact betwen God and them, writing it in the volume of the law, and erecting a great ftone in teftimonie. 29. He dieth and is buried in mount Ephraim. 32. Iofephs bones are buried in Sichem. 33. Eleazar the high prieft alfo dieth and is buried in Ephraim.

And Iofue gathered together al the tribes of Ifrael into Sichem, and called the ancientes, and princes, and iudges, and maifters: and they ftoode in the fight of our Lord: ² and to the people he fpake in this maner: Thus faith our Lord the God of Ifrael: Beyond the riuer did your fathers dwel from the beginning, Thare the father of Abraham, and ^aof Nachor: and [†]they ferued ftrange goddes. ³ I tooke therfore your father Abraham from the coaftes of Mefopotamia: and brought him into the Land of Chanaan: and multiplied his feede, ⁴ and gaue him Ifaac: and againe to him I gaue Iacob and Efau. Of whom, to Efau I gaue mount Seir to poffeffe: but Iacob, and his children went downe into Ægypt. ⁵ And I fent Moyfes and Aaron, and ftroke Ægypt with many fignes and wonders. ⁶ And I brought you and your fathers out of Ægypt, and you came to the fea: and the Ægyptians purfewed your fathers with chariotes and horfemen, as farre as the Read fea. ⁷ And the children of Ifrael cried to the Lord: who did put darkenes betwen you and the Ægyptians, and brought the fea vpon them, & ouerwhelmed them. Your eies faw al thinges that I did in Ægypt, and you dwelt in the wildernes a great time: ⁸ and I brought you into the Land of the Amorrhite, which dwelt beyond Iordan. And when they fought againft you, I deliuered

^a The Ifraelites defcended alfo of Nachor, by Rebecca, his fonnes daughter, the wife of Ifaac. *Gen. 24.*

them into your handes, and you possessed their Land, and flew them. ⁹ And there rose Balac the sonne of Sephor king of Moab, and fought against Israel. And he sent and called Balaam the sonne of Beor, that he might curse you: ¹⁰ and I would not heare him, but contrariwise by him I blessed you, and deliuered you out of his hand. ¹¹ And you passed Iordan, and came to Iericho. And the men of that citie fought against you, the Amorrhite, and Pherezeite and Chananeite, and the Hethite, and Gergefeite, and the Heueite, and Iebufoite: and I deliuered them into your handes. ¹² And I sent before you hornettes: and I cast them forth out of their places, the two Kinges of the Amorrhites, not in thy sword and bow. ¹³ And I gaue you the Land, wherein you laboured not, and the cities which you built not, to dwell in them: vineyardes and oliue trees, which you planted not. ¹⁴ Now therefore feare our Lord and serue him with a perfect and verie true hart: and ^a)take away the goddess, which your fathers serued in Mesopotamia and in Ægypt, and serue our Lord. ¹⁵ But if it like you not to serue our Lord, choise is geuen you: choose this day that which pleaseth you, whom you ought especially to serue, whether the goddess, which your fathers serued in Mesopotamia, or the goddess of the Amorrhites, in whose Land you dwell: but I and my house wil serue our Lord. ¹⁶ And the people answered, and said: God forbid we should leaue our Lord, and serue strange goddesses. ¹⁷ Our Lord God he brought vs, and our fathers out of the Land of Ægypt, out of the house of seruitude: and did in our fight great signes, and kept vs in all the way, by the which we walked, and among all the peoples, through which we passed. ¹⁸ And he hath cast out all the nations, the Amorrhite inhabiter of the Land, which we haue entered. We therefore wil serue our Lord, because he is our God. ¹⁹ And Iosue said to the people: You can not serue

^a Iosue being a prophet saw some of their hartes inclined to idoles, though exteriorly they then had none among them. *S. Aug. q. 29. in Iosue.*

our Lord: for God is holie, and a mightie æmulator, neither wil he pardon your wickednes and finnes. ²⁰ If you leaue our Lord, and ferue ftrange goddes, he wil turne him felf, and wil afflict you, and ouerthrow you after he hath geuen you good thinges. ²¹ And the people faid to Iofue: No, it shal not be fo as thou fpeakeft, but we wil ferue our Lord. ²² And Iofue faid to the people: You are witneffes, that your felues haue chofen to you our Lord for to ferue him. And they answered: Witneffes. ²³ Now therefore, quoth he, take away ftrange goddes out of the middes of you, and incline your hartes to our Lord the God of Ifrael. ²⁴ And the people faid to Iofue: We wil ferue our Lord God, and wil be obedient to his preceptes. ²⁵ Iofue therefore in that day ^a)made a couenant, and propofed to the people preceptes and iudgementes in Sichem. ²⁶ He wrote alfo al thefe wordes in the volume of the law of our Lord: and he tooke a very great ftone, and put it vnder the oke, that was in the Sanctuarie of our Lord: ²⁷ and faid to al the people: Behold this ftone shal be a teftimonie for you, that ^b)it hath heard al the wordes of our Lord, which he hath fpoken to you: left perhaps hereafter you wil denie, and lye to our Lord your God. ²⁸ And he difmift the people, euerie one into their poffeffion. ²⁹ ^c)And after thefe thinges Iofue the fonne of Nun the feruant of our Lord died, being a hundred and ten yeares old: ³⁰ and ^d)they buried him in the coaftes of his poffeffion in Thamnathfare, which is fituated in the mountaine of Ephraim, on the North part of mount Gaas. ³¹ And Ifrael ferued our Lord al the daies of Iofue, and of the ancientes, that liued a long time after Iofue, and that had knowen al the workes of our Lord

^a This renouation of the fame couenāt prefigured the law of the new Teftament. *S. Aug. q. 30. in Iofue.*

^b To the more confufion of reasonable creatures wilfully offending, vnfenfible things are made witneffes, becaufe they euer obey Gods wil, which is the beft maner of hearing. *Theod. q. 19. in Iofue.*

^c If Iofue writ the reft of this booke, then Samuel added thefe laft verfes. *Hift. Schol.*

Gen. 50. which he had done in Ifrael. ³² The ^a)bones also of Ioseph
 Exo. 13. which the children of Ifrael had taken out of Ægypt, they
 buried in Sichem, in part of the field, which Iacob had
 bought of the fonnes of Hemor the father of Sichem, for
 a hundred yong ewes, and it was in the poffeffion of the
 fonnes of Ioseph. ³³ Eleazar also the fonne of Aaron died:
 and they buried him in Gabaath of Phinees his fonne,
 which was geuen him in mount Ephraim.

ANNOTATIONS

2 They ferued falfe goddes.) It is euident by this place,
 that Thare, and some other progenitors of Ifrael fometimes ferued
 falfe goddes, from which they were reduced: but Abraham was
 euer preferued in true religion; and the whole familie of Thare
 was therefore perfecuted in Chaldea, as S. Auguftin fheweth *li. 16.*
c. 13. de ciuit. Likewife Theodoret, *q. 18. in Iofue*, and other
 both ancient and late writers teach the fame, as is already noted
pag. 203

Thare fometime
 ferued falfe god-
 des, but Abraham
 neuer.

30 They buried.) In that no mention is made of mourn-
 ing for Iofue, S. Hierom noteth a myfterie, and a fpecial point of
 Chriftian doctrin: It femeth to me (faieth he *Epift. de 42. Maufo-*
manf. 33. that in Marie prophecie is dead, in Moyfes and Aaron,
 an end is put to the law and priefthood of the Iewes. For fo
 much as they could neither paffe into the land of promife, nor
 bring the beleuing people out of the wildernes of this world. And
 (*Mauf. 34.*) Aaron (fayeth he) was mourned, (and fo was Moyfes)
 Iefus is not mourned. That is, in the law was defcent into hel
 (*called limbus*) in the Gofpel is paffage to paradife.

Before Chrift
 none entered into
 heauen.

^a Iofeph's *Maufoleum* (or famous fepulchre) remained in Sichem in
 S. Hieroms time, as he witneffeth. *Tradit, Hebra. in Gen. prope*
finem.