

Chapter 8

The Ephraimites quareling becaufe they were not called to the warres, are pacified by Gedeon. 4. The men of Soccoth and Phaniel denying victuals for the campe, Gedeon (in the meane time 10. ouerthrowing the enemye) 15. reuengeth their reprochful contempt, 18. killeth Sebee and Salmana, 22. refufeth dominion, 24. but receiueth as a gift, the iewels taken in the praye: 27. maketh therof an Ephod, which turneth to the ruine of his familie. 30. Hauing feuentie fonnes by his wiues, and one by a concubine, dieth in good old age. 33. And the people fal againe to idolatrie.

And the men of Ephraim faid to him: What is this that thou didst meane to doe, that thou wouldest not cal vs when thou didst goe to fight against Madian? chyding bitterly and almost offering violence. ² To whom he answered: ^a)What could I haue done like to that, which you haue done. Is not the clufter of Ephraim better then the vintages of Abiezer? ³ Into your handes hath our Lord deliuered the princes of Madian, Oreb and Zeb, what could I haue done the like as you haue done? Which when he had spoken, their spirit rested, wherewith they did swel against him. ⁴ And when Gedeon was come to Iordan, he passed ouer it with the three hundred men, that were with him: and for wearines, they could not pursue them that fled. ⁵ And he said to the men of Soccoth: Geue, I beseech you, bread to the people, that is with me, because they are verie faint: that we may pursue Zebbee, and Salmana the kinges of Madian. ⁶ The princes of Soccoth answered: Peradventure the palmes of the handes of Zebbee and Salmana are in thy hand, & therefore thou requirest that we geue bread to thy armie. ⁷ To whom he said: When our Lord therefore shall haue deliuered Zebbee and Salmana into my handes, I wil teare your flesh with the thornes, and briers

^a A soft answer breaketh anger: hard speech stirreth up furie. *Prou. 35.*

of the defert. ⁸ And going vp from thence, he came into Phaniel: and he fpake to the men of that place the like thinges. To whom they alfo answered, as the men of Soccoth had answered. ⁹ He faid therfore to them alfo: When I shal be returned conquerour in peace, I wil deftroy this towre. ¹⁰ But Zebee and Salmana refted with al their armie. For fiftene thoufand men were remayning of al the troupes of the Eaft peoples, an hundred and twentie thoufand fighting men and thofe that drew fword, being flayne. ¹¹ And Gedeon going vp by the way of them, that dwelt in tabernacles, on the Eaft fide of Nobe, and Iegbaa, ftroke the campe of the enemies, which were fecure, and fufpected no mifchance. ¹² And Zebee and Salmana fled, whom Gedeon purfewing apprehended, al their hofte being put out of aray. ¹³ And returning from the battel before funne ryfing, ¹⁴ he tooke a boy of the men of Soccoth: and he asked him the names of the princes and ancientes of Soccoth, and he defcribed feuentie feuen men. ¹⁵ And he came to Soccoth, and faid to them: Behold Zebee, and Salmana concerning whom you vpbraided me, faying: Peraduenture the handes of Zebee and Salmana are in thy handes, and therfore thou defireft that we geue bread to the men that be wearie, and are fainte. ¹⁶ He tooke therfore the ancientes of the citie, and thornes and briers of the defert, and tore them with the fame, and cut the men of Soccoth into pieces. ¹⁷ The tower alfo of Phaniel he ouerthrew, killing the inhabitantes of the citie. ¹⁸ And he faid to Zebee and Salmana: What manner of men were they, whom you flew in Thabor? Who answered: Like vnto thee, and one of them as it were the fonne of a king. ¹⁹ To whom he answered: They were my brethren, the fonnes of my mother. Our Lord liueth, that if you had faued them, ^aI would not kil you. ²⁰ And he faid to Iether his eldefte fonne: Arife, and kil them. Who drew not out his fword: for he was afraid, becaufe he

^a Zebee and Salmana were not of anie of the feuen nations, whom God commanded to deftroy and therfore Gedeon might haue fpared their liues, if he would.

was yet a boy. ²¹ And Zebbee and Salmana said: Doe thou rise, and runne vpon vs: because according to his age is the strength of a man. Gedeon rose vp, and flew Zebbee and Salmana: and he tooke the ornamentes and boffes, wherwith the neckes of kinges camels are wont to be adorned. ²² And al the men of Ifrael said to Gedeon: ^a)Rule thou ouer vs, and thy sonne, and thy sonnes sonne: because thou hast deliuered vs from the hand of Madian. ²³ To whom he said: I wil not rule ouer you, neither shal my sonne rule ouer you, but our Lord shal rule ouer you. ²⁴ And he said to them: One petition I request of you: Geue me the earlettes of your praye. For the Ifmalites were accustomed to haue golden earlettes. ²⁵ Who answered: We wil geue them most willingly. And spredding a mantel on the ground, they cast on it the earlettes of the praye: ²⁶ and the weight of the earlettes that he desired, was a thousand five hundred sicles of gold, besides the ornamentes, and iewels, and purple vesture, which the kinges of Madian were wont to vse, and besides the golden chaines of the camels. ²⁷ And Gedeon made therof an Ephod, and put it in his citie Ephra. And al Ifrael did fornicate in it, and it became a ruine to Gedeon and to al his house. ²⁸ But Madian was humbled before the children of Ifrael, neither could they any more lift vp their neckes: but the land rested for fourtie yeares, wherin Gedeon ruled. ²⁹ Ierobaal therefore the sonne of Ioas went, and dwelt in his owne house: ³⁰ and he had feuentie sonnes, which came out of his thigh, because he had manie wiues. ³¹ And his ^b)concubine, which he had in Sichem, bare him a sonne named Abimelec. ³² And Gedeon the sonne of Ioas died in a good old age, & was buried in the sepulchre of his father in Ephra of the familie of Ezri. ³³ But after that Gedeon was dead, the children of Ifrael were auerted, and did fornicate with Baalim. And they made a couenant with Baal, that he

^a Kinges may do anie thing not contrarie to the law: but Iudges & Dukes may onlie do according to the law. See *1. Reg. 8.*

^b His handmaide or seruant not a harlotte: to wit, such a one as had not the priuiledge of a wife. As *Gen. 25. v. 6.*

should be their God: ³⁴ neither did they remember our Lord their God, which deliuered them out of the handes of al their enemies round about: ³⁵ neither did they mercie with the houfe of Ierobaal Gedeon, according to al the benefites that he had done to Ifrael.