

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 enemy) 15. reuengeth their reprochful contempt, 18. killeth Sebee and Salmana, 22. refufeth dominion, 24. but receiueeth 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 didft meane to doe, that thou wouldest not cal vs when thou didft goe to fight againft Madian? chydng bitterly and almoft 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 fpoken, their fpirit refted, wherwith they did fwel againft him. ⁴ And when Gedeon was come to Iordan, he paffed ouer it with the three hundred men, that were with him: and for wearines, they could not purfew them that fled. ⁵ And he faid to the men of Soccoth: Geue, I befeech you, bread to the people, that is with me, becaufe they are verie faint: that we may purfew Zebee, and Salmana the kinges of Madian. ⁶ The princes of Soccoth answered: Peraduenture the palmes of the handes of Zebee and Salmana are in thy hand, & therefore thou requireft that we geue bread to thy armie. ⁷ To whom he faid: When our Lord therefore shal haue deliuered Zebee and Salmana into my handes, I wil teare your flesh with the thornes, and briers

^a A foft anwer breaketh anger: hard fpeach ftirreth vp furie. *Prou. 35.*

of the defert. ⁸ And going vp from thence, he came into Phaniel: and he spake to the men of that place the like thinges. To whom they also answered, as the men of Soccoth had answered. ⁹ He said therefore to them also: 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 said to them: Behold Zebee, and Salmana concerning whom you vpbraided me, faying: Peraduenture the handes of Zebee and Salmana are in thy handes, and therefore thou defireft that we geue bread to the men that be wearie, and are fainte. ¹⁶ He tooke therefore 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 also of Phaniel he ouerthrew, killing the inhabitantes of the citie. ¹⁸ And he said 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 fonnnes of my mother. Our Lord liueth, that if you had faued them, ^aI would not kil you. ²⁰ And he said to Iether his eldft 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 therefore Gedeon might haue fpared their liues, if he would.

was yet a boy. ²¹ And Zebec 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 Zebec 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 spreading 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 fiew 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 Sicheim, 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 feruant not a harlotte: to wit, such a one as had not the priuledge 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.