

Chapter 12

Ephraites rising against Iephte, fourtie two thousand of them are flaine. 8. Abefan is Iudge. 11. After him Ahialon. 13. Then Abdon.

But behold in Ephraim there arose a fedition. For they passing against the North, said to Iephte: Going to fight against the children of Ammon, why wouldst thou not call vs, that we might goe with thee? Therefore we will burne thy house. ² To whom he answered: I and my people were at great strife against the children of Ammon: and I called you, that you should ayde me, and you would not doe it. ³ Which I feeling ^a)put my life in myne owne handes, and passed to the children of Ammon, and our Lord deliuered them into my handes. What haue I deserued, that you rise against me in battel. ⁴ Therefore all the men of Galaad being called to him, he fought against Ephraim: and the men of Galaad strooke Ephraim, because he had said: ^b)Galaad is a fugitiue of Ephraim, and dwelleth in the middes of Ephraim and Manasses. ⁵ And the Galaadites tooke the fordes of Iordan, by the which Ephraim was to returne. And when there had come to the same one of the number of Ephraim, fleeing, and had said: I beseech you let me passe: The Galaadites said to him: Art thou not an Ephraite? Who saying: I am not: ⁶ they asked him: Say then Schibboleth, which is interpreted an Eare of corne. Who answered, Sibboleth, not being able by the same letter to expresse, an eare of corne. And immediatly being apprehended they killed him in the very passage of Iordan. And there fell at that time of Ephraim two and fourtie thousand. ⁷ Therefore Iephte the Galaadite iudged Ifrael six yeares: and he died, and

^a That is, exposed my self to danger trusting to Gods helpe & myn owne handes, when others would not assist me.

^b Iephte being of Manasses tribe the Ephraites enuied his glorie and calumniouly objected that he and his followers were fugitiues so raised a tumulte to their owne losse.

was buried in his cite of Galaad. ⁸ After him Abefan of Bethlehem iudged Ifrael: ⁹ who had thirtie fonnes, and as manie daughters, which he fending abrode, gaue to hufbandes, and tooke wiues for his fonnes of the fame number, bringing them into his houfe. Who iudged Ifrael feuen yeares: ¹⁰ and died and was buried in Bethlehem. ¹¹ To whom fucceeded Ahialon a Zabulonite: and he iudged Ifrael ten yeares: ¹² and he died and was buried in Zabulon. ¹³ After him Abdon iudged Ifrael, the fonne of Illel a Pharathonite: ¹⁴ who had fourtie fonnes, and of them thirtie nephewes, mounting vpon feuentie affe coltes, and he iudged Ifrael eight yeares: ¹⁵ and he died, and was buried in Pharathon of the Land of Ephraim, in the mount of Amalec.