

Chapter 20

Al the other tribes fighting againft Benjamin, 13. becaufe they wil not punish the malefactors, 21. haue the worfe, 25. alfo the fecond time. 29. But the third time the Beniamites are al flaine fauing fix hundred men.

Therfore al the children of Ifrael went forth, and were gathered together, as it were one man, from Dan to Berfabee, and the Land of Galaad, to our Lord in Mafpha: ² and al the corners of the people, and al the tribes of Ifrael affembled into the church of the people of God foure hundred thoufand footemen warriors. (³ Neither were the children of Benjamin ignorant that the children of Ifrael were come vp into Mafpha.) And the Leuite the husband of the woman that was killed being asked, how fo great wickednes had beene cōmitted, ⁴ answered: I came into Gabaa of Benjamin with my wife, and there I tooke my lodging: ⁵ and behold the men of that citie by night befette the houfe wherein I taried, meaning to kil me, and vexing my wife with incredible furie of luft, finally she died. ⁶ Whom being taken I did cutte into peeces, and fent the partes into al the borders of your poffeffion: becaufe neuer was there fo heinous an offense, and fo great an abomination done in Ifrael. ⁷ You are al present the children of Ifrael, determine what you ought to doe. ⁸ And al the people ftanding, answered as it were by the word of one man: we wil not depart into our tabernacles, neither shal any man enter into his houfe: ⁹ but this wil we doe in common againft Gabaa. ¹⁰ Let ten men be chofen of an hundred out of al the tribes of Ifrael, and an hundred of a thoufand, and a thoufand of ten thoufand, to bring victuals for the armie, and that we may fight againft Gabaa of Benjamin, & render to it for the wicked fact, which it deserueth. ¹¹ And al Ifrael affembled to the citie, as it were one man with one minde, and one counfel: ¹² and they fent meffengers to al the tribe of Benjamin, which should fay: Why is there foe great abomination found

in you? ¹³ Deliuer the men of Gabaa, that haue committed this heinous fact, ^{a)}that they may die, and the euil may be taken away out of Ifrael. Who would not heare the commandment of their brethren the children of Ifrael: ¹⁴ but out of al cities, which were of their lotte, they affembled into Gabaa, to ayde them, and to fight againft al the people of Ifrael. ¹⁵ And there were found fiue and twentie thoufand of Benjamin of them that drew fword, befide the inhabitantes of Gabaa, ¹⁶ which were feuen hundred moft valiant men, fo fighting with the left hand as with the right: and fo directly cafting ftones with flinges, that they could ftrike a heare alfo, and the ftroke of the ftone fhould not be caried awry on either part. ¹⁷ Of the men of Ifrael alfo, befide the children of Benjamin, were found foure hundred thoufande of them that drew fwordes, & were prepared to fight. ¹⁸ Who rifing came into the houfe of God, that is, into Silo: and they confulted God, and faid: Who fhall be in our armie general of the battel againft the children of Benjamin? To whom our Lord answered: Let ^{b)}Iudas be your cap-tayne. ¹⁹ And forthwith the children of Ifrael arifing in the morning, camped befide Gabaa: ²⁰ and thence proceeding to fight againft Benjamin, beganne to affault the citie. ²¹ And the children of Benjamin iffuing out of Gabaa, flew of the children of Ifrael that day two and twentie thoufand men. ²² Agayne Ifrael hauing confidence ^{c)}in their ftrength and number, fette the armie in aray in the fame place, wherein they had fought before: ²³ yet fo that they did firft goe vp and weepe before our Lord vntil night: and confulted him, and faid: Shal I procede any more to fight againft the children of Benjamin my brethren, or not? To whom he answered:

^a Omiffion & contempt to punifh hainous crimes is a iuft caufe to make warre againft anie people.

^b One of the tribe of Iuda.

^c Being farre more in number & hauing the iuft caufe, yet had the worfe, becaufe they trusted in their owne ftreingth.

a)Goe vp to them, and enter battel. ²⁴ And when the children of Ifrael the next day had proceded againft the children of Beniamin to battel, ²⁵ the children of Beniamin brake forth out of the gates of Gabaa: and meeting them they raged with fo great a flaughter againft them, that they ouerthrew eightene thoufand men that drew fword. ²⁶ For the which thing al the children of Ifrael came into the houfe of God, and fitting wept before our Lord: and they fafted that day vntil euening, and offered to him holocaustes, and pacifique victimes, ²⁷ and asked him concerning their ftate. At that time the arke of the couenant of our Lord was there, ²⁸ and b)Phinees the fonne of Eleazarus the fonne of Aaron prouoft of the houfe. They therefore confulted our Lord, and faid: Shal we goe forth any more to fight againft the children of Beniamin our brethren, or reft? To whom our Lord faid: Goe vp, for to morrow I wil deliuer them into your handes. ²⁹ And the children of Ifrael fette ambuſhmentes round about the citie of Gabaa: ³⁰ and the third time, as once and twife, they brought forth their armie againft Beniamin. ³¹ But the children of Beniamin alfo iffued forth boldly out of the citie, and purfewed a long way the aduerfaries fleeing, fo that they wounded of them, as the firft day and the fecond, and flew them turning their backes by two wayes, wherof the one went into Bethel, and the other into Gabaa, and ouerthrew about thirtie men: ³² for they thought to kil them after their accuftomed maner. Who feyning artificially as though they fled tooke aduife to draw them away from the citie, & as it were fleing to bring them to the pathes aforeſayd. ³³ Therefore al the children of Ifrael ryfing out of their feates, fette their armie in battel aray, in the place which is called Baalthamar. The ambuſhmentes

^a God alfo puniſhed al Ifrael by this ciuil warre, for ſuffering idolatrie in the tribe of Dan. *cha. 18. v. 30.* which they ought to haue puniſhed. *Deut. 13. v. 12.*

^b By this it appeareth that this hiftorie happened not long after the death of Eleazarus. *Iof. 24. v. 33.* to whom his fonne Phinees ſucceded in the ſpiritual Supremacie of the Church.

also, which were about the citie, began by litle and litle to open them felues, ³⁴ and to proceede from the West part of the citie. Yea and other ten thousand men of al Ifrael prouoked the inhabitantes of the citie to skirmishes. And the battel grew fore against the children of Benjamin: and they vnderftoode not that on euerie fide deftruction hong ouer them. ³⁵ And our Lord ftroke them in the fight of the children of Ifrael, and they flew of them in that day fiue and twentie thoufand, and an hundred men, al warryers and that drew fword. ³⁶ But the children of Benjamin when they faw them felues to be inferiour, beganne to flee. Which the children of Ifrael feing, gaue them place to flee, that they might come to the ambuſhmentes prepared, which they had fette neere the citie. ³⁷ Who when they had fodenly riſen out of their dennes, and Benjamin turned their backes to the fleaers, they entred the citie, and ftroke it in the edge of the fword. ³⁸ And the children of Ifrael had geuen a ſigne to them, whom they had laid in the ambuſhmentes, that after they had taken the citie, they ſhould kindle a fire: that the ſmoke aſcending on high, they might ſhew that the citie was taken. ³⁹ Which when the children of Ifrael ſaw being in the verie fight (for the children of Benjamin thought that they fled, and purſewed more infantly, hauing flaine thirtie men of their armie,) ⁴⁰ and they ſaw as it were a pillar of ſmoke to riſe vp from the citie. Benjamin alſo looking backe, when he ſaw the citie taken, and the flames caried on high: ⁴¹ they that before had feyned as if they fled, turning their face refiſted more manfully. Which when the children of Benjamin had ſene, they were turned into flight, ⁴² and beganne to goe the way of the deſert, the aduerſaries purſewing them thither alſo. But they alſo that had fyled the citie, mette them. ⁴³ And ſo it came to paſſe, that on both ſides they were flaine of the enemies, neither was there any reſt of men dying. They fel, and were ouerthrowen on the eaſt ſide of the citie of Gabaa. ⁴⁴ And there were that were flaine in the ſame place, eightene thouſand men, al moſt valiant warryers. ⁴⁵ Which when they had ſeene, that were remayning of Benjamin, they fled into

the wildernes, and went on to the rocke, the name wherof is Remmon. In that flight also ftragling, and going diuers waies, they flew fiewe thousand men. And whereas they went farder, they purfewed them, and flew also other two thousand. ⁴⁶ And fo it came to paffe, that al which were flaine of Benjamin in diuerfe places, were fiewe and twentie thousand one hundred fighting men, moft prompt to warres. ⁴⁷ There remayned therefore of al the number of Benjamin that could efcape, and flee into the wildernes, fix hundred men: and they abode in the Rocke Remmon foure monethes. ⁴⁸ But the children of Ifrael retyring, ftroke al the remaines of the citie with the fword from men euen to beaftes, and al the cities and villages of Benjamin the deuouring flame did confume.