

Chapter 4

The children of Ifrael exceedingly fearing Holofernes forces, The second
3. prouide to refift him, by the exhortation of the High part.
Priest, vſing both humaine, 8. and diuine meanes. Gods people are
in great feare
and diftreffe.

Then the children of Ifrael, which dwelt in the Land of Iuda, hearing theſe thinges, were fore afrayd of his prefence. ² Trembling alfo, and horreur inuaded their ſenſes, left he would doe that to Ierufalem and to the temple of our Lord, which he had done to other cities, and their temples. ³ And they ſent into al Samaria round about, as far as Iericho, and preoccupied al the toppes of mountaynes: ⁴ and they compaffed their townes with walles, and gathered together corne for prouifion of battel. ⁵ Eliachim ^{a)}the prieft wrote to al, that were againſt Efdrelon, which is againſt the face of the great fielde beſide Dothain, and to al, by whom there might be paſſage of way, that they ſhould take the aſcentes of the mountaynes, by which there might be way to Ierufalem, and ſhould keepe watch, where the way was narrow between the mountaynes. ⁶ And the children of Ifrael did according as the Prieft of our Lord, Eliachim had appointed them. ⁷ And al the people cried to our Lord with great inſtance, and they humbled their foules in faſtings, and prayers, they & their wiues. ⁸ And the Prieſtes put on heareclothes, and they laide the infantes proſtrate againſt the face of the temple of our Lord, and the altar of our Lord they couered with hearecloth: ⁹ and they cried to our Lord the God of Ifrael with one accord, that their infantes might not be geuẽ into praye, & their wiues into ſpoile, and their cities into deſtruction, and their holie thinges into pollution, and they be made a reproch to the Gentiles. ¹⁰ Then Eliachim the high Prieft of our

^a The high prieft managed alfo the temporal affayres of the cōmonwelth, at this time, by conſent & commiſſion of king Manaffes, as is moſt probable theſe thinges happening ſhortly after his repentãce. *2. Paral. 33.*

Lord went about al Ifrael and fpake to them, ¹¹ faying: Know ye, that our Lord wil heare your prayers, if continewing you continew in faftinges and prayers in the fight of our Lord. ¹² Be mindful of Moyfes the feruant of our Lord, who ouerthrew Amalec truſting in his power, and in his might, and in his armie, & in his ſhieldes, & in his chariotes, & in his horfemen, not by fighting, but with holie prayers: ¹³ fo ſhal al the enemies of Ifrael be; if you perfeuere in this worke, which you haue begunne. ¹⁴ They therefore at this exhortation of his, befeching our Lord, continewed in the fight of our Lord, ¹⁵ fo that they alfo, which offered the holocauftes to our Lord, did offer the facrifices to our Lord girded with heareclothes, and there were aſhes vpon their head. ¹⁶ And they al prayed God with al their hart, that he would viſite his people Ifrael.