

Chapter 24

Balaam forced by the euidence of truth (though not conuerted in wil to ferue God, whom he confefseth to be omnipotent) prophecietieth ftill more good of Ifrael: 10. wherefore Balac interrupteth him, and he anfwereth plainly that God almightie wil haue it fo. 15. And fo proceeding he prophecietieth of CHRIST. 20. Alfo of Amalacheites, Cineites, and Italians.

And when Balaam had feene that it pleased our Lord that he should bleffe Ifrael, he went not as before he had gone, to seeke Southfaying: but directing his countenance againft the defert, ² and lifting vp his eies, he faw Ifrael abiding in their tentes by their tribes: and the fpirit of God coming ^a)vehemently vpon him, ³ taking vp his parable he faid: Balaam the fonne of Bephor hath faid: The man hath faid whose eye is ftopped: ⁴ The hearer of the wordes of God hath faid: he that hath beholden the vifion of the Omnipotent, he that falleth, and fo his eies are opened: ⁵ How beautiful are thy tabernacles ô Iacob, and thy tentes ô Ifrael! ⁶ As woodie valleis, as watered gardens befide the riuers, as tabernacles which the Lord hath pitched, as cedres by the waters fide. ⁷ Water shal flow out of his bucket, and his feede shal be into manie waters. For Agag shal his king be taken away, and his kingdom shal be taken away. ⁸ God hath brought him out of Ægypt, whose ftrêgth is like to the rhinocerote. They shal deuoure nations his enimies, and breake their bones, and pearce them with arrowes. ⁹ Lying he hath flept as a lion, and as a lionesse, whom none shal be bold to rayfe vp. He that bleffeth thee, him felf alfo shal be bleffed: he that curfeth thee, shal be reputed accurft. ¹⁰ And Balac being angrie againft Balaam, clapping his handes together faid: To curfe mine enemies I called thee, whom

^a The fpirite of prophecie came vpon him, but not grace iuftifying: *Manie do prophecie, and caft out diuels, and worke other miracles, and yet be dâned. Mat. 7. v. 22.*

thou contrariwise haſt bleſſed the third time: ¹¹ returne to thy place. I was determined verily to honour thee magnifically, but the Lord hath deprived thee of the honour appointed. ¹² Balaam made anſwer to Balac: did I not ſay to thy meſſengers, whom thou didſt ſend to me: ¹³ If Balac would geue me his houſe full of ſilver and gold, I can not paſſe the word of the Lord my God, to vtter of my owne minde either any good, or euil: but whatſoeuer the Lord ſhal ſay, that wil I ſpeake? ¹⁴ But yet going to my people, I wil geue thee counſel, what thy people ſhal doe to this people in the laſt time. ¹⁵ Therefore taking vp his parable, againe he ſaid: Balaam the ſonne of Beor hath ſaid: The man whoſe eye is ſtopped, hath ſaid: ¹⁶ the hearer of the wordes of God hath ſaid: who knoweth the doctrine of the Higheſt, and ſeeeth the viſions of the Omnipotent, who falling hath his eyes opened: ¹⁷ I ſhal ſee him, but not now: I ſhal behold him but not neere. ^a) A STARRE SHAL RISE out of Iacob, and a rodde ſhal ariſe from Iſrael: and ſhal ſtrike the dukes of Moab, and ſhal waite al the children of Seth. ¹⁸ And Idumea ſhal be his poſſeſſion: the inheritance of Seir ſhal come to their enemies: but Iſrael ſhal doe manfully. ¹⁹ Of Iacob ſhal he be that ſhal rule, and ſhal deſtroy the remaines of the citie. ²⁰ And when he had ſeene Amalec, taking vp his parable, he ſaid: Amalec the beginning of Gentiles, whoſe latter endes ſhal be deſtroyed. ²¹ He ſaw alſo the Cineite: and taking vp his parable, he ſaid: Thy habitation in deede is ſtrong: but if thou build thy neſt in a rocke, ²² and thou be choſen of the ſtocke of Cin, how long ſhalt thou be able to continew? For Affur ſhal take thee. ²³ And taking vp his parable againe he ſpake: Alas, who ſhal liue, when God ſhal doe theſe thinges? ²⁴ They ſhal come in galleies from Italie, they ſhal ouercome the Affyrians,

^a In ſome fort this prophecie was fulfilled in King Daud. *2. Reg. 5, 8. Eſ ſeq.* but perfectly in Chriſt the bright, and mornig ſtarre. *Apoc. 22.* To whom not anie one, or manie, but in general al nations are geue for inheritace, and the endes of the world, in poſſeſſion. *Pfal. 2. Act. 2. v. 8.*

and shal waift the Hebrewes, and at the laft them felues
alfo shal perish. ²⁵ And Balaam rofe, and returned into
a)his place: Balac alfo returned the way that he came.

^a Not to his countrie, but to his place of abode among the Madian-
ites: for there he was flaine fhortly after. *chap. 31. v. 8.*