

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. Also 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 stopped: 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 ftrēgth 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 lioneffe, whom none shal be bold to rayfe vp. He that bleffeth thee, him felf also shal be bleffed: he that curseth 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 thou

^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 dāned. Mat. 7. v. 22.*

contrariewife haft bleffed the third time: ¹¹ returne to thy place. I was determined verily to honour thee magnifically, but the Lord hath depriued thee of the honour appointed. ¹² Balaam made anfwer to Balac: did I not fay to thy meffengers, whom thou didft fend to me: ¹³ If Balac would geue me his houfe ful of filuer and gold, I can not paffe the word of the Lord my God, to vtter of my owne minde either any good, or euil: but whatfoeuer the Lord shal fay, that wil I fpeake? ¹⁴ But yet going to my people, I wil geue thee counfel, what thy people shal doe to this people in the laft time. ¹⁵ Therefore taking vp his parable, againe he faid: Balaam the fonne of Beor hath faid: The man whose eye is ftopped, hath faid: ¹⁶ the hearer of the wordes of God hath faid: who knoweth the doctrine of the Higheft, and feeth the vifions of the Omnipotent, who falling hath his eies opened: ¹⁷ I shal fee him, but not now: I shal behold him but not neere. ^{a)} A STARRE SHAL RISE out of Iacob, and a rodde shal arife from Ifrael: and shal ftrike the dukes of Moab, and shal waift al the children of Seth. ¹⁸ And Idumea shal be his poffeffion: the inheritance of Seir shal come to their enemies: but Ifrael shal doe manfully. ¹⁹ Of Iacob shal he be that shal rule, and shal deftroy the remaines of the citie. ²⁰ And when he had feene Amalec, taking vp his parable, he faid: Amalec the beginning of Gentiles, whose latter endes shal be deftroyed. ²¹ He faw alfo the Cineite: and taking vp his parable, he faid: Thy habitation in deede is ftrong: but if thou build thy neft in a rocke, ²² and thou be chofen of the ftocke of Cin, how long shalt thou be able to continew? For Affur shal take thee. ²³ And taking vp his parable againe he fpake: Alas, who shal liue, when God shal doe thefe thinges? ²⁴ They shal come in galleies from Italie, they shal ouercome the Affyrians,

^a In fome fort this prophecie was fulfilled in King Daud. *2. Reg. 5, 8. 8. feq.* but perfectly in Chrift the bright, and mornig ftarre. *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 poffeffion. *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.*