

Chapter 25

By carnal fornication manie are drawn to fpiritual. For which twentie foure thoufand are flaine. 10. Phinees his zele in ftabbing to death two fornicators, is commended by God, and rewarded.

And Ifrael at that time abode in Settim, and the people ^afornicated with the daughters of Moab, ² who called them to their facrifices. And they did eate and adore their goddes. ³ And Ifrael was professed to Beelphegor, and our Lord being angrie, ⁴ faid to Moyfes: Take al the princes of the people, and hang ^bthem vp againft the funne on gibbettes: that my furie may be auerted from Ifrael. ⁵ And Moyfes faid to the Iudges of Ifrael: Kil euerie man his neighbours, that are professed to Beelphegor. ⁶ And behold one of the children of Ifrael entred in before the face of his brethren to a whore a Madianite in the fight of Moyfes, and of al the multitude of the children of Ifrael, who wept before the doores of the tabernacle. ⁷ Which thing when Phinees had fene the fonne of Eleazar the fonne of Aaron the prieft, he arofe out of the middes of the multitude, and catching a dagger, ⁸ went in after the man of Ifrael into the brothel houfe, and thruft them through both together, to witte, the man and the woman in the genitalles. And the plague ceafed from the children of Ifrael, ⁹ and there were flaine fowre and twentie thoufand men. ¹⁰ And our Lord faid to Moyfes: ¹¹ Phinees the fonne

^a Balaam gaue this diuelifh counfel to allure men by bellichere and lecherie vnto idolatrie. *chap. 31. v. 16.* And euen fo Heretikes drawe manie in thefe daies to herefie. See *Apoc. 2. v. 14.*

^b By affitance of the princes hang the idolaters. *v. 5.*

of Eleazar the sonne of Aaron the priest^a) hath auerted my wrath from the children of Ifrael: because he was moued with my zeale againft them, that my self might not deftroy the children of Ifrael in mine owne zeale. ¹² Therefore ſpeake to him: Behold I geue him the peace of my couenant, ¹³ and there ſhal be as wel to him as to his feede the couenant of priefthood for euer, because he hath bene zealous for his God, and hath expiated the wicked fact of the children of Ifrael. ¹⁴ And the name of the man of Ifrael, that was flaine with the woman of Madian, was Zambri the ſonne of Salu, a prince of the kinred and tribe of Simeon. ¹⁵ Moreouer the Madianeffe, that was flaine with him, was called Cozbi the daughter of Sur a moſt noble prince of the Madianites. ¹⁶ And our Lord ſpake to Moyſes, ſaying: ¹⁷ Let the Madianites finde you their enemies, and ſtrike you them: ¹⁸ Because they alſo haue done like enemies againft you, and haue guilfully deceiued you by the Idol Phogor, and Cozbi the daughter of the duke of Madian their fifter, who was ſtrooken in the day of the plague for the ſacrilege of Phogor.

^a Either Phinees was one of the Iudges, and ſo an example for ſuch Magiftrates to do iuſtice; or he had a particular inſpiration, which is no warrant for priuate men, to do the like. For by Catholique doctrin, killing of men is neither allowed, nor excuſed but whē it is done by publique authoritie, or by mere caſualitie, againft the killers wil. *Catechiſ. Rom. p. 3. c. 6. q. 5. D. Tho. 2. 2. q. 60. a. 6.*