

Chapter 4

The Schifmatical Samaritanes, becaufe they are not admitted to communicate with the Iewes, endeuour to hinder the building of the Temple. 5. Which neuertheles procedeth, al the dayes of king Cyrus: 7. but is hindered by Artexerxes, til the fecond yeare of Darius.

But the enemies of Iuda and Beniamin heard that the children of the captiuitie built a temple to our Lord the God of Ifrael. ² And coming to Zorobabel, and the princes of the fathers, they sayd to them: Let vs build with you, becaufe ^aeuen as you, fo do we feeke your God: Behold we haue immolated victimes from the dayes of Afor Haddan the king of Aftur, which brought vs hither. ³ And Zorobabel sayd to them, and Iofue, and the reft of the princes of the fathers of Ifrael: It is not for you and vs to build a houle to our God, but we our felues alone wil build to the Lord our God, as Cyrus the king of the Perfians hath cōmanded vs. ⁴ It came to paffe therfore that the people of the land hindred the handes of the people of Iuda, and trubled them in building. ⁵ And they hyred counfelers agaynft them, to deftroy theyr counfel al the dayes of Cyrus the king of the Perfians, & vntil the reigne of Darius the king of the Perfians. ⁶ And in the reigne of Affuerus in the begining of his reigne, they wrote an accusation againft the inhabitantes of Iuda and Ierufalem. ⁷ And in the dayes of Artaxerxes Befelam, Mitridates, & Thabeel, & the reft that were in theyr counfel writ to Artaxerxes king of the Perfians: and the epiftle of the accusation was writen in Syriake, and was read in the Sirian language. ⁸ Reum Beelteem, and Samfai fcribe wrote one epiftle from Ierufalem to Artaxerxes the king, of this tenure: ⁹ Reum Beelteem, and Samfai fcribe, and the reft of their counfelers, the Dineites, and the Apharfathaceites, the Terphaleites,

^a Schifmatikes and Heretikes may not be admitted to communicate in facrifice with Catholiques.

the Apharfeites, the Erchueites, the Babylonians, the Sufanecheites, the Dieuites, and the Aclamites, ¹⁰ and the rest of the Gentiles, which Afenaphar the great and glorious transported: and made them dwell in the cities of Samaria, and in the rest of the countries beyond the Riuer in peace: (¹¹ this is the copie of the epistle, which they sent to him) To Artaxerxes the king, thy seruantes, the men that are beyond the Riuer, send greeting. ¹² Be it knownen to the king, that the Iewes, which came vp from thee to vs, are come into Ierusalem a rebellious and naughtie citie, which they build making the rampyres thereof, and repaying the walles. ¹³ Now therefore be it knownen to the king, that if that citie shal be built, and the walles therof repayed, they will not geue tribute, and tolle, & yearly rentes, and this damage wil come euen to the kinges. ¹⁴ But we mindful of the falt that we haue eaten in the palace, and because we count it heynous to see the kings harmes, therefore we haue sent and certified the king, ¹⁵ that thou recount in the bookes of the hiftories of thy fathers, and thou shalt finde writen in the commentaries: and shalt know that that citie is a rebellious citie, and hurtful to the kinges, and prouinces, and battels are rayfed in it of old time: for the which cause also the citie it selfe was destroyed. ¹⁶ We certifie the king, that if that citie shal be built, and the walles therof repayed, thou shalt haue no possession beyond the Riuer. ¹⁷ The king sent word to Reum Beelteem, and Samfai scribe, and to the rest that were in their counsel inhabitantes of Samaria, and to the rest beyond the Riuer, sending greeting and peace. ¹⁸ The accusation, which you haue sent to vs, was openly read before me, ¹⁹ and I gaue commandment: and they recounted, and haue found, that that citie of old time rebelleth agaynst the kinges, and seditions and battels are rayfed in it. ²⁰ For there haue beene also most valiant kinges in Ierusalem, which also had dominion ouer al the countrie, that is beyond the Riuer. They tooke also tribute, and tolle, and rentes. ²¹ Now therefore heare the sentence: Prohibite ye those men, that that citie be not built, til it perhaps shal

be commanded by me. ²² See that you doe not negligently accomplifh this thing, and by litle there grow euil agaynft the kinges. ²³ Therfore the copie of the edict of Artaxerxes the king was read before Reum Beelteem, and Samfai the fcribe, and their counfelters: and they went in haft into Ierufalem to the Iewes, & prohibited them with arme and ftrengh. ²⁴ Then was the worke of the houfe of our Lord in Ierufalem intermitted, and was not done vntil the fecond yeare of the reigne of Darius the king of the Perfians.