

Chapter 5

By the exhortation of Aggæus, and Zacharias, the people procede in building the Temple. 3. VVhich their enimies ftriuing to hinder, 5. for decifion of the caufe, both parties write to king Darius.

And there prophecied Aggeus the Prophete, & Zacharias the fonne of Addo, prophecyng to the Iewes, that were in Iewrie and Ierufalem, in the name of the God of Ifrael. ² Then rofe vp Zorobabel the fonne of Salathiel, and Iofue the fonne of Iofedec, and began to build the temple of God in Ierufalem, and with them the prophetes of God helping them. ³ But at the fame time there came to them Thathanai, who was prince beyond the Riuer, and Stharbuzanai, and their counfelers: and fayd thus to them: Who hath geuen you counfel to build this houfe, and to repayre the walles? ⁴ Wherto we answered them, what the names were of the men that were authors of that building. ⁵ And ^a)the eye of theyr God was fet vpon the ancientes of the Iewes, and they could not inhibite them. And it pleased them that the matter fhould be referred to Darius, and then they would fatisfie agaynft that accusation. ⁶ The copie of the epiftle, which Thathanai prince of the countrie beyond the Riuer fent, and Stharbuzanai, and his counfelers the Arphafacheites, which were beyond the Riuer, to Darius the king. ⁷ The word, which they fent him, was writen thus: To Darius the king al peace. ⁸ Be it knowen to the king, that we went to Iurie, the prouince, to the houfe of the great God, which is in building with ftone vnpolifhed, and timber is put in the walles: and that worke is in building diligently, and groweth in their handes. ⁹ We therfore demanded of thofe ancientes, and thus we fayd to them: Who hath geuen you authoritie to build this houfe, & to repaire thefe walles? ¹⁰ Yea

^a God geuing corege to his feruantes, ftricke their enemies with terrour, and fo made them ceafe from hindering his worke as they before intended.

and their names we asked of them, that we might certifye thee: and we writte the names of those men, that are the chiefe among them. ¹¹ And they answered vs these wordes, saying: We are the seruantes of the God of heauen & earth, and we do build a temple, that was built these manie yeares before, and which a great king of Ifrael built and fet vp. ¹² But after that our fathers prouoked the God of heauen to wrath, he deliuered them into the handes of Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon the Chaldee: this house also he destroyed, and his people he transported into Babylon. ¹³ But in the first yeare of Cyrus the king of Babylon, Cyrus the king put forth an edict, that this house of God should be built. ¹⁴ For the vessels also of the temple of God, of gold and of filuer, which Nabuchodonosor had taken out of the temple, that was in Ierusalem, and had caried them into the temple of Babylon, Cyrus the king brought forth out of the temple of Babylon, and they were geuen to Saffabafar so called, whom also he appointed the chiefe, ¹⁵ and sayd to him: Take these vessels, and goe, and put them in the temple, that is in Ierusalem, and let the house of God be built in his place. ¹⁶ Then therefore came this Saffabafar, and layd the foundations of the temple of God in Ierusalem, and from that time vntil now it is in building, and is not yet finished. ¹⁷ Now therefore if it seeme good to the king, let him search in the kings librarie, which is in Babylon, whether it hath bene commanded by Cyrus the king, that the house of God in Ierusalem should be built, and let him send the kings pleasure concerning this thing vnto vs.