

Chapter 5

Dagon falleth downe twife in prefence of the Arke, his head and handes broken of. 6. The Philiftijms being fore plagued in al their cities where the arke cometh, 11. determine to fend it backe to the Ifraelites.

And the Philiftijms tooke the arke of God, and caried it from the Stone of helpe into Azotus. ² And the Philiftijms tooke the arke of God, and brought it into the temple of Dagon, and fette it befide Dagon. ³ And when the Azotians had rifen early the next day, behold ^a)Dagon lay flatte on the ground before the arke of our Lord: and they tooke Dagon, and reftored him into his place. ⁴ And agayne early the next day rifing vp, they found Dagon lying vpon his face on the earth before the arke of our Lord: and the head of Dagon, and the two palmes of his handes were cutte of vpon the threshold: ⁵ moreouer the bodie only of Dagon was remayning in his place. For this caufe the prieftes of Dagon, and al that enter into his temple, tread not vpon the threshold of Dagon in Azotus vntil this day. ⁶ And the hand of our Lord was heauie vpon the Azotians, and he plagued them, and ftroke Azotus and the coaftes thereof in the fecrete part of the fundament. And the townes and fieldes bubbled forth in the middes of that country, and there came forth mife, and there was confufion of great death in the citie. ⁷ And the men of Azotus feing this maner of plague, faid: Let not the arke of the God of Ifrael tarie with vs: becaufe his hand is fore vpon vs, and ^b)vpon Dagon our God. ⁸ And fending they gathered together al the princes of the Philiftijms to them, and faid: What shal we doe with the arke of

^a So fowne as Chrifts Gofpel or Teftament came among the Gentiles, al falfe goddes & idolatry fel downe. *S. Beda. qq. in 1. Reg. c. 3.*

^b The arke being a holie thing, as Reliques are, was terrible to their falfe god, the diuel, fo the Reliques of S. Babilas ouerthrew the falfe god Apollo, as S. Chryfoft. teftifieth at large. *li. cont. Gentiles, to. 5.*

the God of Ifrael? And the Getheites answered: Let the arke of the God of Ifrael be caried about, and they caried about the arke of the God of Ifrael. ⁹ And they carying it about, the hand of our Lord was made through euery citie by an exceding great flaughter: and it ftrake the men of euery city, from litle vnto great, & they had emeroides in their fecrete partes. And the Getheites tooke counfeil, and made themfelues ftooles of skinnes. ¹⁰ They fent therefore the arke of God into Accaron. And when the arke of God was come into Accaron, the Accaronites cryed out, faying: They haue brought vnto vs the arke of the God of Ifrael, to kil vs & our people. ¹¹ They fent therefore & gathered together al the princes of the Philiftijms: who faid: Dimiffe the arke of the God of Ifrael, & let it returne into his place, & not kil vs with our people. ¹² For there was made the feare of death in euery citie, & the hand of God exceding greuous. The men alfo that had not died, were ftriken in the fecrete part of the buttockes: and the howling of euery citie went vp into heauen.