

Chapter 6

The Arke is sent backe with fiue emeroids and fiue mife of gold, vpon a new wayne drawne by two milch kyne. 13. Which coming directly to Bethfames are facrificed, the wayne seruing for fire, the Leuites kepe the Arke. 19. Many others are flaine looking of curiofitie into it.

Therfore the arke of God was in the country of the Philifthijms feuen monethes. ² And the Philifthijms called the prieftes and foothfaiers, faying: What fhall we doe with the arke of the Lord? tel vs how we may fend it backe into his place. Who faid: ³ If you fend back the arke of the God of Ifrael, fend it not away emptie, but that which you owe render vnto it for finne, and they you fhall be cured: and you fhall know why his hand departeth not from you. ⁴ Who answered: What is that which we ought to render vnto it for finne? And they answered: ⁵ According to the number of the prouinces of the Philifthijms you fhall make fiue golden emroides, and fiue golden mife: becaufe there hath bene one plague to you, and to your princes. And you fhall make the fimilitudes of your emeroides, and the fimilitudes of the mife, that haue deftroied the land, and you fhall geue glorie to the God of Ifrael: if perhaps he wil lighten his hand from you, and from your goddes and from your land. ⁶ Why doe you harden your hartes, as ^a)Ægypt and Pharao did harden their hart? did not he after he was ftriken then dimiffe them, and they departed? ⁷ Now therfore take and make one new wayne: and two kine hauing calued, on which there hath no yoke beene put, couple in the wayne, and shut vp their calues at home. ⁸ And you fhall take the arke of the Lord, and put it in the wayne, and the veffels of gold, which you haue payed him for finne, you fhall put into a litle casket at the fide thereof: and dimiffe it that it may goe. ⁹ And you fhall looke: and if fo be that it fhall goe vp

^a Obftinate finners doe harden their owne hartes, not God, but by fuffering them fo to do. See *Annot. Exod. 7.*

by the way of his coaftes againft Bethfames, he hath donne vs this great euil: but if not: we shal know that his hand hath not touched vs, but it hath happened by chance. ¹⁰ They therfore did in this maner: and taking two kine, that had fucking calues, yoked them to the wayne, and shut vp their calues at home. ¹¹ And they layd the arke of God vpon the wayne, and the litle casket, that had the golden mife and the fimilitudes of emeroides. ¹² And the kine went directly by the way, that leadeth to Bethfames, and they went one way, going forward and lowing: and they declined not neither to the right hand nor to the left: but the princes alfo of the Philiftijms folowed vnto the borders of Bethfames. ¹³ Moreouer the Bethfamites reaped wheat in the valley: and lifting vp their eies, they faw the arke, and were gladde when they had feene it. ¹⁴ And the wayne came into the field of Iofue the Bethfamite, and ftoode there. And there was a great ftone, and they did cut the wood of the wayne, and layed the kine vpon it an holocaust to our Lord. ¹⁵ And the Leuites tooke downe the arke of God, and the litle casket, that was at the fide of it, wherin were the veffels of gold, and they put it vpon the great ftone. The men alfo of Bethfames offered holocaustes, and immolated victimes that day to our Lord. ¹⁶ And the fiue princes of the Philiftijms faw, and returned into Accaron that day. ¹⁷ And thefe are the golden emeroides, which the Philiftijms rendred for finne to our Lord: Azorus one, Gaza one, Afcalon one, Geth one, Accaron one: ¹⁸ and the golden mife according to the number of the cities of the Philiftijms, of the fiue prouinces, from walled citie vnto towne that was without wal, and vnto Abel the great, wherupon they put the arke of our Lord, which was vntil that day in the field of Iofue the Bethfamite. ¹⁹ But he ftroke of the men of Bethfames, for that they had ^afeene the arke of our Lord: and he ftroke of the people feuentie men, and fiftie thoufand of the common people. And

^a As the arke was terrible to the infideles, (*chap. 5.*) fo alfo to thofe that beleued right but vfed it not reuerently.

the people mourned, because our Lord had striken the common people with a great plague. ²⁰ And the men of Bethfames sayd: Who shal be able to stand in the fight of our Lord God this holie one? and to whom shal he goe vp from vs? ²¹ And they sent meffengers to the inhabitantes of Caria Thiarim, saying: The Philiftijms haue brought backe the arke of our Lord, come downe & fetch it backe vnto you.