

Chapter 11

Ammonites fighting againft Iabes Galaad, and the citie readie to yelde, 5. Saul gathereth an armie, 11. ouerthroweth the enimie, 14. and is eftablished King.

And it came to paffe as it were a moneth after, Naas the Ammonite afcended, and began to fight againft Iabes of Galaad. And al the men of Iabes fayd to Naas: Make a league with vs, and we wil ferue thee. ² And Naas the Ammonite anfwered them: In this wil I make a league with you, that I may plucke out the right eyes of you al, and may make you a reproch in al Ifrael. ³ And the ancientes of Iabes fayd to him: Graunt vnto vs feuen daies, that we may fend meffengers vnto al the coaftes of Ifrael: and if there shal not be that may defend vs, we wil come forth to thee. ⁴ The meffengers therefore came into Gabaa of Saul: and they fpake thefe wordes, in the hearing of the people: and al the people lifted vp their voice, and wept. ⁵ And behold Saul came, folowing oxen out of the field, and fayd: What ayleth the people that they weepe? And they told him the wordes of the men of Iabes. ⁶ And the Spirit of our Lord feafed on Saul, when he had heard thefe wordes, and his furie was exceding wrath. ⁷ And taking both the oxen, he cutte them into peeces, and fent them into al the coaftes of Ifrael by meffengers, faying: Whofoeuer shal not goe forth, and folow Saul and Samuel, fo shal it be done to his oxen. Therefore the feare of our Lord inuaded the people, and they went forth as it were one man. ⁸ And he numbered them in Bezec: and there were of the children of Ifrael three hundred thoufand: and of the men of Iuda thirtie thoufand. ⁹ And they fayd to the meffengers that came: Thus shal you fay to the men, that are in Iabes Galaad: To morow, when the funne fhall waxe hote, you fhall haue reliefe. The meffengers therefore came, and told the men of Iabes: Who were glad. ¹⁰ And they faid: In

the morning ^a)we wil come forth to you: and you fhall doe to vs whatfoeuer fhall pleafe you. ¹¹ And it came to paffe, when the morow was come, Saul fette the people into three partes: and entered into the middes of the campe in the morning watch, and ftroke Ammon vntil the day waxed hote, and the reft were difperfed, fo that there were not left among them two together. ¹² And the people fayd to Samuel: Who is this that faid: What fhall Saul reigne ouer vs? Geue vs the men and we wil kil them. ¹³ And Saul fayd: No man fhall be killed this day, becaufe our Lord this day hath releued Ifrael. ¹⁴ And Samuel faid to the people: Come and let vs goe into Galgal, and let vs renewe there a kingdome. ¹⁵ And al the people went into Galgal, and there they made Saul king before our Lord in Galgal, & they immolated there pacifique victimnes before our Lord. And Saul reioyfed there, and al the men of Ifrael excedingly.

^a As the men of Iabes deluded their enimies by equiuocation, fo fpeaking that they were otherwife vnderftood then they ment: fo the feruantes of God being tempted with concupifcence of gluttonie (fignified by *Naas*) muft deceiue their carnal appetite, by promifing to fatisfie the defire of the flefh, but in deede kepe fuch temperance, as they may kil the cōcupifcence, and not be killed by it. *S. Greg. li. 5. c. 1. in 1. Reg. 11.*