

Chapter 12

Samuel being iuftified by the people for his good behauour, 6. chargeth them with ingratitude towards God, 14. admonishing them, and shewing by a figne, that they offended in demanding a king. 20. Exhorteth them now to ferue God, promifeth to pray for them, and forwarneth that they shal receiue as they deferue.

And Samuel fayd to al Ifrael: Behold I haue heard your voice according to al things which you haue fpoken to me, and I haue appointed a king ouer you. ² And now the king goeth before you: and I am waxen old and haue gray heares: moreouer my fonnes are with you: therefore hauing conuerfed with you from my youth vntil this day, loe I am readie. ³ Speake of me before our Lord, and before his Chrif, whether I haue taken any mans oxe, or affe: If I haue calumniated any man, if I haue oppreffed any man, if I haue taken gift of any mans hand: and I wil contemne that fame this day, and wil reftore it to you. ⁴ And they faid thou haft not calumniated vs, nor oppreffed vs, nor taken ought of any mans hand. ⁵ And he fayd to them: Witnes is our Lord againft you, and witnes is his ^aChrift in this day, that you haue not found any thing in my hand. And they faid: Witnes. ⁶ And Samuel faid to the people: Our Lord who made Moyfes and Aaron, and brought our fathers out of the Land of Ægypt is prefent. ⁷ Now therefore ftand, that I may contend in iudgement againft you before our Lord, concerning al the mercies of our Lord, which he hath done with you, and with your fathers: ⁸ how Iacob entred into Ægypt, and your fathers cried to our Lord: and our Lord fent Moyfes and Aaron, and brought your fathers out of Ægypt: and placed them in this place. ⁹ Who forgat our Lord their God, and he deliuered them in the hand of Sifara mafter of the hofte of Hafor, and in the hand of the Philifthijmes, and in

^a The annointed king.

the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought againſt them. ¹⁰ But afterward they cried to our Lord, and ſaid: We haue finned, becauſe we haue forſaken our Lord, and haue ſerued Baalim and Aſtaroth: now therefore deliuer vs from the hand of our enemies, and we wil ſerue thee.

mightie Samfon.

¹¹ And our Lord ſent Ierobaal, and Badan, and Iepte, and Samuel, and deliuered you from the hand of your enemies round about, and you dwelt ſecurely. ¹² But you ſeing that Naas, king of the children of Ammon was come againſt you, you ſaid to me: ^a)Not ſo, but a king ſhal reigne ouer vs: whereas our Lord your God did reigne among you. ¹³ Now therefore your king is readie, whom you haue choſen and defired: behold our Lord hath geuen you a king. ¹⁴ If you ſhal feare our Lord, and ſerue him, and heare his voice, and not exaſperat the mouth of our Lord: both you, and the king which reigneth our you, ſhal be folowers of our Lord your God.

gouernoures.

S. Greg.

¹⁵ But if you wil not heare the voice of our Lord, but ſhal exaſperat his wordes, the hand of our Lord ſhal be vpon you, and vpon your fathers. ¹⁶ But now alſo ſtand, and ſee this great thing which our Lord wil doe in your fight.

thunder.

¹⁷ Is it not wheate harueſt to day? I wil call vpon our Lord, & he wil geue noyſes and rayne: and you ſhal know, and ſee that you haue done great euil to your felues in the fight of our Lord, defiring a king ouer you. ¹⁸ And Samuel cried to our Lord, and our Lord gaue noyſes and raine in that day. ¹⁹ And al the people feared exceedingly our Lord and ^b)Samuel. And al the people ſaid to Samuel: Pray for thy ſeruantes to our Lord thy God, that we die not. For we haue added euil to al our

^a They ment that they would not be ruled and protected as hitherto they had bene, by Dukes & Iudges ordained and ſent immediatly by God, but would haue a king to reigne ouer them: imagening that ſo they ſhould be better protected, and defended from forraine enemies wherin they preferred their owne conceite and iudgement before Gods diſpoſition. And therefore this finne is often here inculcated, and much reprehended. *S. Greg. li. 5. c. 2. in 1. Reg. 12.*

^b They feared God ſo much the more, becauſe they feared alſo his ſeruant.

finnes, that we defired vnto vs a king. ²⁰ And Samuel fayd to the people: Feare not, you haue done al this euil: but yet depart not from the ^abacke of our Lord, but ferue our Lord in al your hart. ²¹ And decline not after vaine thinges, which shal not profite you, nor deliuer you, becaufe they are vaine. ²² And our Lord wil not forfake his people for his great name: becaufe our Lord hath fworne to make you a people to him felf. ²³ And farre from me be this finne in our Lord, that I should ceafe to pray for you, and I wil teach you the good and right way. ²⁴ Therefore feare our Lord, and ferue him in truth and from your whole hart. For you haue feene the great workes which he hath done among you. ²⁵ But if you shal perfeuer in malice: both you and your king shal perish together.

^a For finners to come before Gods face were prefumption, not to come to his back or to depart from thence, were deperation. So Marie Magdalen with feare and hope approached & taried at Chrifts back. *Luc. 7. S. Greg. loco citate.*