

Chapter 20

Ionathas comforteth Dauid, 3. confirmeth their former league. 18. By an appointed signe (24. endeuoring firft, but in vaine, to pacifie his father) 35. certifieth Dauid of his fathers malice againft him. 41. They meete againe secretly, and forowfully part ech from other.

But Dauid alfo fled from Naioth, which is in Ramatha, and coming fpake before Ionathas: What haue I done? what is myn iniquitie, and what finne of myn againft thy father, that he feeketh my life? ² Who fayd to him: God forbid, thou fhalt not die: for neither wil my father doe any thing great or litle, vnles he firft tel me: this word therefore only hath my father concealed from me? no this fhall not be. ³ And he fware againe to Dauid. And Dauid fayd: Thy father furely knoweth, that I haue found grace in thy fight, and wil fay: Let not Ionathas know this, left perhaps he be fad. Yea more our Lord liueth, and thy foule liueth, by one degree only (as I may fo fay) I and death are diuided. ⁴ And Ionathas faid to Dauid: Whatfoeuer thy foule fhall fay to me, I wil doe for thee. ⁵ And Dauid fayd to Ionathas: Behold the calendes are to morowe, & I after the maner am wont to fitte beside the king to eate: difmiffe me therefore that I may be hid in the field vntil the euening of the third day. ⁶ If thy father looing inquire for me, thou fhalt anfwer him: Dauid defired me, that he might goe quickly into Bethlehem his citie: becaufe there be folemne victimes to al of his tribe. ⁷ If he fhall fay: Wel; peace fhall be to thy feruant: but if he be angrie, know that his malice is complete. ⁸ Doe mercie therefore toward thy feruant: becaufe thou haft caufed me thy feruant to enter the league of our Lord with thee. But if there be any iniquitie in me, do thou kil me, and bring me not in to thy father. ⁹ And Ionathas fayd: Be this farre from thee, for neither can it be, that I fhould not tel thee, if I fhall certainly know that my fathers malice is complete againft thee. ¹⁰ And Dauid answered Ionathas: Who fhall bring me word, if

thy father answer thee perhaps any thing sharply of me? ¹¹ And Ionathas said to David: Come, let us go forth abroad into the field, and when they were both gone forth into the field, ¹² Ionathas said to David: Lord God of Israel, if I shall search out my fathers meaning, to morrow or the day after, and some good thing be upon David, and I send not immediately unto thee, and make thee know thereof, ¹³ these things do our Lord to Ionathas, and these things add he. But if my fathers malice shall persecute against thee, I will reveal thine ear, and will dismiss thee, that thou mayest go in peace, and our Lord be with thee, as he hath been with my father. ¹⁴ And if I live, thou shalt do me the mercie of our Lord; but if I die, ¹⁵ thou shalt not take away thy mercie from my house for ever, when our Lord shall have rooted out the enemies of David, every one out of the land, take he away Ionathas from his house, and our Lord require it of the hands of Davids enemies. ¹⁶ Ionathas therefore made a league with the house of David: and our Lord required it of the hands of Davids enemies. ¹⁷ And Ionathas added to swear unto David, because he loved him, for as his own foule, so he loved him. ¹⁸ And Ionathas said to him: To morrow are the calendes, and thou shalt be asked for: ¹⁹ for thy fitting will be inquired of till after to morrow. Thou shalt therefore go downe in haste, and shalt come to the place, where thou must be hid in the day, when it is lawful to worke, and thou shalt sit beside the stone, which is named Ezel. ²⁰ And I will shoot three arrows nere it, and will shoot as it were exercising my self at a mark. ²¹ I will send also a boy saying to him: Goe, and fetch me the arrows. ²² If I shall say to the boy: Loe the arrows are on this side thee, take them up: come thou to me, because there is peace to thee, and there is no evil, our Lord liveth. But if I shall speak thus to the boy: Loe the arrows are beyond thee: Goe in peace, because our Lord hath dismissed thee. ²³ And concerning the word which I and thou have spoken, our Lord be between thee and me for ever. ²⁴ David therefore was hid in the field, and the calendes came, and the king sat downe to eat bread.

²⁵ And when the king was fette vpon his chaire (according to the custome) which was beside the wal, Ionathas arose, and Abner fate at the side of Saul, and Dauids place appeared voide. ²⁶ And Saul sayd nothing that day, for he thought it had chanced perhaps vnto him, that he was not cleane, nor purified. ²⁷ And when the second day was come after the calendes, againe Dauids place appeared emptie. And Saul said to Ionathas his sonne: Why came not the sonne of Ifai neither yesterday, nor to day to eate? ²⁸ Ionathas answered Saul: He desired me instantly, that he might goe into Bethlehem, ²⁹ and he said: Let me goe, because there is a solemne sacrifice in the citie, one of my brethren hath sent for me: now therefore if I haue found grace in thy sight, I wil goe quickly, and see my brethren. For this cause he came not to the kings table. ³⁰ But Saul being wrath against Ionathas, said to him: Thou sonne of a woman which of her owne accord rauisheth a man, am I ignorant that thou louest the sonne of Ifai vnto thyne owne confusion, and to the confusion of thyne ignominious mother? ³¹ For al the dayes, that the sonne of Ifai shal liue vpon the earth, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Therefore now presently send, and bring him to me: Because he is the sonne of death. ³² And Ionathas answering Saul his father, said: Why shal he dye? what hath he done? ³³ And Saul caught a spear to strike him. And Ionathas vnderstood that it was determined of his father, that he would kil Dauid. ³⁴ Ionathas therefore rose from the table in anger of furie, and did not eate bread the second day of the calendes. For he was stricken heauie vpon Dauid, because his father had confounded him. ³⁵ And when the morning appeared, Ionathas came into the field according to the appointment with Dauid, and a litle boy with him. ³⁶ And said to his boy: Goe, and fetch me the arrowes, which I shoote. And when the boy had runne, he shotte an other arrowe beyond the boy. ³⁷ The boy therefore came to the place of the arrowe, which Ionathas had shotte: and Ionathas cried behind the back of the boy, and said: Loe the arrowe is there further beyond thee. ³⁸ And Ionathas cried againe behind

the back of the boy, faying: Make haft fpedely, ftand not. And Ionathas his boy gathered vp his arrowes, and brought them to his mafter: ³⁹ and he was altogether ignorant, what was done: for only Ionathas and Dauid knew the matter. ⁴⁰ Ionathas therefore gaue his armour to the boy, and faid to him: Goe, and cary them into the citie. ⁴¹ And when the boy was gone, Dauid rofe out of his place, which did bend to the South, and falling flatt on the ground, adored thrife: and kiffing one an other, they wept together, but Dauid more. ⁴² Ionathas therefore faid to Dauid: Goe in peace: whatfoeuer we haue fworne both of vs in the name of our Lord, faying: Our Lord be betwen me and thee, and betwen my feede and thy feede for euer. ⁴³ And Dauid arofe, and departed: but Ionathas alfo entred into the Citie.