

Chapter 20

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

But Daud 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 Daud. And Daud 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 Daud: Whatfoeuer thy foule fhall fay to me, I wil doe for thee. ⁵ And Daud 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: Daud 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 Daud 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 vs goe forth abroad into the field, and when they were both gone forth into the field, ¹² Ionathas said to David: Lord God of Ifrael, if I shall search out my fathers meaning, to morowe or the day after, and some good thing be vpon David, and I fend not immediatly vnto thee, and make thee know thereof, ¹³ these things doe our Lord to Ionathas, and these things adde he. But if my fathers malice shall persecue againft thee, I wil reuele thyn eare, and wil dismiss thee, that thou mayest goe in peace, and our Lord be with thee, as he hath bene with my father. ¹⁴ And if I liue, thou shalt doe me the mercie of our Lord; but if I die, ¹⁵ thou shalt not take away thy mercie from my house for euer, when our Lord shall haue rooted out the enemies of David, euerie one out of the land, take he away Ionathas from his house, and our Lord require it of the hands of Dauides enemies. ¹⁶ Ionathas therefore made a league with the house of David: and our Lord required it of the hands of Dauids enemies. ¹⁷ And Ionathas added to sweare vnto David, because he loued him, for as his owne foule, so he loued him. ¹⁸ And Ionathas said to him: To morowe are the calendes, and thou shalt be asked for: ¹⁹ for thy fitting wil be inquired of til after to morowe. Thou shalt therefore goe downe in haft, 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 wil shoote three arrowes nere it, and wil shoote as it were exercising my self at a marke. ²¹ I wil fend also a boy saying to him: Goe, and fetch me the arrowes. ²² If I shall say to the boy: Loe the arrowes are on this side thee, take them vp: come thou to me, because there is peace to thee, and there is no euil, our Lord liueth. But if I shall speake thus to the boy: Loe the arrowes are beyond thee: Goe in peace, because our Lord hath dismissed thee. ²³ And concerning the word which I and thou haue spoken, our Lord be between thee and me for euer. ²⁴ David therefore was hidde in the fildes, and the calendes came, and the king sat downe to eate bread.

²⁵ And when the king was fette vpon his chaire (according to the cuftome) which was befide the wal, Ionathas arofe, and Abner fate at the fide of Saul, and Dauids place appeared voide. ²⁶ And Saul fayd nothing that day, for he thought it had chanced perhaps vnto him, that he was not cleane, nor purified. ²⁷ And when the fecond day was come after the calendes, againe Dauids place appeared emptie. And Saul faid to Ionathas his fonne: Why came not the fonne of Ifai neither yefterday, nor to day to eate? ²⁸ Ionathas answered Saul: He defired me instantly, that he might goe into Bethlehem, ²⁹ and he faid: Let me goe, becaufe there is a folemne facrifice in the citie, one of my brethren hath fent for me: now therefore if I haue found grace in thy fight, I wil goe quickly, and fee my brethren. For this caufe he came not to the kings table. ³⁰ But Saul being wrath againft Ionathas, faid to him: Thou fonne of a woman which of her owne accord rauisheth a man, am I ignorant that thou loueft the fonne of Ifai vnto thyne owne confufion, and to the confufion of thyne ignominious mother? ³¹ For al the dayes, that the fonne of Ifai shal liue vpon the earth, thou shalt not be eftablished, nor thy kingdom. Therefore now prefently fend, and bring him to me: Becaufe he is the fonne of death. ³² And Ionathas answering Saul his father, faid: Why shal he dye? what hath he done? ³³ And Saul caught a fpeare to ftrike him. And Ionathas vnderftood that it was determined of his father, that he would kil Dauid. ³⁴ Ionathas therefore rofe from the table in anger of furie, and did not eate bread the fecond day of the calendes. For he was ftroken heauie vpon Dauid, becaufe 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 faid 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 faid: 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 Daud 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, Daud 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 Daud more. ⁴² Ionathas therefore faid to Daud: 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 Daud arofe, and departed: but Ionathas alfo entred into the Citie.