

Chapter 21

In cafe of necefsitie Achimelech the prieft geueth halowed bread to Dauid, 8. alfo the fword which he had taken from Goliath. 10. Then Dauid going to Achis king of Geth, is forced to faine himfelf madde.

And Dauid came into Nobe to Achimelech the prieft: & Achimelech was aftonyed, becaufe Dauid was come. And he faid to him: Why thou alone, and none is with thee? ² And Dauid faid to Achimelech the prieft: The king hath commanded me a word and faid: Let no man know the thing, for which thou art fent by me, and what maner precepts I haue geuen thee, for my feruantes alfo I haue appointed into fuch and fuch a place. ³ Now therefore if thou haue any thing at hand, yea if but fiue loaues, geue me, or whatfoeuer thou shalt finde. ⁴ And the prieft answered Dauid, faying: I haue no ^a)lay breads at hand, but only holy bread, if the feruants be cleane, efpecially from wemen? ⁵ And Dauid answered the prieft, and faid to him: And truly, if the matter be concerning wemen, we haue refrained our felues from yefterday and the day before, when we came forth, and the veffels of the feruants were holie. Moreouer this way is polluted, but it alfo fhall be fanctified this day in the veffels. ⁶ The prieft therefore gaue him halowed bread; for neither was anie bread there, but only the loaues of propofition, which had bene taken away from the face of our Lord, that hoate loaues might be fette downe. ⁷ And there was there a certaine man of the feruantes of Saul that day, within the tabernacle of our Lord: and his name was Doeg an Idumeite, the mightieft of Saules paftours. ⁸ And Dauid faid to Achimelech: Haft thou here at hand a fpeare, or a fword? becaufe myn owne fword, and myne owne weapons I tooke not with me. For the kings word haftened forward. ⁹ And the prieft faid: Loe here the

^a Diftinction of common & holie bread. Alfo an example of difpenfation in cafe of neceffitie.

sword of Goliath the Philiftian, whom thou flewest in the Valley of terebinth, is wrapped vp in a mantel behind the Ephod: if thou wilt take this, take it. For neither is here any other beside that. And Daud said: There is none other like to that, geue me it. ¹⁰ Daud therefore arose, and fled that day from the face of Saul: and came to Achis the king of Geth, ¹¹ and the seruantes of Achis said to him, when they had seene Daud: Is not this Daud the king of the land? Did they not sing in dances to this man saying: Saul stroke a thousand, and Daud ten thousand? ¹² But Daud put these wordes in his hart, and feared exceedingly at the face of Achis the king of Geth. ¹³ And he ^a)changed his countenance before them, and flipt downe between their handes: and he ftumbled at the doores of the gate, & his spittle ranne downe vpon his bearde. ¹⁴ And Achis said to his seruantes: You haue seene the man madde: why haue you brought him to me? ¹⁵ Doe we lack madde men, that you haue brought in this felowe, to play the madde man in my prefence? shal this man enter into my house?

^a Daud most wisely in such distresse fained himself to be a foole. By which the Holie Ghost myftically signified that Christ should do such things not of feare but of diuine wisdom, as he should be counted a foole. *Mar. 3. v. 21. Luc. 23. v. 11. 1. Cor. 1. v. 23. S. Beda. Quest. in 1. Reg. c. 14.*