

Chapter 22

Dauid with a great retinew goeth to the king of Moab. 5. But by aduife of Gad the prophet, returneth into Iuda. 6. Saul lamenting that many confpire againft him. 9. Doeg accufeth Achimelech, 14. who iuftifieth both Dauid and himfelf. 16. He and al the Prieftes with much people in Nobe are flaine by Sauls commandment, 20. onlie Abiathar efcaping fleeth to Dauid.

Dauid therefore went from thence, and fled to the caue of Odellam. Which when his brethren had heard, and al his fathers houfe, they went downe to him thither. ² And there were gathered vnto him, al that were in diftreffe, and oppreffed with debt, and of a penfiue hart, and he was made their prince, and there were with him about foure hundred men. ³ And Dauid departed from thence into Mafpha, which is Moab: and he faid to the king of Moab: Let my father and my mother tary with you, I befech thee, til I know what God wil doe to me. ⁴ And he left them before the face of the king of Moab, and they abode with him al the dayes, that Dauid was in garrifon. ⁵ And Gad the prophet faid to Dauid: Tary not in garrifon, depart, and goe into the Land of Iuda. And Dauid departed, and came into the foreft of Haret. ⁶ And Saul heard that Dauid had appeared, and the men that were with him. And Saul when he abode in Gabaa, and was in the wood, which is in Rama, holding a fpeare in his hand, and al his feruantes that ftood about him, ⁷ he fayd to his feruantes that ftoode about him: Heare me now ye children of Iemini: wil the fonne of Ifai geue to al you fieldes, and vineyardes, and make al you tribunes, & centurions: ⁸ becaufe you haue al confpired againft me, and there is none that telleth me, efpecially where my fonne alfo hath entred league with the fonne of Ifai? There is none of you, that pitieth my cafe, neither is there that telleth me: for that my fonne hath raifed vp my feruant againft me, lying in waite for me vntil this day. ⁹ And Doeg the Idumeite which ftood by, and

was the chief among the seruantes of Saul, anfwering: I sawe, quoth he, the sonne of Ifai, in Nobe with Achimelech the sonne of Achitob the priest. ¹⁰ Who consulted our Lord for him; and gaue him victuals, yea and the sword of Goliath the Philistian he gaue to him. ¹¹ The king therefore sent to call for Achimelech the priest the sonne of Achitob, and all his fathers house, the priestes that were in Nobe, who came all to the king. ¹² And Saul said to Achimelech: Heare thou sonne of Achitob. Who answered: I am ready, my Lord. ¹³ And Saul said to him: Why haue you conspired against me, thou, and the sonne of Ifai, and hast geuen him bread and a sword, and hast consulted our Lord for him, that he might rise up against me, continuing a traitour vntill this day? ¹⁴ And Achimelech answering the king, said: And who amongst all thy seruantes faithful as Dauid, and the kings sonne in lawe, and going fourth at thy commandment, and glorious in thy house? ¹⁵ Did I beginne this day to consult our Lord for him? farre be this from me: let not the king suspect such a thing against his seruant, in all the house of my father: for thy seruant knew not any thing concerning this busines, either litle or great. ¹⁶ And the king said: Dying thou shalt dye Achimelech, thou, and all thy fathers house. ¹⁷ And the king said to the curriers, that stood about him: Turne your selues, and kill the priestes of our Lord, ^afor their hand is with Dauid, knowing that he was fled, and they told me not. And ^bthe kings seruantes would not extend their handes vpon the priestes of our Lord. ¹⁸ And the king said to Doeg: Turne thou, and runne vpon the priestes. And Doeg the Idumeite being turned, ranne vpon the priestes, and murdered in that day eightie fiue men reuested with an ephod of linnen. ¹⁹ And Nobe the citie of the priestes, he strooke in the edge of the sword, men and women, and children, and sucklings, and oxen and asses, and sheepe in the edge

^a Saul vniustly condemning Dauid, condemned also all those that iustified him.

^b Seing so manifest iniustice and crueltie they obeyed God, rather than man.

of the sword. ²⁰ But one sonne of Achimelech the sonne of Achitob, escaping, whose name was Abiathar, fled to Dauid, ²¹ and told him that Saul had slain the priestes of our Lord. ²² And Dauid said to Abiathar: I knew in that day when Doeg the Idumeite was there, without doubt, he would tell Saul, I am guilty of all the foules of thy father. ²³ Abide with me, feare not: if any man shall seeke my life, he shall seeke thy life also, and with me thou shalt be preferred.