

Chapter 23

The citie of Ceila oppugned by the Philiftijms is releued by Dauid. 7. Who fearing to be there betrayed, 13. fleeth into the defert of Ziph. 16. Ionathas repayreth secretly to him, and they confirme againe their former league. 19. The Ziphians promife to betray Dauid: 27. but Saul leaueth for a while to perfecute him, being forced to defend the land from the Philiftians inuading it.

And they told Dauid, faying: Behold the Philiftijms oppugne Ceila, and fpoyle the barnes. ² Dauid therefore confulted our Lord, faying: Shal I goe, and ftrike thefe Philiftians? And our Lord fayd to Dauid: Goe, and thou fhalt ftrike the Philiftians, and fhalt faue Ceila. ³ And the men that were with Dauid, fayd to him: Behold we refting here in Iurie are afrayd, how much more if we shal goe into Ceila againft the bandes of the Philiftians? ⁴ Againe therefore Dauid confulted our Lord. Who anfwering fayd to him: Arife, and goe into Ceila: for I wil deliuer the Philiftians in thy hand. ⁵ Dauid therefore, and his men, went into Ceila, and fought againft the Philiftians, and droue away their beaftes, and ftroke them with a great flaughter, and Dauid faued the inhabitantes of Ceila. ⁶ Moreouer at that time, when Abiathar the fonne of Achimelech fled to Dauid into Ceila, he went downe hauing with him an ephod. ⁷ And it was told Saul that Dauid was come into Ceila: and Saul fayd: Our Lord hath deliuered him into my handes, and he is shut vp being entered the citie, wherein are gates and lockes. ⁸ And Saul commanded al the people, that they should goe downe into Ceila to fight, and befeige Dauid, and his men. ⁹ Which when Dauid vnderftood, that Saul secretly prepared euil againft him, he fayd to Abiathar the priest: ^{a)} Applie the

^a By this it appeareth that Dauid confulted God by the high priest. And the high priest for this purpofe ioyned the priestlie ornament called *Ephod* to the *Rationale*, and fo had reuelatiō from God. *Exo. 28. Leuit. 8.*

Ephod. ¹⁰ And Dauid fayd: Lord God of Ifrael, thy feruant hath heard a bruite, that Saul determineth to come into Ceila, to deftroy the citie for me: ¹¹ Wil the men of Ceila deliuer me into his handes? and wil Saul come downe, as thy feruant hath heard? Lord God of Ifrael tel thy feruant. And our Lord fayd: He wil come downe. ¹² And Dauid faid: Wil the men of Ceila deliuer me, and the men that are with me, into the handes of Saul? And our Lord fayd: ^a)They wil deliuer thee. ¹³ Dauid therefore arofe and his men about fix hundred, and going out of Ceila, wandered hither and thither vncertaine: and it was told Saul that Dauid was fled from Ceila, and was faued: for which caufe he diffembled to goe forth. ¹⁴ But Dauid abode in the defert in moft ftrong places, and he taried in the mount of the defert Ziph, in a fhadowed hil. Saul notwithstanding fought him alwayes: and our Lord deliuered him not into his handes. ¹⁵ And Dauid faw that Saul was gone forth to feeke his life. Moreouer Dauid was in the defert Ziph, in a wood. ¹⁶ And Ionathas the fonne of Saul arofe, and went to Dauid into the wood, and ftrengthened his handes in God: and fayd to him: ¹⁷ Feare not: for neither fhall the hand of Saul my father finde thee, and thou shalt reigne ouer Ifrael, and I fhall be fecond to thee, yea and my father knoweth this. ¹⁸ Both therefore made a league before our Lord: and Dauid abode in the wood: but Ionathas returned into his houfe. ¹⁹ And the Zeipheites went vp vnto Saul in Gabaa, faying: Loe doth not Dauid lye hid with vs in the moft fafe places of the wood, in the Hil Hachila, which is on the right hand of the defert? ²⁰ Now therefore, as thy foule hath defired, come downe: & it fhall be our charge to deliuer him into the kinges handes. ²¹ And Saul fayd: Bleffed be ye of our Lord, becaufe you haue pitied my cafe. ²² Goe therefore I pray you, and prepare diligently, and deale curioufly, and confider the place, where his foote is, and who hath feene him there, for he thinketh of me, that I craftely lye in waite for him. ²³ Confider

^a Conditionally: If thou tarie here.

and fee al his lurking holes, wherein he is hid, and returne to me with the certeintie of the thing, that I may goe with you. Yea and if he shal ftoppe vp himfelfe into the earth, I wil fearch him out among al the thoufandes of Iuda. ²⁴ But they rifing went into Ziph before Saul: and Daudid and his men were in the defert Maon, in the champaine country at the right hand of Iefimon. ²⁵ Saul therefore and his companie went to feeke him: and it was told Daudid, and forthwith he went downe to the rocke, and abode in the defert Maon, which when Saul had heard, he purfued Daudid in the defert Maon. ²⁶ And Saul went at the fide of the mountaine on the one part: and Daudid and his men were in the fide of the mountaine on the other part: moreouer Daudid defpayred that he could efcape, from the face of Saul: Saul therefore and his men in maner of a ring, compaffed Daudid and his men, to take them. ²⁷ And a meffenger came to Saul, faying: Make haft, and come, becaufe the Philiftijms haue powred in themfelues vpon the land. ²⁸ Saul therefore returned leauing of to purfew Daudid, and he went to meete the Philiftians. For this caufe, they called that place, the Rocke diuiding.