

Chapter 24

Saul chancing to come into a caue, Daid being hid with others in the same place, only cutteth the skirt of his cloke, 5. which after shewing, Saul acknowledgeth his fault, and ceaseth for a time to persecute him.

Dauid therefore went vp from thence, and dwelt in the safest places of Engaddi. ² And when Saul was returned, after he pursued the Philistians, they told him, saying: Behold, Daid is in the desert Engaddi. ³ Saul therefore taking vnto him three thousand chosen men of al Ifrael, went forth to search out Daid, and his men, yea ouer the steepe broken rockes, which are accessible only to wilde goates. ⁴ And he came to the shepcotes, which fel in his way as he went. And there was a caue, which Saul entred into, to doe his easement: moreouer Daid and his men lay hid in the inner part of the caue. ⁵ And the seruantes of Daid sayd to him: Behold the day, whereof our Lord sayd to thee: I wil deliuer thee thyne enemy, that thou mayest doe to him as it shal seeme good in thyne eyes. Daid therefore arose, and cut of the hemme of Saules cloke softly. ⁶ After this ^aDaid's hart stroke him, for that he had cut of the hemme of Saules cloke. ⁷ And he sayd to his men: Our Lord be merciful vnto me, ^bthat I doe not this thing to my Maister the annointed of our Lord, that I should lay my hand vpon him, because he is the annointed of our Lord. ⁸ And Daid perswaded his men with wordes, and permitted them not to rise against Saul: moreouer Saul rising out of the caue, went on his journey begonne. ⁹ And Daid rose vp after him: and

^a A tender conscience had scruple of a small doubt which was no sinne: a large conscience sticketh at nothing.

^b Saul being annointed king by Gods appointment, could not lawfully be slaine by his subiectes without like ordinance from God. For though Daid was also already annointed, yet that was not to reigne presently, but when Saul should die, or otherwife be taken away.

going out of the caue, cried behind Sauls backe, faying:
My Lord King. And Saul looked backe behind him: and
Dauid bowing him felfe flat toward the ground adored,
¹⁰ and fayd to Saul: Why doeft thou heare the wordes
of men that fay: Dauid feeketh euil againft thee? ¹¹ Loe
this day thyne eies haue feene, that our Lord deliuered
thee in my hand, in the caue, and I had a cogitation to
kil thee, but myn eie hath fpared thee. For I fayd: I
wil not extend myn hand vpon my lord, becaufe he is
the annointed of our Lord. ¹² But rather fee and knowe,
ô my father, the hemme of thy cloke in my hand, that
when I did cut of the hemme of thy cloke. I would not
extend my hand vpon thee. Marke, and fee, that there
is no euil in my hand, nor iniquitie, neither haue I finned
againft thee: but thou lyeft in waite for my life, to take
it away. ¹³ Our Lord iudge betwen me and thee, and our
Lord reuenge me of thee, but be not my hand vpon thee.
¹⁴ As alfo it is fayd in the old prouerbe: FROM THE IM-
PIOVS fhall impietie procede: be not therefore my hand
vpon thee: Whom doeft thou perfecute Ô King of Ifrael?
¹⁵ Whom doeft thou perfecute? thou perfecutest a dead
dog, and a flea. ¹⁶ Our Lord be iudge, & iudge betwen
me and thee, and he fee, and iudge my caufe, and deliuer
me out of thy hand. ¹⁷ And when Dauid had fully ended
fpeaking fuch wordes to Saul, Saul fayd: Is this thy voice
my fonne Dauid? and Saul lifted vp his voice, and wept:
¹⁸ and fayd to Dauid: Thou art iufter then I: for thou
haft donne me good turnes, and I haue rendred thee euil.
¹⁹ And thou haft fhewed this day what good thinges thou
haft done to me: how our Lord deliuered me into thy
hande and thou haft not killed me. ²⁰ For who when he
hath found his enemie, wil let him goe in a good way?
But our Lord render thee this good turne, for that which
thou haft wrought toward me this day. ²¹ And now be-
caufe I knowe that thou moft certainly fhalt reigne, and
haue the kingdome of Ifrael in thy hand: ²² fweare to
me in our Lord, not to deftroy my feede after me, nor to
take away my name from the houle of my father. ²³ And
Dauid fware to Saul. Saul therefore went into his houle:
and Dauid and his men went vp into fafer places.