

## Chapter 24

*Saul chancing to come into a caue, Dauid 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.*

**D**auid therefore went vp from thence, and dwelt in the safest places of Engaddi. <sup>2</sup> And when Saul was returned, after he pursued the Philistians, they told him, saying: Behold, Dauid is in the desert Engaddi. <sup>3</sup> Saul therefore taking vnto him three thousand chosen men of al Ifrael, went forth to search out Dauid, and his men, yea ouer the steepe broken rockes, which are accessible only to wilde goates. <sup>4</sup> 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 Dauid and his men lay hid in the inner part of the caue. <sup>5</sup> And the seruantes of Dauid fayd to him: Behold the day, whereof our Lord fayd to thee: I wil deliuer thee thyne enemy, that thou mayest doe to him as it shal seeme good in thyne eyes. Dauid therefore arose, and cut of the hemme of Saules cloke softly. <sup>6</sup> After this <sup>a</sup>)Dauids hart stroke him, for that he had cut of the hemme of Saules cloke. <sup>7</sup> And he fayd to his men: Our Lord be merciful vnto me, <sup>b</sup>)that 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. <sup>8</sup> And Dauid perswaded his men with wordes, and permitted them not to rise against Saul: moreouer Saul rising out of the caue, went on his iourney begunne. <sup>9</sup> And Dauid rose vp after him: and going out of the caue,

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<sup>a</sup> A tender conscience had scruple of a small doubt which was no sinne: a large conscience sticketh at nothing.

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

cried behind Sauls backe, faying: My Lord King. And Saul looked backe behind him: and Daud bowing him felfe flat toward the ground adored, <sup>10</sup> and fayd to Saul: Why doeft thou heare the wordes of men that fay: Daud feeketh euil againft thee? <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Our Lord iudge betwen me and thee, and our Lord reuenge me of thee, but be not my hand vpon thee. <sup>14</sup> As alfo it is fayd in the old prouerbe: FROM THE IMPIOVS fhall impietie procede: be not therefore my hand vpon thee: Whom doeft thou perfecute Ô King of Ifrael? <sup>15</sup> Whom doeft thou perfecute? thou perfecutest a dead dog, and a flea. <sup>16</sup> Our Lord be iudge, & iudge betwen me and thee, and he fee, and iudge my caufe, and deliuer me out of thy hand. <sup>17</sup> And when Daud had fully ended fpeaking fuch wordes to Saul, Saul fayd: Is this thy voice my fonne Daud? and Saul lifted vp his voice, and wept: <sup>18</sup> and fayd to Daud: Thou art iufter then I: for thou haft donne me good turnes, and I haue rendred thee euil. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And now becaufe I knowe that thou moft certainly fhalt reigne, and haue the kingdome of Ifrael in thy hand: <sup>22</sup> fweare to me in our Lord, not to deftroy my feede after me, nor to take away my name from the houfe of my father. <sup>23</sup> And Daud fware to Saul. Saul therefore went into his houfe: and Daud and his men went vp into fafer places.