

Chapter 26

The Ziphians bewtraying the place, Saul befiegeth Dauid.

5. Who by night goeth where Saul and his men are a fleepe, 9. hurteth him not: 12. but taketh from him his fpeare and bottle of water: 14. sheweth what he hath done. 21. Saul againe confeffeth his fault, and promifeth peace.

And there came Zepheites vnto Saul in Gabaa, faying: Behold Dauid is hid in the hil Hachila, which is ouer againft the wildernes. ² And Saul arofe, and went downe into the defert Ziph, and with him three thoufand men of the chofen of Ifrael, to feeke Dauid in the defert Ziph. ³ And Saul camped in Gabaa Hachila, which was ouer againft the wildernes in the way. And Dauid dwelt in the defert. And feing that Saul was come after him into the defert, ⁴ he fent difcouerers, and lerned that he was come thither moft certainly. ⁵ And Dauid arofe fecretly, and came to the place where Saul was: and when he had feene the place, wherein Saul flept, and Abner the fonne of Ner, the prince of his warre, and Saul fleeping in the tent, and the reft of the multitude round about him, ⁶ Dauid fpake to Achimelech the Hetheit, and Abifai the fonne of Seruia the brother of Ioab, faying: Who wil goe downe with me to Saul into the campe? And Abifai faid: I wil goe with thee. ⁷ Dauid therefore and Abifai came to the people by night, and found Saul lying and fleeping in the tent, and his fpeare fixed in the ground at his head: and Abner, and the people fleeping round about him. ⁸ And Abifai faid to Dauid: God hath shut vp thine enemy this day into thy handes: now therefore I wil thruft him through with my fpeare in the earth once, and twife fhall not neede. ⁹ And Dauid faid to Abifai: Kil him not: for ^awho fhall extend his hand vpon the annointed of our

^a Dauid is refolute, and often repeteth, that it is not lawful for priuate fubiectes to kil their prince, no although him felfe was annointed to fuccede.

Lord, & shal be innocent? ¹⁰ And Daudid said: Our Lord liueth, vnles our Lord shal fstrike him, or his day come to die, or descending into battel he perish. ¹¹ Our Lord be merciful vnto me, that I extend not my hand vpon the annointed of our Lord. Now therefore take the speare, which is at his head, & cuppe of water, and let vs goe. ¹² Daudid therefore tooke the speare, and cuppe of water, which was at Saules head, and they went away: and there was none that fawe, or vnderftood, or awaked, but al flept, becaufe the dead fleepe ^{a)}of our Lord had fallen vpon them. ¹³ And when Daudid had paffed ouer againft, and ftood in the toppe of the mountaine farre of, and a good fpace between them, ¹⁴ Daudid cried to the people, and to Abner the fonne of Ner, faying: Wilt thou not anfwer Abner? And Abner anfwering fayd: Who art thou, that criest and difquietest the king? ¹⁵ And Daudid fayd to Abner: Art not thou a man? And who is like thee in Ifrael? why therefore haft thou not kept thy lord the king? for one of the multitude hath entered in to kil the king thy lord. ¹⁶ This thing is not good, which you haue done: Our Lord liueth, you are the children of death, which haue not kept your lord, the annointed of our Lord. Now therefore behold where the kinges speare is, & where the cup of water is, which was at his head. ¹⁷ And Saul knew Daudids voice, and fayd: Is this thy voice, my fonne Daudid? And Daudid fayd: My voice, my lord king, ¹⁸ and he said: For what caufe doth my lord perfecute his feruant? What haue I done? or what euil is there in my hand? ¹⁹ Now therefore heare, I pray, my lord King, the wordes of thy feruant: If our Lord ftirre thee vp againft me, let there be odoure of facrifice: but if the fonnes of men, they are curfed in the fight of our Lord, which haue caft me out this day, that I fhould not dwel in the inheritance of our Lord, faying: Goe, ferue ftrange goddes. ²⁰ And now let not my blood be fhed vpon the earth before our Lord, for the king of Ifrael, is come forth to feeke one flea, as the perdix is perfued

^a Gods prouidence fent this extraordinary fleepe and infpired Daudid, to doe this fact, for more iuftification of his innocencie.

in the mountaines. ²¹ And Saul fayd: I haue finned, re-
 turne my fonne Daid, for I wil no more doe thee euil, for
 that my life hath bene precious in thyne eies to day: for
 it appeareth that I haue done foolishly, and haue bene
 ignorant of very many thinges. ²² And Daid anfwering,
 fayd: Behold the kings speare, let one of the kings feru-
 ants paffe, and take it. ²³ And our Lord wil reward euerie
 one according to his iuftice, and fidelitie: for our Lord
 hath deliuered thee this day into my hand, & I would
 not extend my hand vpon the annointed of our Lord.
²⁴ And as thy life hath bene magnified to day in myne
 eies, fo be my life magnified in the eies of our Lord, and
 deliuer he me from al diftreffe. ²⁵ Saul therefore fayd to
 Daid: Bleffed art thou my fonne Daid: and truly do-
 ing thou shalt doe, and preuayling thou shalt preuaile.
 And Daid went into his way, and Saul returned into his
 place.