

Chapter 30

Dauid returning to Siceleg, findeth it burned and fpoiled, and himself in danger of the people: 7. By our Lords warrant he purfueth the enemie, 11. taketh a guide: 17. recouereth al that was taken away: 22. and rewardeth the fouldiars, alfo thofe that ftayed with the baggage: 25. making it a lawe for the time to come, that the keepers of the baggage, shal haue like share with thofe that fight in battel.

And when Dauid and his men were come to Siceleg the third day, the Amalecites had made an inuafion on the fouth fide into Siceleg, and had ftrooken Siceleg, and burnt it with fire. ² And had led away wemen captiue out of it, from the leffe vnto the great: and had not killed any man, but had led them with them, and went on their iourney. ³ When Dauid therefore and his men were come to the citie, and had found it burnt with fire, and their wiues, and their fonnes, and their daughters to be led away captiue, ⁴ Dauid and the people that was with him, lifted vp their voices, and mourned til teares fayled them. ⁵ For the two wiues alfo of Dauid were led away captiue, Achinoam the Iezraelite, and Abigail the wife of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ And Dauid was ftrooken very fad: for the people would haue ftoned him, becaufe the foule of euerie man was bitterly affected vpon their fonnes, and daughters: but Dauid was ftrengthened in our Lord his God. ⁷ And he fayd to Abiathar the prieft the fonne of Achimelech: Applie ^avnto me the Ephod. And Abiathar applied the Ephod to Dauid, ⁸ and Dauid confulted our Lord, fay- ing: Shal I purfue thefe theeues, and shal I take them or no? And our Lord fayd to him: Purfue them: for thou shalt take them without doubt, & take from them the praye. ⁹ Dauid therefore went himfelfe, and the fix hundred men that were with him, and they came vnto

^a Confult our Lord for me: fo Dauid by the priests mediation, was inftructed what to do.

the Torrent Befor: & fome being wearie ftayed. ¹⁰ But Daud himfelf, and foure hundred men purfued: for two hundred ftayed, who being wearie could not paffe the Torrent Befor. ¹¹ And they found an Ægyptian in the field, and brought him to Daud: and they gaue him bread to eate, and water to drink, ¹² and alfo a peece of a maffe of drie figges, and two bunches of refinnes. Who when he had eaten, his fpirite returned, and he was refreshed: for he had not eaten bread, nor drunken water three daies, and three nightes. ¹³ Daud therefore fayd to him: Whofe art thou? or whence? and whither goeft thou? Who fayd: I am a yong man of Ægypt, the feruant of an Amalacite: and my maifter hath leift me, becaufe I began to be ficke three daies agoe. ¹⁴ For we brake forth at the fouth fide of Cerethi, and againft Iuda, and at the fouth of Caleb, and burnt Siceleg with fire. ¹⁵ And Daud fayd to him: Canft thou bring me to this companie? Who fayd: Sweare to me by God, that thou wilt not kil me, nor deliuer me into the handes of my lord, and I wil bring thee to this companie. And Daud fware to him. ¹⁶ Who when he had brought them, behold they fate vpon the face of al the earth, eating and drinking, and as it were keping feftiual day, for al the praye, and fpoiles which they had taken out of the Land of the Philiftijms, and out of the Land of Iuda. ¹⁷ And Daud ftroke them from euening vntil the euening of the next day, and there efaped not anie of them, but foure hundred yong men, which had gotten vpon camels, and were fled. ¹⁸ Daud therefore reſkewed al thinges, that the Amalecites had taken, and he reſkewed his two wiues. ¹⁹ Neither was there anie wanting from litle to great as wel of their fonnes as of their daughters, and of the fpoiles, and what thinges foeuer they had taken, Daud brought al againe. ²⁰ And he tooke al the flockes & heardes, and draue them before his face: and they fayd: This is the praye of Daud. ²¹ And Daud came to the two hundred men, which being wearie had ftayed, neither were able to folow Daud, and he had bidden them to reft in the Torrent Befor: who came forth to meete Daud, and the people that were with him. And

Dauid coming to the people, faluted them peaceably. ²² And euerie naughtie, and wicked fellow of the men, that had gone with Dauid anfwering, fayd: Because they came not with vs, we wil not geue them anie thing of the praye, which we haue recouered: but let their wife and children fuffice euerie man, whom when they haue receiued, let them depart. ²³ But Dauid fayd: You fhall not doe fo my brethren, of thefe thinges, which our Lord hath deliuered to vs, and hath kept vs, and hath geuen the theeues, that were broken out againft vs, into our handes: ²⁴ neither fhall anie man heare you vpon this talke. For there fhall be equal portion of him that went downe into battel, and of him that abode at the baggage, & they fhall diuide alike. ²⁵ And this hath beene downe from that day, and euer after ^ait was decreed, and ordained as a law in Ifrael. ²⁶ Dauid therefore came into Siceleg, and fent giftes of the praye to the ancientes of Iuda his neighboures, faying: Take a benediction of the praye of our Lords enemies. ²⁷ To them, that were in Bethel, and that were in Ramoth toward the South, and them that were in Gether, ²⁸ and them in Aroer, and them in Sephamoth, and them in Efthamo, ²⁹ and them in Rachal, and them in the cities of Ierameel, and them in the cities of Semi, ³⁰ and them in Harama, and them in the lake of Afan, and them in Athach, ³¹ and them in Hebron, and to the reft that were in thofe places, in the which Dauid had taried, and his men.

^a It is not againft Gods cōmandment, *Deut. 4. & 12.* to make new lawes, fo they be conformable, & not contrarie to Gods former lawes.