

Chapter 3

King Salomon marieth Pharaos fifter. 3. Offereth victims in high places. 5. Admonished by God in his sleepe to demand what he wil, he asketh wifdom to gouerne his people. 10. Which God granteth him, with much richesse also and glorie. 16. He decideth a controuerfie between two wemen contending about a liuing child and a dead.

The kingdom therefore was established in the hand of Salomon, and he was ioyned in affinitye to Pharao the king of Ægypt: for he tooke his daughter, and brought her into the citie of Daud, vntil he accomplished building his owne houle, and the houle of our Lord, and the wal of Ierufalem round about. ² But yet the people immolated in the excelfes: for there was no temple built to the name of our Lord vntil that day. ³ And Salomon loued our Lord, walking in the preceptes of Daud his father, fauing that he immolated in the excelfes, and burnt incense. ⁴ He went therefore into Gabaon, to immolate there: for that was a verie great excelfe: a thousand hostes for holocaust did Salomon offer vpon that altar in Gabaon. ⁵ And our Lord appeared to Salomon in a dreame by night, faying: Aske what thou wilt that I may geue it thee. ⁶ And Salomon said: Thou haft done great mercie with thy feruant Daud my father, euen as he walked in thy fight in truth, and iuftice, and a right hart with thee: for thou haft kept thy great mercie, and haft geuen him a fonne fitting vpon his throne, as it is this day. ⁷ And now Lord God, thou haft made thy feruant to reigne for Daud my father: but I am a litle childe, and ignorant of my going out and coming in. ⁸ And thy feruant is in the middes of the people, which thou haft chofen, a people infinite, which can not be numbred and counted for the multitude. ⁹ Thou shalt therefore geue to thy feruant a docible hart, that he may iudge the people, & difcerne between good and euil. For who fhall be able to iudge this people, this thy people great in number? ¹⁰ The word therefore

was liked before our Lord, that Salomon had asked such a thing. ¹¹ And our Lord sayd to Salomon: Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not desired for thy self manie dayes, nor riches, nor the liues of thine enemies, but hast desired wifedom for thy self to discern iudgement: ¹² behold I haue done vnto thee according to thy wordes, & haue geuen thee a wife hart and intelligent, inso much that none before thee hath beene like thee, nor shal arise after thee. ¹³ Yea and these thinges, which thou did not aske, I haue geuen thee: to witte, riches, and glorie, so that none hath beene like thee among the kinges al dayes hertofore. ¹⁴ And if thou wilt walke in my wayes, and keepe my preceptes, and my commandementes, as thy father walked, I wil make thy dayes long. ¹⁵ Therefore Salomon awaked, and perceiued that it was a dreame: and when he was come to Ierusalem, he stood before the arke of couenant of our Lord, and offered holocaustes, and made pacifique victimes, and a great feast to al his seruantes. ¹⁶ Then came there two women harlottes to the king, and stood before him: ¹⁷ of the which one said: I beseech thee, my lord, I and this woman dwelt in one house, and I was deliuered of a childe beside her in the chamber. ¹⁸ And the third day, after that I was deliuered, she also was deliuered, and we were together, and no other person with vs in the house, except we two. ¹⁹ And this womans childe died in the night. For sleeping she oppressed him. ²⁰ And ryfing in the dead tyme of the night, she tooke my childe from the side of me thy handmayd being asleepe, and layed it in her bosome: and her childe that was dead, she put in my bosome. ²¹ And when I was ryfen in the morning to geue my childe milke, he appeared dead: whom more diligently beholding when it was cleere day, I found that it was not mine which I bare. ²² And the other woman answered: It is not so as thou sayst, but thy childe is dead, and mine liueth. On the contrarie part she sayd: Thou liest: for my childe liueth, and thy childe is dead. And in this maner they stroue before the king. ²³ Then sayd the king: This woman saith: My childe liueth, and thy childe is dead. And this hath answered: No, but

thy childe is dead, and mine liueth. ²⁴ The king therefore faid: Bring me a fword. And when they had brought a fword before the King: ²⁵ Diuide, quoth he, the liuing child into two partes, and geue the halfe part to one, and halfe to the other. ²⁶ But the woman, whose childe was aliue, faid to the king (for her bowels were moued vpon her childe) I befech thee my lord, geue her the childe aliue, and kil it not. On the contrarie part she fayd: ^a)Be it neither mine, nor thine, but let it be diuided. ²⁷ The king answered, and faid: Geue vnto this woman the infant aliue, and let it not be killed for this is the mother therof. ²⁸ Al Ifrael therefore heard the iudgement that the king had iudged, and they feared the king, feing the wifedom of God to be in him to doe iudgement.

^a So heretikes not being able to proue that their fynagogue is the true & permanent Church, would deftroy the Catholique and fo haue none at al.