

Chapter 12

Roboam following youngmens counfel, 16. Ieroboam pofseffeth the third part. ten tribes of his Kingdom. 21. VVhich he endouoring The diuifion of the Kingdom. Seuerall reignes of certaine kinges: and preaching of fpecial prophetes.

And Roboam came into Sicheim: for thither was al Ifrael gathered together to make him king. ² But Ieroboam the fonne of Nabat, when he was yet in Ægypt fugitiue from the face of king Salomon, hearing of his death, returned out of Ægypt. ³ And they sent and called him: Ieroboam therefore came, and al the multitude of Ifrael, and they fpake to Roboam, faying: ⁴ Thy father layd a moft hard yoke vpon vs: thou therefore diminish now a litle of thy fathers moft hard empire, and of the moft heauie yoke, that he layd vpon vs, and we wil ferue thee. ⁵ Who fayd to them: Goe vntil the third day, and returne to me. And when the people was gone, ⁶ king Roboam tooke counfel with the ancientes, that affited before Salomon his father, whiles he yet liued, and he fayd: What counfel doe you geue me, that I may anfwer this people? ⁷ Who fayd to him: If this day thou wilt yeld to this people, and condescend to them, and graunt to their petition, and wilt fpeake to them gentle wordes, they wil be thy feruantes alwaies. ⁸ Who leaft the counfel of the ancientes, which they had geuen him, and admitted yongmen, that had bene brought vp with him, and wayted on him, ⁹ and he fayd to them: What counfel geue you me, that I may anfwer this people, which haue fayd to me: Make the yoke lighter which thy father hath put vpon vs? ¹⁰ And the yongmen, that had bene brought vp with him, fayd: Thus fpeake to this people, which haue fpoken to thee, faying: Thy father aggrauated our yoke, doe thou eafe it. Thus fhalt thou fpeake to them: My leaft finger is groffer then the backe of my father. ¹¹ And now my father layd vpon you a heauie yoke, but I wil adde vpon your yoke:

my father beate you with fcourges, but I wil beate you with fcorpions. ¹² Ieroboam therfore came, and al the people to Roboam the third day, as the king had fpoken, faying: Returne to me the third day. ¹³ And the king answered the people rough wordes, leauing the counfel of the ancientes, which they had geuen him, ¹⁴ and he fpake to them according to the counfel of the youngmen, faying: My father made your yoke heauie, but I wil adde to your yoke: my father beate you with whippes, but I wil beate you with fcorpions. ¹⁵ And the king condefcended not to the people: becaufe our Lord was turned away from him, ^athat he might rayfe vp his word, which he had fpoken in the hand of Ahias the Silonite, to Ieroboam the fonne of Nabat. ¹⁶ The people therfore feing that the king would not heare them, answered him, faying: What part haue we in Daudid? or what inheritance in the fonne of Ifai? Goe into thy tabernacles Ifrael, now fee to thy houfe Daudid. And Ifrael went into their tabernacles. ¹⁷ But ouer the children of Ifrael, whofoeuer dwelt in the cities of Iuda, Roboam reigned. ¹⁸ King Roboam therfore fent Aduram, who was ouer the tributes: and al Ifrael ftoned him, and he died, moreouer King Roboam in haft went vp into his chariote, and fled into Ierufalem: ¹⁹ and Ifrael reuolted from the houfe of Daudid, vntil this prefent day. ²⁰ And it came to paffe when al Ifrael had heard, that Ieroboam was returned, they fent, and called him, an affemblye being gathered, and they made him king ouer al Ifrael, neither did any man folow the houfe of Daudid befide the tribe of Iuda onlie. ²¹ And Roboam came to Ierufalem, and gathered together al the houfe of Iuda, and the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred fourefcore thoufand chofen men warriers, to fight agaynft the houfe of Ifrael, and to reduce the kingdom to Roboam the fonne of Salomon. ²² But the word of our Lord came to Semeias the man of God, faying: ²³ Speake to Roboam the fonne of Salomon, the king of Iuda, and to al the houfe of Iuda, and Benjamin, and

^a This phrafe noteth the fequel, not the final caufe. As *chap. 14. v. 9.*

the reft of the people, faying: ²⁴ Thus fayth our Lord: You fhall not goe vp, neither fhall you fight agaynft your brethren the children of Ifrael: let euerie man returne into his houfe, for this word is done by me. They heard the word of our Lord, and returned from their iourney as our Lord had commanded them. ²⁵ And Ieroboam built Sichem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt there: and departing thence he built Phanuel. ²⁶ And Ieroboam fayd in his hart: Now wil the kingdom returne to the houfe of Dauid, ²⁷ if this people fhall goe vp to make facrifices in the houfe of our Lord into Ierufalem: and the hart of this people wil be turned to their lord Roboam the king of Iuda, and they wil kil me, and returne to him. ²⁸ And finding out ^a) a deuife he made two golden calues, and fayd to them: Goe vp no more into Ierufalem: Behold thy goddes Ifrael, which brought thee out of the Land of Ægypt. ²⁹ And he put one in Bethel, and the other in Dan: ³⁰ and this thing was an occafion of finne: for the people went to adore the calfe, as farre as Dan. ³¹ And he made temples in the excelfes, and prieftes ^b) of the abiectes of the people, which were not of the children of Leui. ³² And he appoynted a folemne day in the eight moneth, the fifteenth day of the moneth, after the fimilitude of the folemnie, that was celebrated in Iuda. And going vp he made in like maner an altar in Bethel, to immolate to the calues, which he had framed: and he ordayned in Bethel prieftes of the ^c) excelfes, which he had made. ³³ And he went vpon the altar, which he had built in Bethel, the fifteenth day of the eight moneth, which he had forged out of his owne hart: and he made a folemnie to the children of Ifrael, and went vp vpon the altar, to burne incenfe.

^a A diuelifh policie to make a religion conformable to the temporal ftate.

^b For fuch a religion fuch prieftes were fitteft.

^c Places on hilles, where they facrificed calues, and other thinges to the images of calues.