

Chapter 13

A prophet sent from Iuda to Bethel foretelleth the birth of Iofias, and destruction of Ieroboams altar, 4. whose hand being fodenly withered, 6. is reftored by the prophets prayer. 11. The fame prophet is deceiued by an other prophet, and flaine by a lion. 33. Hieroboam proceedeth in impietie.

And behold a man of God came out of Iuda, in the word of our Lord into Bethel, Ieroboam ftanding vpon the altar, and cenfing. ² And he cried out againft the altar in the word of our Lord, and fayd: Altar, altar, thus faith our Lord: Behold a child fhall be borne to the houfe of Dauid, named ^aIofias, and he fhall immolate vpon thee prieftes of the excelfes, which now doe burne frankencenfe on thee, and he fhall burne mens bones vpon thee. ³ And he gaue a figne in that day, faying: This fhall be the figne, that our Lord hath fpoken: Behold the altar fhall be clouen, and the afhes fhall be powred out in it. ⁴ And when the king had heard the word of the man of God, which he cried out againft the altar in Bethel, he ftretched forth his hand from the altar, faying: Take him. And his hand withered, which he ftretched forth agaynft him: neither was he able to draw it backe vnto him. ⁵ The altar alfo was clouen, and the afhes were powred out of the altar, according to the figne which the man of God had told before in the word of our Lord. ⁶ And the king faid to the man of God: Befech the face of our Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be reftored me. And the man of God befought the face of our Lord, and the kinges hand was reftored to him, and it became as it was before. ⁷ And the king fpake to the man of God: Come home with me, that thou mayft dyne, and I wil geue thee giftes. ⁸ And the man of God answered the king: If thou wouldeft geue me the halfe part of thy houfe, I wil not

^a This forefhewing long before the name of a childe that fhould be borne, importeth that he fhould do great thinges. See *4. Reg. 22.*

come with thee, nor eate bread, nor drinke water in this place: ⁹ for so was it enioyned in the word of our Lord cōmanding: Thou shalt not eate bread nor drinke water, nor returne by the way that thou camest. ¹⁰ He departed therefore by an other way, and returned not by the way, that he came into Bethel. ¹¹ And a certaine prophete being old dwelt in Bethel, to whom his sonnes came and told him al the workes, that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: and the wordes which he had spoken to the king, they told their father. ¹² And their father sayd to them: What way went he? His sonnes shewed him the way, by which the man of God was gone, which came out of Iuda. ¹³ And he said to his sonnes: Sadle me an affe. Who when they had saddled it, he got vp, ¹⁴ and went after the man of God, and found him sitting vnder a terebinth: and he said to him: Art thou the man of God that camest out of Iuda? He answered: I am he. ¹⁵ And he sayd to him: Come home with me, that thou mayst eate bread. ¹⁶ Who sayd: I can not returne, nor come with thee, neither wil I eate bread, nor drinke water in this place: ¹⁷ because our Lord spake to me in the word of our Lord, saying: Thou shalt not eate bread, and thou shalt not drinke water there, nor returne by the way thou wentest. ¹⁸ Who sayd to him: I also am a prophet like to thee: and ^aan Angel hath spoken to me in the word of our Lord, saying: Bring him backe with thee into thy house, that he may eate bread, and drinke water. He deceiued him, ¹⁹ and brought him backe with him: he did eate therefore bread in his house, and drunke water. ²⁰ And when they fate at the table, the word of our Lord came to the prophete, that brought him backe. ²¹ And he cried out to the man of God, which came out of Iuda, saying: Thus sayth our Lord: Because thou hast not bene obedient to the mouth of our Lord, and hast

^a This man of Bethel was in deede a prophet of God, but in this lied wickedly, and so deceiuing the other prophet, made him to breake Gods commandment, for which he was flaine. VVherupon Hieroboam (whom the wiked prophet fought to please) was lesse afearde to procede in idolatrie.

not kept the commandment, which our Lord thy God commanded thee, ²² and haft returned, and eaten bread, & drunke water in the place wherin he commanded thee that thou fhouldeft not eate bread, nor drinke water, thy dead bodie fhall not be brought into the fepulchre of thy fathers. ²³ And when he had eaten & drunke, he fadled his affe for the prophet, whom he brought backe. ²⁴ Who when he was gone, a lion found him in the way, and ^akilled him, and his bodie was caft forth in the way: and the affe ftood by him, and the lion ftood by the dead bodie. ²⁵ And behold, men paffing by faw the dead bodie caft in the way, and the lion fstanding befide the bodie. And they came and diuulged it in the citie, wherein that old prophet dwelt. ²⁶ Which when that prophet heard, which had brought him backe out of the way, he fayd: It is the man of God, that was difobedient to the mouth of our Lord, and our Lord hath deliuered him to the lion, & he hath torne him, and killed him according to the word of our Lord, that he fpake to him. ²⁷ And he fayd to his fonnes: Sadle me an affe. Who when they had fadled, ²⁸ and he was gone, he found his dead bodie caft forth in the way, and the affe and the lion fstanding by the corfe: the lion ^bdid not eate of the dead bodie, nor hurt the affe. ²⁹ The prophet therefore tooke the corfe of the man of God, and layd it vpon the affe, and returning brought it into the citie of the old prophete, that they might mourne for him. ³⁰ And he layd his corfe in his owne fepulchre: and they mourned for him: Alas, alas my brother. ³¹ And when they had mourned for him, he fayd to his fonnes: When I fhall be dead, burie me in the fepulchre, wherein the man of God is buried: befide his bones lay my bones. ³² For affuredly the word fhall come to paffe, which he hath foretold in the word of our Lord agaynft the altar that is in Bethel: and agaynft al the temples of the excelfes, that are in the cities of Samaria. ³³ After thefe wordes Ieroboam returned not

^a Not only the deceiuer, but alfo he that is deceiued, is guiltie and punifhable for breakig Gods cōmandment.

^b By this it appeareth to be Gods worke and punifhment.

from his wicked way: but on the contrarie part he made of the most abject of the people priestes of the excels: Whosoever would, he filled his hand, and he was made a priest of the excels. ³⁴ And for this cause did the house of Ieroboam sinne, and was overthrowen, and destroyed from the face of the earth.