

Chapter 18

The third yeare of famine, Elias meeting the chief gouernour of Achabs houfe, hardly perfwadeth him to tel Achab, that he is present. 17. Achab blameth Elias; but Elias freely auoucheth that not he, but Achab troubleth Ifrael. 19. By a miracle foure hundred and fiftie falprophetes are conuincd, 40. and are flaine. 41. Elias prayeth and it rayneth.

After manie daies the word of our Lord came to Elias, the third yeare, faying: Goe, and fhew thy felf to Achab, that I may geue rayne vpon the face of the earth. ² Elias therfore went to fhew himfelf to Achab: and there was fore famine in Samaria. ³ And Achab called Abdias the gouernour of his houfe: and Abdias did feare our Lord very much. ⁴ For when Iezabel killed the prophetes of our Lord, he tooke an hundred prophetes, and hid them by fiftie and fiftie in caues, and fed them with bread and water. ⁵ Achab therfore fayd to Abdias: Goe into the land to al the fountaynes of waters, and into al valleys, if perhaps we may finde graffe, and faue the horfes and mules, and the beaftes may not vtterly perish. ⁶ And they diuided the countries betwen them, that they might goe circuite about them: Achab went one way, and Abdias an other way feuerally. ⁷ And when Abdias was in the way, Elias mette him: who when he knew him, ^afel on his face, and fayd: My lord, art not thou Elias? ⁸ To whom he anfwered: I am. Goe, and tel thy lord: Elias is here. ⁹ And he fayd: What haue I finned, that thou deliuerest me thy feruant into the hand of Achab, that he may kil me? ¹⁰ Our Lord thy God liueth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not fent to feeke

^a Abdias adored Elias as the prophete of God, and a holie man not with ciuil honour, for in the world Abdias was the greater perfon, nor with diuine honour, for that had benne idolatrie. It was therfore religious honour, called *dulia*, due to fpiritual excellencie of Gods feruantes.

thee: and al anfwering: He is not here: he adiured al kingdomes and nations, for that thou waft not found. ¹¹ And now thou fayeft to me: Goe, and tel thy lord: Elias is here. ¹² And when I am departed from thee, the Spirit of our Lord wil carie thee into a place, that I know not: and I entering in shal tel Achab, and not finding thee, he wil kil me: and thy feruant feareth our Lord from his infancie. ¹³ Hath it not beene told thee my lord, what I did when Iezabel killed the prophetes of our Lord, that I hid of the prophetes of our Lord an hundred men, by fiftie and fiftie in caues, and fed them with bread and water? ¹⁴ And now thou fayeft: Goe, and tel thy lord: Elias is here: that he may kil me? ¹⁵ And Elias fayd: The Lord of hostes liueth, before whose face I ftand, this day wil I appeare to him. ¹⁶ Abdias therefore went to meete Achab, and told him: and Achab came to meete Elias. ¹⁷ And when he had feene him, he fayd: Art thou he that doeft truble Ifrael? ¹⁸ And he fayd: Not I haue troubled Ifrael, but thou, and the houle of thy father, who haue forfaken the commandmentes of our Lord, and haue folowed Baalim. ¹⁹ Neuertheleffe fend now, and gather vnto me al Ifrael in the mount of Carmel, and the prophetes of Baal foure hundred fiftie, and the prophetes of the groues, foure hundred, which eate of Iezabels table. ²⁰ Achab fent to al the children of Ifrael, and gathered together the prophetes in the mount of Carmel. ²¹ And Elias coming to al the people, fayd: ^aHow long halt you on two fides? If our Lord be God, folow him: but if Baal, folow him. And the people did not anwer him a word. ²² And Elias fayd agayne to the people: I onlie remayne a prophete of our Lord: and the prophetes of Baal are foure hundred and fiftie men. ²³ Let two oxen be geuen vs, and let them choofe to them felues one oxe, and cutting it into peeces let them lay it vpon wood, but put no fyre vnder: and I wil dresse the other oxe, and wil lay it vpon wood, and put no fire

^a Such zelous expoftulation is neceffarie to al Neutrals in religion who are *neither hott nor cold, but lukevarme*, fuch as Angels deteft. *Apoc. 3.*

vnder. ²⁴ Inuocate ye the names of your goddes, & I wil inuocate the name of my Lord: and the God that shal heare by fyre, let the fame be God. And al the people anfwering, sayd: A very good propofition. ²⁵ Elias therfore fayd to the prophetes of Baal: Choofe you one oxe, and make it firft, becaufe you are manie: & inuocate the names of your goddes, and put no fire vnder. ²⁶ Who when they had taken the oxe, which he gaue them, they drefsed it: and they inuocated the name of Baal from morning vntil midday, faying: Baal heare vs. And there was no voice, nor any that answered: and they leaped ouer the altar, that they had made. ²⁷ And when it was now midday, Elias iefsted at them, faying: Crie with a lowder voice: for he is God, and perhaps he fpeaketh, or is in his inne, or in the way, or at the leaft he flepeth, that he muft be waked. ²⁸ They cried therfore with a lowd voice, and cut them felues after their rite with kniues and lancers, til they were al embrewed with bloud. ²⁹ And after the midday was pafte, and whiles they prophecied, the time was come, when they vfed to offer facrifice, neither voice was heard, nor any did anfwer, nor attend them praying: ³⁰ Elias fayd to al the people: Come vnto me. And the people coming to him, he repayred the altar of our Lord, that was deftroyed. ³¹ And he tooke twelue ftones according to the number of the tribes of the children of Iacob, to whom the word of our Lord came, faying: Ifrael fhall be thy name. ³² And he built of the ftones an altar in the name of our Lord: and he made a water gutter, as it were by two furrowes round about the altar, ³³ and he layed the wood in order, and diuided the oxe in iointes, and layd it vpon the wood, ³⁴ and faid: Fil foure buckettes with water, and powre vpon the holocauftes, and vpon the wood. And againe he fayd: Doe it alfo the fecond time. Who hauing donne it the fecond time, he faid: The third time alfo doe the fame. And they did fo the third time, ³⁵ and the waters ranne about the altar, and the trough of the conduite was filled. ³⁶ And when it was now time that the holocauftes fhould be offered, Elias the prophete coming faid: Lord God of Abraham, and Ifaac, & Ifrael, fhew this

day that thou art the God of Ifrael, and I thy feruant, & that according to thy commandment I haue done al these thinges. ³⁷ Heare me Lord, heare me: ^a)that this people may learne, that thou art our Lord God, & thou haft conuerted their hart againe. ³⁸ And the fire of our Lord fel, & deuoured the holocauft, & the wood, and the ftones, licking alfo the duft, and the water, that was in the water gutter. ³⁹ Which when al the people had feene, they fel on their face, and faid: Our Lord he is God, our Lord he is God. ⁴⁰ And Elias faid to them: Apprehend the prophetes of Baal, and let not one efcape of them. Whom when they had taken, Elias brought them to the Torrent cifton, and killed them there. ⁴¹ And Elias fayd to Achab: Goe vp, eate, and drinke: becaufe there is found of much raine. ⁴² Achab went vp to eate and drinke: and Elias went vp into the toppe of Carmel, and flatte on the earth put his face between his knees, ⁴³ and he faid to his feruant: Goe vp, and looke toward the fea. Who when he was gone vp, and had looked, he faid: There is nothing. And againe he faid to him: Returne feuen tymes. ⁴⁴ And in the feuenth time: Behold a litle cloud as it were a mans foote, came vp from the fea. Who faid: Goe vp and fay to Achab: Yoke thy chariote and goe downe, left the raine preuent thee. ⁴⁵ And when he turned him felfe hither and thither, behold the heauens were darkened, and cloudes, and winde, and there fel great raine. Achab therefore going vp went into Iezrahel: ⁴⁶ and the hand of our Lord was made vpon Elias, and his loynes girded he ranne before Achab, vntil he came into Iezrahel.

^a VVhen miracles are attempted for trial of the truth, the diuels powre is refrayned, & only the truth is teftified: *Our Lord vvorking vvithal, & confirming the doctrin vvith fignes folovving. Marc. vlt.*