

Chapter 20

The Syrians threatning and befieging Samaria, 13. God signifieth by a prophet to Achab, that he shal haue the victorie. 20. Which he obtaineth. 23. Also the second yeare fighting in the champaine. 31. But sauing the king of Syrias life, and making league with him, 35. one of the children of the prophetes being flaine, for not ftryking when he was so commanded, 37. an other denounceth reuenge to Achab, for not killing the Syrian King.

Moreouer Benadad the king of Syria, gathered together al his hoft, & two & thirtie kinges with him, & hofes, and chariotes: and going vp fought agaynst Samaria, and befieged it. ² And sending messengers to Achab the king of Ifrael into the citie, ³ he said: Thus saith Benadad: Thy siluer, and thy gold is mine: and thy wiues, and thy principal children be mine. ⁴ And the king of Ifrael answered: According to thy word my lord king, I am thine, and al that is mine. ⁵ And the messengers returning, said: Thus saith Benadad, which sent vs vnto thee: Thy siluer, and thy gold, and thy wiues, and thy children thou shalt geue me. ⁶ To morow therefore this verie houre I wil send my seruantes to thee, and they shal search thy houle, and the houle of thy seruantes: and al that pleaseth them, they shal put in their handes, and take away. ⁷ And the king of Ifrael called al the ancientes of the land, and said: Marke, and see that he seeketh to intrappe vs. For he sent to me for my wiues, and children, and for the siluer and gold: and I said not nay. ⁸ And al the ancientes, and al the people said to him: Heare not, neither agree vnto him. ⁹ He therefore answered the messengers of Benadad: Tel my lord the king: Al thinges for the which thou didst send to me thy seruant in the beginning I wil doe: but this thing I can not doe. ¹⁰ And the messengers returning made report vnto him, who sent againe, and sayd: These thinges doe the goddes to me, and these adde they, if the duft of Samaria shal suffice for the handfulls of al the people, that foloweth me. ¹¹ And the king of Ifrael

anfwering, fayd: Tel him: ^{a)}Let not the girded glorie as the vngirded. ¹² And it came to paffe, when Benadad had heard this word, himfelf and the kinges dranke in paulions, and he fayd to his feruantes: Befette the citie, and they did befette it. ¹³ And behold a prophete coming to Achab the king of Ifrael, faid to him: Thus fayth our Lord: Haft thou in dede fene al this exceding great multitude? behold, I wil deliuer them into thy hand this day: that thou mayft know, that I am the Lord. ¹⁴ And Achab faid: By whom? And he faid to him: Thus faith our Lord: By the feruantes of the princes of the prouinces. And he faid: Who fhall begin to fight? And he faid: Thou. ¹⁵ He therefore muftered the feruantes of the princes of the prouinces, and he found the number of two hundred thirtie two: and he muftered after them the people, al the children of Ifrael, feuen thoufand. ¹⁶ And they went forth at noone. But Benadad dranke al dronken in his tent, and two and thirtie kinges with him, which were come to ayde him. ¹⁷ The feruantes therefore of the princes of the prouinces iffued forth in the forefront. Benadad therefore fent. Who told him, faying: Men are come forth out of Samaria. ¹⁸ And he faid: Whether they come for peace, take them aliuie: or els to fight, aliuie take ye them. ¹⁹ The feruantes therefore of the princes of the prouinces iffued forth, and the reft of the armie folowed: ²⁰ and euerie one ftroke the man, that came againft him: and the Syrians fled, and Ifrael purfued them. Benadad alfo the king of Syria fled on horfebacke with his horfemen. ²¹ Moreouer the king of Ifrael iffuing forth ftroke the horfes and chariotes, and he ftroke Syria with a great flaughter. (²² And a prophet coming to the king of Ifrael, faid to him: Goe, and take courage, and know, and fee what thou doeft: for the

^a Not at the putting on of armour, is time to boaft of victorie, but rather at putting it of. For thofe that are girded, and ftongly armed do vnwifely in truſting their owne ſtrength, and contemning their aduerſaries: for by ſo doing they are often ouerthrowne. And thofe that diftruſting them felues truſt in God, one way or other alwaies preuaile. A neceſſarie leſſon, both in temporal and ſpiritual warfayre.

yeare folowing the king of Syria wil come vp againft thee.) ²³ But the feruantes of the king of Syria faid to him: The goddes of the mountaynes be their goddes, therefore haue they ouercome vs: but it is better that we fight againft them in the champaine, & we fhall ouercome them. ²⁴ Thou therefore do this word: Remoue al the kinges from thine armie, and put captaines for them: ²⁵ and repaire the number of fouldiars, that are flaine of thine, and horfes according to the old horfes, & chariotes according to the chariotes, which thou hadft before: and we wil fight againft them in the champaine, and thou fhalt fee that we fhall ouercome them. He beleued their counfel, and did fo. ²⁶ Therefore after a yeare was paffed, Benadad muftered the Syrians, and went vp into Aphec, to fight againft Ifrael. ²⁷ Moreouer the children of Ifrael were muftered, and taking victuals they went forth on the contrarie fide, and camped againft them, as it were two litle flockes of goates: but the Syrians filled the land. (²⁸ And a man of God coming, faid to the king of Ifrael: Thus faith our Lord: Because the Syrians haue faid: The Lord is God of the mountaines, and is not God of the Valleys: I wil geue al this great multitude into thy hand, and ^a)you fhall know that I am the Lord.) ²⁹ And feuen dayes did thefe, and they direct their armies one againft the other, and in the feuenth day was the battel fought: and the children of Ifrael froke the Syrians an hundred thoufand footemen in one day. ³⁰ And they that remained in Aphec, fled into the citie: and the wal fel vpon feuen and twentie thoufand men, that were leaft. Moreouer Benadad fleing entered the citie, into a chamber that was within a chamber, ³¹ and his feruantes faid to him: Behold, we haue heard that the kinges of the houfe of Ifrael are merciful: Let vs therefore put fackclothes on our loynes, and cordes on our heades, and goe forth to the king of Ifrael: perhaps he wil faue our liues. ³² They girded their loines with

^a Manie victories and other benefites were beftowed vpon Achab, to make him knowe God: but he cōtemning them al remained in his impietie, and finally was flaine. *ch. 22. v. 38.*

sackclothes, and put cordes on their heades, and came to the king of Ifrael, and said to him: Thy seruant faith: Let my foule liue, I befech thee. And he said: If he be yet aliue he is my brother. ³³ Which the men tooke for good lucke: and in haft caught the word of his mouth, and said: Thy brother Benadad. And he said to them: Goe and bring him to me. Benadad therefore came out to him, and he lifted him vp into his chariote. ³⁴ Who said to him: The cities which my father tooke from thy father, I wil render: doe thou make thee ftretes in Damafcus, as my father made in Samaria, and I confederate wil depart from thee. He therefore made a league, and dimiffed him. ³⁵ Then a certaine man of the children of the prophetes sayd to his felow in the word of our Lord: Strike me. But he would not ftrike. ³⁶ To whom he said: Because thou wouldest not heare the word of our Lord, behold thou fhalt depart from me, and a lion shal ftrike thee. And when he was departed a litle from him, a lyon found him, and flew him. ³⁷ But finding alfo an other man, he said to him: Strike me. Who froke him, and wounded him. ³⁸ The prophete therefore went, and mette the king in the way, and with fprinkling of duft changed his face and his eies. ³⁹ And when the king paffed by, he cried to the king, and said: Thy seruant went forth to fight hand ftrokes: and when a certaine man was fled, one brought him to me, and said: Keepe this man: who if he shal flippe away, thy life shal be for his life, or thou shalt pay a talent of filuer. ⁴⁰ And whiles I being trubled turned hither and thither, fodenly he appeared not. And the king of Ifrael sayd to him: This is thy iudgement, which thy self haft decreed. ⁴¹ But he forthwith wyped of the duft from his face, and the king of Ifrael knew him, that he was of the prophetes. ⁴² Who sayd to him: Thus sayth our Lord: ^a)Because thou haft let goe out of thy hand a man worthie to die, thy life fhall be for his life, and thy people for his people. ⁴³ The king of Ifrael

^a Foolifh pittie in fparing a dangerous & common enimie is offenfiffe to God, & feuerely punifhed by his iuftice.

therefore returned into his houfe, contemning to heare, & raging came into Samaria.