

Chapter 22

Achab King of Ifrael confulting and beleuing false prophetes rather then Micheas a true prophet, accompanied with Iofaphat king of Iuda, refolueth to fight againft the Syrians for Ramoth Galaad. 26. Committeth Micheas to prifon, 29. procedeth to the warre, 34. is flaine, and Ochozias fuccedeth. 41. Iofaphat refufeth to traffike longer with Ochozias; dieth, and his fonne Ioram reigneth. 52. Ochozias foloweth the euil fteppes of his parents.

There paffed therefore three yeares without warre between Syria and Ifrael. ² And in the third yeare, Iofaphat the king of Iuda went downe to the king of Ifrael. (³ And the king of Ifrael fayd to his feruantes: Are you ignorant that Ramoth Galaad is ours, and we neglect to take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?) ⁴ And he fayd to Iofaphat: Wilt thou come with me to fight into Ramoth Galaad? ⁵ And Iofaphat fayd to the king of Ifrael: I as I am, fo thou alfo: my people and thy people are one: and my horfemen thy horfemen. And Iofaphat fayd to the king of Ifrael: Aske, I befech thee, this day the word of our Lord. ⁶ The king of Ifrael therefore affembled the prophetes, about foure hundred men, and he fayd to them: Shal I goe into Ramoth Galaad to fight, or fitte ftill? Who answered: Goe vp, and our Lord wil geue it into the kinges hand. ⁷ And Iofaphat fayd: ^aIs there not here fome prophete of our Lord, that we may aske by him? ⁸ And the king of Ifrael fayd to Iofaphat: There is one man leaft, by whom we may aske our Lord: but I hate him, becaufe he doeth not prophecie vnto me good, but euil, Micheas the fonne of Iemla. To whom Iofaphat fayd: Speake not fo ô king. ⁹ The king of Ifrael therefore called a certaine eunuch, and fayd to him: Make haft, and bring hither Micheas the fonne of Iemla. ¹⁰ And the king of Ifrael, and Iofaphat the king of Iuda fate eche in his throne

^a The godlie King Iofaphat iuftly fufpecting the fchifmatical false prophetes, aduifed the other King to cōfult a true prophet of God.

clothed with royal attyre, in a court befide the doore of the gate of Samaria, and al the prophetes prophecied before them. ¹¹ Sedecias the fonne of Chanaana made him self ^a)hornes of yron, and fayd: Thus fayth our Lord: With theſe ſhalt thou ſtrike Syria, til thou deſtroy it. ¹² And al the prophetes in like maner prophecied, fay- ing: Aſcend into Ramoth Galaad, and goe proſperouſly, & our Lord wil deliuer it into the Kinges handes. ¹³ But the meſſenger, that went to cal Micheas, ſpake to him, fayng: Behold the wordes of the prophetes with one mouth preach good thinges to the king: let thy word therfore be like to theirs, and ſpeake good thinges. ¹⁴ To whom Micheas fayd: Our Lord liueth, whatſoeuer our Lord ſhal tel me, that wil I ſpeake. ¹⁵ He therfore came to the king, and the king fayd to him: Micheas, ſhal we goe into Ramoth Galaad to fight, or fitte ſtil? To whom he answered: ^b)Aſcend, and goe proſperouſely, and our Lord wil deliuer it into the kinges handes. ¹⁶ But the king fayd to him: I adiure thee agayne and agayne, that thou ſpeake not to me but that which is true in the name of our Lord. ¹⁷ And he fayd: I ſaw al Ifrael diſperſed in the mountaynes, as ſheepe not hauing a ſhepeheard, and our Lord fayd: Theſe haue no maifter: let euerie man returne into his houſe in peace. (¹⁸ Therfore the king of Ifrael fayd to Iofaphat: Did I not tel thee, that he doeth not prophecie me good, but alwaies euil?) ¹⁹ But he adding, fayd: Therfore heare the word of our Lord: I ſaw our Lord fitting vpon his throne, and al the hoſte of heauen affitting him on the right hand and on the left: ²⁰ and our Lord fayd: Who ſhal deceiue Achab the king of Ifrael, that he may goe vp, and fal in Ramoth Galaad? And one fayd theſe maner of wordes, and an

^a Falſprophetes imitate true prophetes in ſome exterior thinges, to make their prophecies ſeme more authentical. Such hornes appeared in a propheticall viſion to Zacharie the prophet. *Zach. 1. v. 18.*

^b The prophet geueth not this for a reſolute anſwer, but ſeing the king wil goe, he prayeth he may go proſperouſly. And the king conceiueth no otherwiſe of his anſwer, and therfore vrgeth him to anſwer reſolutly in the next wordes, *I adiure thee &c.*

other otherwise. ²¹ And there came forth a spirit, and stood before our Lord, and sayd: I wil deceiue him. To whom our Lord spake: Wherein? ²² And he sayd: I wil goe forth, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of al his prophetes. And our Lord sayd: Thou shalt deceiue, and shalt preuayle: ^a)goe forth, and doe so. ²³ Now therefore behold our Lord hath geuen the spirite of lying in the mouth of al thy prophetes, that are here, and our Lord hath spoken euil agaynft thee. ²⁴ And Sedecias the sonne of Chanaana came, and smote Micheas on the cheeke, and sayd: Hath the Spirit of our Lord leaft me, and hath it spoken to thee? ²⁵ And Micheas sayd: Thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt enter into thy chamber, ^b)within the chamber to be hid. ²⁶ And the king of Irael sayd: Take Micheas, and let him tarie with Amon the gouernour of the citie, and with Ioab the sonne of Amelech, ²⁷ and tel them: Thus sayth the king: Cast this man into prifon, and feede him with bread of tribulation, and water of distresse, til I returne in peace. ²⁸ And Micheas sayd: If thou returne in peace, our Lord hath not spoken in me. And he sayd: Heare al ye peoples. ²⁹ Therefore the king of Irael went vp, and Iofaphat the king of Iuda into Ramoth Galaad. ³⁰ The king of Irael therefore sayd to Iofaphat: Take armour, and goe into the battel, and put on thyne owne garmentes. Moreover the king of Irael changed his habite, and went into the battel. ³¹ And the king of Syria had commanded the princes of his chariotes thirtie and two, saying: You shal not fight agaynft any leffer, or greater, but agaynft the king of Irael onlie. ³² When therefore the princes of the chariotes had seene Iofaphat, they suspected that he was the king of Irael, and making a violent affault they fought agaynft him: & Iofaphat cried out. ³³ And

^a The coherence of the text sheweth that God only permitted, but commanded not the diuel to deceiue Achab. So S. Augustin *li. 2. q. vlt. ad Simplic.* S. Greg. *li. 2, c. 21. Moral.* and other fathers explicate this & like places.

^b VVhen this false prophet heard that the kīg was flaine he hidde him selfe, fearing the kings sonnes, that they would kil him. *Iofephus li. 8. c. 14. Antiq.*

the princes of the chariotes perceiued that he was not the king of Ifrael, and they ceafed from him. ³⁴ And a certaine man bent his bow, directing the arrow at al aduenture, and ^a)by chance he ftroke the king of Ifrael between the lunges and the ftomacke. But he fayd to his cochere: Turne thy hand, and carrie me out of the armie, becaufe I am greuoufely wounded. ³⁵ The bat-tel therefore was fought that day, and the king of Ifrael ftood in his chariote agaynft the Syrians, and he died in the euening: & the bloud of the wound ranne into the middes of the chariote, ³⁶ and the herauld founded in al the armie before the funne fette, faying: Euerie man returne into his citie, and into his countrie. ³⁷ And the king died, and was carried into Samaria: and they buried the king in Samaria, ³⁸ and washed his chariote in the poole of Samaria, and the dogges licked his bloud, and they washed the raynes of the bridle, according to the word of our Lord which he had fpoken. ³⁹ But the reft of the wordes of Achab, and al that he did, and the houfe of yuorie, that he built, and of al the cities that he built, are not thefe thinges written in the Booke of the wordes of the daies of the kinges of Ifrael? ⁴⁰ Achab therefore flept with his fathers, and Ochozias his fonne reigned for him. ⁴¹ But Iofaphat the fonne of Afa began to reigne ouer Iuda the fourth yeare of Achab the king of Ifrael. ⁴² Fiue and thirtie yeares old was he when he began to reigne, and fiue and twentie yeares he reigned in Ierufalem: the name of his mother was Azuba the daughter of Salai. ⁴³ And he walked in al the way of Afa his father, and he declined not from it: and he did that which was right in the fight of our Lord. ⁴⁴ But yet he tooke not away the excelfes: for as yet the people did facrifice, and burnt incenfe in the excelfes. ⁴⁵ And Iofaphat had peace with the king of Ifrael. ⁴⁶ But the reft of the wordes of Iofaphat, and his workes, which

^a It happened by chance in refpect of the archers intentiō, but otherwife by Gods prouidence directing his hand. So Achabs craftie perfwading Iofaphat to put on his kinglie attyre, (*v. 30.*) him felf fighting in vulgar armour, faued him not from iuft reuenge.

he did, and his battels, are not these things written in the Booke of the wordes of the daies of the kinges of Iuda? ⁴⁷ Yea and the remnant of the effeminate, which remayned in the daies of Afa his father, he tooke out of the land. ⁴⁸ Neither was there then a king appoynted in Edom. ⁴⁹ But king Iofaphat had made nauies on the sea, which should not faile into Ophir for gold: and they could not goe, because they were broken in Afiongaber. ⁵⁰ Then sayd Ochozias the sonne of Achab to Iofaphat: Let my seruantes goe with thy seruantes in the shippes. And Iofaphat would not. ⁵¹ And Iofaphat flept with his fathers, and was buried with them in the Citie of Dauid his father: and Ioram his sonne reigned for him. ⁵² And Ochozias the sonne of Achab began to reigne ouer Ifrael in Samaria, in the seuententh yeare of Iofaphat the king of Iuda, and he reigned ouer Ifrael two yeares. ⁵³ And he did euil in the sight of our Lord, and walked in the way of his father and his mother, and in the way of Ieroboam the sonne of Nabat, who made Ifrael to sinne. ⁵⁴ He serued also Baal, and adored him, and prouoked our Lord the God of Ifrael, according to al things which his father had done.