

Chapter 1

Tobias of the tribe of Nephthali, neuer communicateth in Ieroboams scisme, 9. teacheth his sonne to feare God, and flee sinne. 11. Being in captiuitie eateth not forbidden meates, as others do. 13. Amongst other workes of mercie, he lendeth tenne talentes of filuer to Gabelus. 21. Is persecuted and fpoyled. 24. Shortly the king being flaine, he recouereth libertie and his goodes.

The first part.
Tobias his holie
maner of life.

Tobias of the tribe, and citie of Nephthali (which is in the vpper partes of Galilee aboue Naaßon, beyond the way, that leadeth to the west, hauing on the right hand the citie Sephet) ² when he was captiue in the daies of Salmanafar the king of the Affyrians, yet being in captiuitie, he forfooke not the way of truth, ³ so that he imparted al things that he could make, dayly to his brethren captiues with him, which were of his kinred. ⁴ And whereas he was yonger then al the tribe of Nephthali, yet he did no childish thing in his worke. ⁵ Finally when ^aal went to the golden calues, which Ieroboam the king of Ifrael had made, he alone fled the companies of al, ⁶ and went into Ierufalem to the temple of our Lord, and there adored our Lord God of Ifrael, offering faithfully al his first frutes, and his tithes, ⁷ so that in the third yeare he ministred al the tithing to the profelytes, and strangers. ⁸ These thinges and the like to these did he obserue being a childe according to the law of God. ⁹ But when he was a man, he tooke to wife Anna of his owne tribe, and he begat a sonne of her, geuing him his owne name, ¹⁰ whom from his infancie he taught to feare God, and to abstayne from al sinne. ¹¹ Therefore when by the captiuitie he was come with his wife and sonne into the citie of Niniue, with al his tribe, ¹² (when al did eate of the meates of the Gentiles) he kept his foule, and neuer was contaminated in their meates. ¹³ And becaufe he was mindful of our Lord in al

^a Not absolutely al, but very manie: for some of the same tribe and kinred did also feare God. *c. 2. v. 2.*

his hart, God gaue him grace in the fight of Salmanafar the king, ¹⁴ and he gaue him leaue to goe whitherfoeuer he would, hauing libertie to doe what thinges foeuer he would. ¹⁵ He therfore went to al that were in the captiuitie, and gaue them holefome admonitions. ¹⁶ And when he was come into Rages a citie of the Medes, and had ten talentes of filuer of thefe, wherwith he had beene honoured of the king: ¹⁷ and when in a great multitude of his kinred, he faw Gabelus ftand in nede, who was of his tribe, vnder a bil of his hand he gaue him the fayd weight of filuer. ¹⁸ But after much time, Salmanafar the king being dead, when Sennacherib his fonne reigned for him, and eftemed the children of Ifrael odious in his fight: ¹⁹ Tobias dayly went through al his kinred, and confortd them, and diuided to euerie one, as he was able, of his goods: ²⁰ the hungrie he nourifhed, and to the naked he gaue clothes, and the dead, and them that were flayne, he buryed carefully. ²¹ Finally when king Sennacherib was returned fleing from Iewrie the flaughter, that God had made about him for his blafphemie, and being angrie flewe manie of the children of Ifrael, Tobias buryed their bodies. ²² But when it was told the king, he commanded him to be flayne, and tooke al his fubftance. ²³ But Tobias fleing with his fonne and with his wife, nakedly lay hid, becaufe manie loued him. ²⁴ But after fourtie fiue dayes the king was flayne of his owne fonnes, ²⁵ and Tobias returned into his houfe, and al his fubftance was reftored to him.