

Chapter 2

Dauid is receiued and annointed King of Iuda. 5. He commendeth thofe of Iabes Galaad, which buried Saul. 8. Ifbofeth the fonne of Saul reigneth ouer the reft of Ifrael. 12. Whereby rifeth sharpe warre between Abner and Ioab, chief captaines of the two kinges. 30. Manie more are flaine of Abners partie then of Ioabs.

Therefore after thefe things Dauid confulted our Lord, faying: Shal I goe vp into one of the cities of Iuda? And our Lord faid to him: Goe vp. And Dauid faid: Whither fhall I goe vp? And he answered him: Into Hebron. ² Dauid therefore went vp, and his two wiues, Achinoam the Iezrahelite, and Abigail the wife of Nabal of Carmel: ³ yea and the men alfo that were with him, Dauid brought euery one with his houshold: and they abode in the townes of Hebron. ⁴ And the men of Iuda came, and ^aannoynted Dauid there, to reigne ouer the houfe of Iuda. And it was told Dauid, that the men of Iabes Galaad had buried Saul. ⁵ Dauid therefore fent meffengers vnto the men of Iabes Galaad, and fayd vnto them: Bleffed be you to our Lord, which haue done this mercie with your lord Saul, and haue buried him. ⁶ And now our Lord certes wil render you mercie and truth: but I alfo wil requite you the good turne, for that you haue done this thing. ⁷ Let your handes be ftrenghned, and be yee ftout men: for although your lord Saul be dead, yet the houfe of Iuda hath annointed me to be their king. ⁸ But Abner the fonne of Ner prince of Sauls armie, tooke Ifbofeth the fonne of Saul, & led him about through the campe, ⁹ and ordained him king ouer Galaad, and ouer Geffuri, and ouer Iezrahel, & ouer Ephraim, and ouer Benjamin, and ouer al Ifrael. ¹⁰ Fourtie yeares old was Ifbofeth the fonne of Saul when he began to reigne ouer Ifrael, and he reigned

^a This fecond annoynting, as alfo the third, (*ch. 5.*) was in confirmation and to put him in poffeffion of the firft made long before. *1. Reg. 16.*

a)two yeares: and only the houfe of Iuda folowed Daud. 11 And the number of the daies, that Daud abode, reigning in Hebron ouer the houfe of Iuda, was feuen yeares and fix monethes. 12 And Abner the fonne of Ner went forth, and the feruantes of Ifbofeth the fonne of Saul, out of the campe into Gabaon. 13 Moreouer Ioab the fonne of Saruia, and the feruants of Daud went forth, and mette them befide the poole of Gabaon, and when they were come together into one place, they fate one ouer againft an other: thefe on the one fide of the poole, and they on the other. 14 And Abner faid to Ioab: Let the yong men rife, and ^{b)}play before vs. And Ioab answered: Let them rife. 15 There rofe therefore and paffed twelue in number, of Benjamin, of Ifbofeths part the fonne of Saul, and twelue of the feruantes of Daud. 16 And euery one taking the head of his mate, fticked his fword into the fide of his aduerfarie, and they fel together: & the name of the place was called: The field of the valiantes, in Gabaon. 17 And there rofe a very fore bat-tel in that day: and Abner was put to flight, & the men of Ifrael, by the feruantes of Daud. 18 And there were there the three fonnes of Saruia, Ioab, and Abifai, and Afael: moreouer Afael was a moft fwift runner, as it were one of the roes, that abide in the wooddes. 19 And Afael purfued Abner, and declined not to the right hand nor to the left omitting to purfue Abner. 20 Abner therefore looked backe behind him, and faid: Art thou Afael? Who answered: I am. 21 And Abner faid to him: Goe to the right hand, or to the left, and apprehend one of the young men, and take to thee his fpoyles. But Afael would not leaue but vrged him. 22 And againe Abner faid to Afael: Retyre, and do not folowe me, left I be compelled to fticke thee to the ground, and I fhall not be able to lift vp my face to Ioab thy brother. 23 Who

^a He reigned two yeares before he beganne to decline, but in al feuen yeares and a half, for fo long Daud reigned only in Iuda. *v. 11.*

^b Hence perhaps cometh the phraife, that *one armie playeth vpon an other vvith fmal and great artillerie*, that is, ftrike and kil their enimies with al fortes of gunnes. *Iofephus li. 7. c. 1. Antiq.*

contemned to heare, and would not goe aſide: Abner therefore ſtroke him, with his ſpeare turned backe in the priuy partes, and thruſt him through, and he dyed in the ſame place: and al that paſſed by that place, wherein Aſael fel and dyed, did ſtay. ²⁴ But whiles Ioab and Abifai purſued Abner fleeing, the funne went downe: and they came as farre as the hil of the water conduit, that is ouer againſt the valley the way of the deſert in Gabaon. ²⁵ And the children of Benjamin were aſſembled together to Abner: and being gathered in a plumpe into one troupe, they ſtoode in the toppe of one hil. ²⁶ And Abner cried out to Ioab, and ſaid: Shal thy ſword rage vnto vtter deſtruction? knoweſt thou not that deſparation is dangerous? how long differreſt thou to ſay to the people, that they leaue to purſue their brethren? ²⁷ And Ioab ſaid: Our Lord liueth, if thou haदेſt ſpoken, in the morning had the people retyred, from purſuing their brethren. ²⁸ Ioab therefore founded the trumpette, and al the armie ſtood, neither did they purſue Iſrael any further, nor enter into fight. ²⁹ And Abner and his men went through the champaine country, al that night: and they paſſed Iordan, and hauing viewed al Beth horon, came to the campe. ³⁰ Moreouer Ioab returning, after he had leiſt Abner, aſſembled al the people: and there wanted of Dauids ſeruantes nintene men, beſide Aſael. ³¹ But the ſeruantes of Dauid ſtroke of Benjamin, and of the men, that were with Abner three hundred three ſcore, who alſo died. ³² And they tooke Aſael, & buried him in the ſepulchre of his father in Bethlehem: and Ioab, and the men that were with him, walked al the night, and in the very twolight they came into Hebron.