

Chapter 11

Dauid ouercome with concupifcence committeth adulterie with Bethfabee: 6. not finding other meanes to hide the crime, caufeth her husband Vrias to be flaine. 27. Then marieth her, she beareth a fonne, and God is offended.

And it came to paffe the yeare turning about, at fuch time when kinges are wont to procede to battels, Dauid fent Ioab, and his feruantes with him, and al Ifrael, and they fpoyled the children of Ammon, and befieged Rabba: but Dauid remayned in Ierufalem. ² Whiles thefe things were in doing, it chanced that Dauid arofe from his bed after noone, and walked in the toppes of the kinges houfe: and he faw a woman washing her felf, ouer againft the rooffe of his houfe: and the woman was very beautiful. ³ The king therefore fent, and inquired what woman it was. And it was told him, that she was Bethfabee the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Vrias the Hetheite. ⁴ Dauid therefore fending meffengers, ^a)tooke her, who when she was entered in to him, he flept with her: and forthwith she was fanctified from her vnclennes: ⁵ and she returned into her houfe hauing conceiued a childe. And fending she told Dauid, and fayd: I haue conceiued. ⁶ And Dauid fent to Ioab, faying: Send me Vrias the Hetheite. And Ioab fent Vrias to Dauid. ⁷ And Vrias came to Dauid. And Dauid asked how wel Ioab did, & the people, and how the warre was ordered. ⁸ And Dauid fayd to Vrias: Goe into thy houfe, and wash thy feete. And Vrias went forth out of the kinges houfe, and the kinges meate folowed him. ⁹ But Vrias flept before the gate of

^a Theodofius the Emperour pretending to be excufed from punifhment for his finnes, becaufe king Dauid alfo was an adulterer and a manflayer, S. Ambrofe replied, faying: *Thou haft folovved king Dauid erring, folovv him repenting.* After which admonition the Emperour moft humbly did publique penance inioyned him by the Bifhop. *in vita. Theodofij.*

the kinges house, with the other seruantes of his lord, and went not downe to his owne house. ¹⁰ And it was told Dauid of them that sayd: Vrias went not into his house. And Dauid sayd to Vrias: didst thou not come from thy iourney? Why didst thou not goe downe into thy house? ¹¹ And Vrias sayd to Dauid: The Arke of God and Ifrael and Iuda dwel in paulions, & my lord Ioab and the seruantes of my lord abide vpon the face of the earth: and shal I enter into my house, to eate and to drinke, and sleepe with my wife? by thy health, and by the health of thy foule I wil not do this thing. ¹² Dauid therefore sayd to Vrias: Tarie here also this day, and to morow I wil difmiffe thee. Vrias taried in Ierusalem, that day and the next: ¹³ and Dauid called him to eate before him and to drinke, and he made him drunke: who going out at euen, slept on his couche with the seruantes of his lord, and went not downe into his house. ¹⁴ The morning therefore was come, and Dauid wrote a letter to Ioab: and sent it by the hand of Vrias, ¹⁵ writing in the letter: Sette ye Vrias in the front of the battel, where the fight is strongest: and leaue him, that being stricken he may die. ¹⁶ Therefore when Ioab befieged the citie, he put Vrias in the place where he knew the strongest men were. ¹⁷ And the men issuing out of the citie, fought against Ioab, and there fel of the people of the seruantes of Dauid, and Vrias also the Hetheite died. ¹⁸ Ioab therefore sent, and told Dauid al the story of the battel: ¹⁹ and he commanded the messenger, saying: When thou hast told al the story of the battel to the king, ²⁰ if thou see him to be angrie, and he say: Why approached you to the wal, to fight? Knew you not that manie weapons are throwen from aboue of the wal? ²¹ Who stroke Abimelec the sonne of Ierobaal? did not a woman cast vpon him a peece of a millstone from the wal, and flew him in Thebes? Why approached you nere the wal? Thou shalt say: Also thy seruant Vrias the Hetheite is slayne. ²² The messenger therefore departed, and came, and told Dauid al thinges that Ioab had commanded him. ²³ And the messenger sayd to Dauid: The men haue preuailed against vs, and they issued forth to vs into the field: and

we violently purfewed them euen to the gate of the citie.
²⁴ And the archers fhot arrowes at thy feruantes from of
the wal aboue: and there died of the kinges feruantes,
yea and thy feruant Vrias the Hetheite is dead. ²⁵ And
Dauid fayd to the meffenger: Thus fhalt thou fay to
Ioab: Let not this thing difcomfort thee: for the euent
of warre is diuerfe: now this man, and now that man
the fword confumeth: encourage thy warryers againft
the citie, that thou mayeft deftroy it, and exhort them.
²⁶ Also the wife of Vrias heard, that Vrias her husband
was dead, & she mourned for him. ²⁷ And the mourning
being pafte Dauid fent, and brought her in into his houfe,
and fhe became his wife, and she bare him a fonne: and
this thing which Dauid had done, was difpleafant before
our Lord.