

Chapter 14

Ioab fuborning a woman firft to propofe the fuite by a parable, 21. obtayneth pardon for Abfalom. 24. But fo that he appeareth not in the kinges prefence. 25. He is exceeding fayre, hath three fonnes and one daughter. 29. Ioab refufing to deale further for his free releafe, Abfalom burneth his corne. 31. Then Ioab procureth his acceffe to the king.

And Ioab the fonne of Saruia, vnderftanding that the kinges hart was turned to Abfalom, ² he fent to Thecua, and tooke thence a prudent woman: and he fayd to her: Feyne that thou mourneft, and put on a mourning garment, and be not annoynted with oyle, that thou mayft be as a woman now a long tyme mourning for one dead. ³ And thou fhalt goe in vnto the king, and fhalt fpeake to him thefe maner of wordes. And Ioab put the wordes in her mouth. ⁴ Therefore when the woman of Thecua was gone in to the king, fhe fel before him vpon the ground, and adored and faid: Saue me ô king. ⁵ And the king fayd to her: What matter haft thou? Who answered: Alas, I am a wodow woman: for my hufband is dead. ⁶ And thy handmaide had two fonnes: who fel at wordes againft eche other in the field, and there was none to ftay them: and the one ftroke the other, and flew him. ⁷ And behold the whole kinred ryfing againft thy handmaide, faith: Deliuer him that hath ftriken his brother that we may kil him for the life of his brother, whom he hath flayne, and may cleane deftroy the heire: and they feeke to extinguiſh my ſparkle, which is leift, that there may no name remaine to my hufband, nor reliques vpon the earth. ⁸ And the king faid to the woman: Goe into thy houfe, and I wil geue commandement for thee. ⁹ And the woman of Thecua faid to the king: Vpon me, my lord, be the iniquitie, and vpon the houfe of my father: but be the king and his throne innocent. ¹⁰ And the king faid: He that fhall gaynefay thee bring him to me, & he fhall adde no more to touch thee. ¹¹ Who fayd: Let the king remember our

Lord his God, that the next of blood be not multiplied to reuenge, and that they kil not my fonne. Who sayd: Our Lord liueth, there shal not fal of the heares of thy sonne vpon the earth. ¹² The woman therefore sayd: Let thy handmayde speake to my lord the king a word. ¹³ And he sayd: Speake. ¹⁴ And the woman sayd: Why haft thou thought such a thing against the people of God, and why hath the king spoken this word, that he would finne, and not bring againe his banished one? ¹⁵ We doe al dye, and as waters that returne not, we fal downe on the earth: neither wil God haue a foule to perish, but reuoketh, meaning that he perish not altogether that is cast of. ¹⁶ Now therefore I come, that I may speake to my lord the king this word, the people being present. And thy handmayd sayd: I wil speake to the king, if by any meanes the king may doe the word of his handmaide. ¹⁷ And the king hath heard, to deliuer his handmaide out of the hand of al, that would deftroy me out of the inheritance of our Lord, and my sonne together. ¹⁸ Let thy handmaide therefore say, that the word of my lord the king be made as a sacrifice. For euen as an Angel of God, so is my lord the king, that he is moued neither with blessing nor cursing: Wherefore our Lord also thy God is with thee. ¹⁹ And the king answering, sayd to the woman: Hide not from me the thing that I aske thee. And the woman sayd to him: Speake my lord king. ²⁰ And the king sayd: Is the hand of Ioab with thee in al these thinges? The woman answered, and sayd: By the health of thy soule, my lord king, it is neither on the left hand, nor on the right of al these thinges, which my lord the king hath spoken: for thy seruant Ioab, he commanded me, and he put al these wordes into the mouth of thy handmayde. ²¹ That I should change the forme of this speach, thy seruant Ioab commanded this: and thou my lord king, art wise, as an Angel of God hath wisdom, that thou vnderstandest al thinges vpon the earth. ²² And the king sayd to Ioab: Behold I being pacified haue done thy word: Goe therefore, and cal agayne the boy Abalom. ²³ And Ioab falling vpon

his face vnto the earth, adored, and ^a)bleffed the king: and Ioab fayd: This day thy feruant hath vnderftood, that I haue found grace in thy fight my lord king: for thou haft done the word of thy feruant. ²⁴ Ioab therefore arofe and went into Geffur, and brought Abfalom into Ierufalem. ²⁵ But the king fayd: Let him returne into his houfe, and not fee my face. Abfalom therefore returned into his houfe, and the kings face he faw not. ²⁶ Moreouer like as Abfalom, there was not a man in al Ifrael fo beautiful, and exceding comelie: from the fole of the foote to the crowne there was no blemish in him. ²⁷ And when he powled his heare (once a yeare he was powled, becaufe his bush did burden him) he weighed the heare of his head at two hundred ficles, of the common weight. ²⁸ And there was borne to Abfalom ^b)three fonnes: and one daughter, named Thamar, of a goodly beautie. ²⁹ And Abfalom abode in Ierufalem two yeares, and faw not the kinges face. ³⁰ He therefore fent to Ioab, to fend him to the king: who would not come to him. And when he had fent the fecond time, and he would not come to him, ³¹ he fayd to his feruantes: You know the filde of Ioab befide my filde, that hath barley harueft: goe therefore and burne it with fyre. The feruantes therefore of Abfalom burnt the corne with fyre. And Ioabs feruantes coming, renting their garmentes, fayd: The feruantes of Abfalom haue burnt part of the filde with fyre. ³² And Ioab arofe, & came to Abfalom in his houfe, & fayd: Why haue thy feruantes burnt my corne with fire? ³³ And Abfalom answered Ioab: I fent to thee befeching thee that thou wouldeft come vnto me, and I might fend thee to the king, and thou fhouldeft fay to him: Wherefore came I out of Geffur? It was better for me to be there: I befech thee therefore that I may fee the face of the king: & if he be mindeful of mine iniquitie, let him kil me. ³⁴ Ioab therefore entring in to the king, told him al thinges: and Abfalom was called,

^a Praised and thanked the king.

^b Thefe children died before him as appeareth. *cha. 18.*

and he entered in to the king: and adored vpon the face
of the earth before him: and the king kiffed Abfalom.