

Chapter 15

Abfalom getteth fauour of the people, 7. and conspireth in Hebron agaynft his father. 14. VVho fleeing, 19. with difficultie permitteth Ethas a stranger to goe with him: 24. but fendeth Sadoc, and other prieftes and leuites with the arke back into the citie. 31. Sendeth Chufat to defeate Achitophels counfel.

T herefore after these thinges Abfalom made himself chariotes, and horfemen, and fiftie men, that should goe before him. ² And Abfalom rifting early, ftoode beside the entrance of the gate, and euerie man that had bufines to the kinges iudgement, did Abfalom cal to him, and fayd: Of what citie art thou? Who anfwering fayd: Of fuch a tribe of Ifrael am I thy feruant. ³ And Abfalom answered him: Thy wordes feeme vnto me good and iuft. But there is none to heare thee appointed of the king. And Abfalom fayd: ⁴ Oh who would appoint me iudge ouer the land, that al might come to me which haue bufines, and I might iudge iuftly? ⁵ Yea and when a man came vnto him to falute him, he put forth his hand, and taking him, kyffed him. ⁶ And this did he to al Ifrael coming for iudgement, to be heard of the king, and he intified the hartes of the men of Ifrael. ⁷ And after fourtie yeares, Abfalom fayd to king Dauid: Let me goe, and pay my vowes which I haue vowed to our Lord in Hebron. ⁸ For thy feruant vowing did vow, when he was in Geffur of Syria, faying: If our Lord wil bring me againe into Ierufalem, I wil facrifice to our Lord. ⁹ And king Dauid fayd to him: Goe in peace. And he arofe, and went into Hebron. ¹⁰ And Abfalom fent fpies into al the tribes of Ifrael, faying: Forthwith as you shal heare the found of the trumpet, fay ye: Abfalom reigneth in Hebron. ¹¹ Moreouer with Abfalom there went two hundred men out of Ierufalem being called, going with a fimple hart, and vtterly ignorant of the caufe. ¹² Abfalom alfo fent for Achitophel the Gilonite, Dauids counfeler, from his citie Gilo. And when he imolated victimes, there was made a ftrong confpiracie,

and the people running together increased with Abfalom. ¹³ A messenger therefore came to Dauid, saying: Al Ifrael with al their hart foloweth Abfalom. ¹⁴ And Dauid said to his seruantes, that were with him in Ierufalem: Arife let vs flee: for there wil be no escape for vs from the face of Abfalom: make haft to goe out, lest coming perhaps he ouertake vs, and force ruine vpon vs, and fstrike the citie in the edge of the sword. ¹⁵ And the kinges seruantes said to him: Al thinges whatfoeuer our lord the king shal command, we thy seruantes wil gladly execute. ¹⁶ The king therefore went forth, and al his houe on foote: & the king leift ten wemen his ^a)concubines to keepe the houe. ¹⁷ And the king going forth & al Ifrael on their feete, ftoode farre from the houe: ¹⁸ and al his seruantes walked by him, and the legions Cerethi, and Phelethi and al the Getheites, valiant warriors, fix hundred men which had folowed him from Geth footemen, went before the king. ¹⁹ And the king said to Ethai the Getheite: Why comest thou with vs? returne and dwel with the king, because thou art a ftranger, and art come forth out of thy place. ²⁰ Yefterday thou cameft, and to day shalt thou be forced to goe forth with vs? but I wil goe whither I shal goe: returne, and leade backe thy brethren with thee, and our Lord wil doe with thee mercie, and veritie, because thou haft shewed grace and fidelitie. ²¹ And Ethai answered the king, saying: The Lord liueth, and my lord the king liueth: for that in what place foeuer thou shalt be, my lord king, either in death, or in life, there wil thy seruant be. ²² And Dauid said to Ethai: Come, and passe. And Ethai the Getheite passed, and al the men that were with him, and the rest of the multitude. ²³ And they al wept with a lowd voice, and al the people passed: the king also went ouer the Torrent Cedron, and al the people marched againft the way, that looketh to the desert. ²⁴ And Sadoc also the priest came, and al the Leuites with him carying the arke of the couenant of God, and they fette downe the

^a Concubines were lawfully married but had not al priuilegies as other wiues. See *Gen. 25. Iudic. 19.*

arke of God: & Abiathar ascended, til al the people was fully passed, which was come forth of the citie. ²⁵ And the king sayd to Sadoc: Carry backe the Arke of God into the citie: if I shal finde grace in the sight of my Lord, he wil bring me agayne, and wil show me it, and his tabernacle. ²⁶ But if he shal say to me: Thou pleasest me not: I am ready, let him doe that which is good before him. ²⁷ And the king sayd to Sadoc the priest: O feere returne into the citie in peace: and Achimaas thy sonne, and Ionathas the sonne of Abiathar, your two sons let them be with you. ²⁸ Behold I wil be hid in the champaigne of the desert, til there come word from you aduertising me. ²⁹ Sadoc therefore and Abiathar carryed backe the Arke of God into Ierusalem: and they taried there. ³⁰ Moreouer Daud went vp mount Oliuet, climbing & weeping, going bare foote, and his head ^acouered, yea and al the people which was with him, their head couered went vp weeping. ³¹ And it was told Daud that Achitophel also was in the conspiracie with Abfalom, and Daud sayd: Infatuate ô Lord I beseech thee, the counsell of Achitophel. ³² And when Daud went vp to the toppe of the mount, wherein he would adore our Lord, behold there mette him Chufai the Arachite, his garment rent and his head full of earth. ³³ And Daud sayd to him: If thou come with me, thou shalt be a burden to me: ³⁴ but if thou returne into the citie, and wilt say to Abfalom: I am thy seruant, ô king: as I haue bene thy fathers seruant, so I wil be thy seruant: thou shalt defeat the counsell of Achitophel. ³⁵ And thou hast with thee Sadoc, and Abiathar the priests: and euery word whatsoever thou shalt heare from out of the kings house, thou shalt tel Sadoc, and Abiathar the priests. ³⁶ And there are with them their two sons Achimaas the sonne of Sadoc, and Ionathas the sonne of Abiathar: and you shall send by them vnto me euery word whatsoever you shall heare.

^a He couered his head that he might not be seene to weepe, lest he should discourege the people. Neuertheles the people also wept, and likewise couered their heads.

³⁷ Chufai therefore the friend of Daud coming into the
citie, Abfalom also entred into Ierufalem.