

Chapter 16

Siba bringing victuals obtaineth (by false suggestion) his maister Miphiboseths inheritance. 5. Semei curseth, and throweth stones at the king, who neuertheless forbiddeth to kill him. 15. Absalom entereth into Hierusalem, 16. intertaineth Chufai, 20. and by Achitophels advise lieth with his fathers concubines.

And when Dauid had passed a little the toppe of the Mount, Siba the seruant of Miphiboseth appeared coming to meete him, with two asses, which were laden with two hundred loaves, and a hundred bunches of raphens, an hundred masses of figges, and a bottell of wine. ² And the king said to Siba: What meane these thinges? And Siba answered: The asses are for the kinges household to fitte on: and the loaves and the figges to eate for thy seruantes, and the wine to drinke if any man shall fainte in the desert. ³ And the king said: Where is thy masters sonne? And Siba answered the king: He hath remained in Ierusalem, saying: This day wil the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father. ⁴ And the king said to Siba: ^aLet all thinges be thine that were Miphiboseths. And Siba said: I beseech thee let me find grace before thee, my lord king. ⁵ King Dauid therefore came as farre as Bahurim: & behold there came forth thence a man of the kinred of the house of Saul named Semei, the sonne of Sera, and he proceeded going forth, & cursed. ⁶ And he threw stones against Dauid, & against all the seruantes of king Dauid & the whole people, & all the warriors went on the right, and the left side of the king. ⁷ And thus spake Semei when he cursed the king: Come forth, come forth thou man of blood, and man of Belial. ⁸ Our Lord hath repayed thee all the blood of the house of Saul: because thou hast invaded the kingdom for him, and our Lord hath geuen the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy

^a King Dauid was here abused by false information: to which he ought not so easily to haue geuen credite. *chap. 19. v. 24.*

fonne: and behold thyne euiles preffe thee, becaufe thou art a man of bloud. ⁹ And Abifai the fonne of Seruia faid to the king: Why curfeth this dead dogge my lord the king? I wil goe, and ftrike of his head. ¹⁰ And the king faid: What is it to me and you, ye fonnes of Seruia? Let him alone that he may curfe: for our Lord hath ^acommanded him to curfe Dauid: and who is he that dare fay, why hath he fo done? ¹¹ And the king faid to Abifai, and to al his feruantes: Behold my fonne, that came out of my wombe, feeketh my life: how much more the fonne of Iemini? let him alone that he may curfe according to the precept of our Lord: ¹² if perhaps our Lord may respect mine affliction, and our Lord may render me good for this dayes curfing. ¹³ Dauid therefore walked and his companie in the way with him. And Semei by the banke on the hils fide, went ouer againft him, curfing, and cafting ftones againft him, and fprinkling earth. ¹⁴ The king therefore came, and al the people with him wearie, and they were refrefhed there. ¹⁵ But Abfalom and al his people entered into Ierufalem, yea and Achitophel with him. ¹⁶ And when Chufai the Ara-chite Dauids frend was come to Abfalom, he faid to him: God faue thee ô king, God faue thee ô king. ¹⁷ To whom Abfalom: is this, quoth he, thy kindenes toward thy frend? why wenteft thou not with thy frend? ¹⁸ And Chufai answered Abfalom: Not fo: becaufe I wil be his, whom our Lord hath chofen, and al this people, and al Ifrael, and with him wil tarie. ¹⁹ Yea that I may adde this alfo, whom fhall I ferue? not the kinges fonne? as I haue ferued thy father, fo wil I ferue thee alfo. ²⁰ And Abfalom faid to Achitophel: Confult what we ought to doe. ²¹ And Achitophel faid to Abfalom: Goe in to the concubines of thy father, which he hath left to keepe the

^a God fuffered Semei, being of his owne freewil malicious for punifhment of Dauids finnes to curfe him but was not the author of his malice, for fo Semei had committed no fault therein and then he could not lawfully haue benne punifhed for it, as he was. *3. Reg. 2.*

houfe: ^{a)}that when al Ifrael fhall heare that thou haft defiled thy father, their handes may be ftrenghened with thee. ²² They pitched therefore a tent for Abfalom in the houfe toppe, and he went in to his fathers concubines before al Ifrael. ²³ And the counfel of Achitophel, which he gaue in thofe dayes, as if a man fhould confult God: fo was al the counfel of Achitophel, both when he was with Daud, and when he was with Abfalom.

^a The people doubting left Abfalō might be reconciled to his father, were not affured vnto him til they faw fuch a crime committed as femed to make reconciliatiō impoffible. So al rebelles and vfurpers of others right, feeke by fome enormous fact to make their adherentes and folowers fure vnto them: but God plagueth them in the end, as he did both Achitophel and Abfalom.