

Chapter 19

Dauid moued by Iobas admonition, 8. ceafeth mourning for Abfalom, and reconcileth the rebels. 19. Semei is pardoned. 24. Miphibofeth clereth him felf of his feruantes falfe accufation, yet recouereth not his whole right. 32. Berzellai is courteoufly intreated. 40. The other tribes contend with Iuda for their affection to the king.

And it was told Ioab, that the king wept, and mourned for his fonne: ² And the victorie was turned into mourning that day to al the people: for the people heard it fayd in that day: The king foroweth vpon his fonne. ³ And the people shunned that day to enter into the citie, as a people turned, & fleing out of battel is wont to shrinke afide. ⁴ Moreouer the king couered his head, and cried with a lowd voice: O my fonne Abfalom, ô Abfalõ my fonne, ô my fonne. ⁵ Ioab therfore entring in to the king, into his houfe, fayd: Thou haft cõfounded this day the countenances of al thy feruantes, that haue faued thy life, and the life of thy fonnes, and thy daughters, and the life of thy wiues, and the life of thy concubines. ⁶ Thou loueft them that hate thee, and thou hateft them that loue thee: and thou haft shewed this day that thou careft not for thy nobles, and for thy feruantes: and in deede I knowe now, that if Abfalom liued, and al we had beene flayne, then it would please thee. ⁷ Now therfore arife, and come forth, and fpeaking vnto them fatisfie thy feruantes: for I fweare to thee by our Lord, that if thou wilt not goe forth, not one verely wil remayne with thee this night: and this shal be worfe for thee, then al the euils, which haue come vpon thee from thy youth vntil this present. ⁸ The king therfore arofe and fate in the gate: and it was told al the people that the king fate in the gate: and al the multitude came forth before the king, but Ifrael fled into their tabernacles. ⁹ Al the people also ftroue in al the tribes of Ifrael, faying: The king hath deliuered vs out of the hand of our enemies, he hath

faued vs from the head of the Philiftianes: and now he fled out of the land for Abfalom. ¹⁰ But Abfalom whom we annoynted ouer vs, is dead in the battel: how long are you ftill, and reduce not the king? ¹¹ But king Dauid fent to Sadoc, and Abiathar the prieftes, faying: Speake to the Ancientes of Iuda, faying: Why come you laft to bring backe the king into his houfe? (And the faying of al Ifrael was come to the king in his houfe.) ¹² You are my brethren, you my bone, and my flesh, why do you laft bring backe the king? ¹³ And fay ye to Amafa: Art not thou my bone, and my flesh? Thefe thinges do God to me, and thefe adde he, if thou be not the chiefe captayne of warfare before me alwayes for Ioab. ¹⁴ And he inclined the hart of al the men of Iuda, as it were of one man: and they fent to the king, faying: Returne thou, and al thy feruantes. ¹⁵ And the king returned, and came as far as Iordan, and al Iuda came as far as Galgal to meete the king, and to bring him ouer Iordan. ¹⁶ And Semei the fonne of Gera the fonne of Iemini of Bahurim made haft, and went downe with the men of Iuda to meete king Dauid ¹⁷ with a thoufand men of Benjamin, and Siba the feruant of the houfe of Saul: and his fiftene fonnes, and twentie feruantes were with him: and rushing into Iordan, ¹⁸ paffed the fordes before the king, that they might helpe ouer the kinges houshold, and doe according to his commandement. And Semei the fonne of Gera prostrate before the king, when he had now paffed Iordan, ¹⁹ fayd to him: Impute not to me my lord the iniquitie, nor remember the iniuries of thy feruant in the day that thou my lord king wenteft out of Ierufalem, nor put it in thy hart ô king. ²⁰ For I thy feruant acknowledge my finne: and therefore this day I am firft come of al ^athe houfe of Iofeph, and am defcended to meete my lord the king. ²¹ But Abifai the

^a Al the eleuen tribes are called by the name of Iofeph, being chiefe after Iuda. So Semei not of the proper tribe of Iofeph but of Benjamin, pleading for pardon of his former fault, alleageth that he came firft of the eleuen tribes, to fubmitte him felf and ferue the king.

fonne of Saruia anfwering, fayd: What shal Semei for these wordes not be flayne, becaufe he reuiled the annoynted of our Lord? ²² And Daudid fayd: What is to me and you ye fonnes of Saruia? Why are you made this day as fatan to me? Shal there a man be killed in Ifrael to day? Doe I not know that this day I am made king ouer Ifrael? ²³ And the king fayd to Semei: Thou shalt not die. And he fwere to him. ²⁴ Miphibofeth alfo the fonne of Saul came downe to meete the king, his feete vnwashed, and his beard not pouled: and he had not washed his garmentes from the day that the king went forth, vntil the day of his returne in peace. ²⁵ And when he had mette the king at Ierufalem, the king fayd to him: Why cameft thou not with me Miphibofeth? ²⁶ And he anfwering, fayd: My lord king, my feruant contemned me: and I thy feruant fpake to him that he should fadle me an affe, that getting on I might goe with the king: for I thy feruant am lame. ²⁷ Moreouer he hath alfo accused me thy feruant to thee my lord king: but thou my lord king art as an Angel of God, doe what pleafeth thee. ²⁸ For neither was my fathers houfe ought els, but guiltie of death to my lord king: and thou haft put me thy feruant among the gueftes of thy table? What iuft complaynt therfore haue I? or what can I further crie out to the king? ²⁹ The king therfore fayd to him: What fpeakeft thou any more? That is determined which I haue fpoken: Thou, and Siba diuide the poffeffions. ³⁰ And Miphibofeth answered the king: Yea let him take al, for fo much as my lord king is returned peacably into his houfe. ³¹ Berzellai alfo the Galaadite, coming downe from Rogelim, brought the king ouer Iordan, being readie alfo to attend on him beyond the riuier. ³² And Berzellai the Galaadite was verie old, that is to fay, of foure fcore yeares, and he gaue the king victuals, when he abode in the Fild: for he was an exceding rich man. ³³ The king therfore fayd to Berzellai: Come with me, that thou mayft reft fecure with me in Ierufalem. ³⁴ And Berzellai fayd to the king: How manie are the daies of the yeares of my life, that I fhould goe vp with the king into Ierufalem? ³⁵ I am this day foure fcore

yeares old, are my senses quicke to discern sweete, or fowre? or can meate or drinke delight thy seruant? or can I heare more the voyce of finging men and finging wemen? Why should thy seruant be a burden to my lord the king? ³⁶ I thy seruant wil goe forward a litle from Iordan with thee: I neede not this recompense, ³⁷ but I beseech thee that I thy seruant may returne, and die in my citie, and be buried by the sepulchre of my father, and my mother. But there is thy seruant Chamaam, let him goe with thee, my lord king, and doe to him whatsoever seemeth good to thee. ³⁸ The king therefore sayd to him: Let Chamaam passe on with me, and I wil doe for him whatsoever shall please thee, and al, that thou shalt aske of me, thou shalt obtayne. ³⁹ And when al the people and the king had passed Iordan, the king kissed Berzelai, and blessed him: and he returned into his place. ⁴⁰ The king therefore passed into Galgal, and Chamaam with him, and al the people of Iuda had brought ouer the king, and the halfe part onlie of the people of Irael were present. ⁴¹ Therefore al the men of Irael concurring to the king, sayd to him: Why haue our brethren the men of Iuda stolen thee, and brought the king and his houshold ouer Iordan, and al the men of Dauid with him? ⁴² And euerie man of Iuda answered the men of Irael: Because the king is neerer to me: why art thou angry for this matter? haue we eaten any thing of the kinges, or were there giftes geuen vs? ⁴³ And a certayne man of Irael answered the men of Iuda, and sayd: I am greater by ten partes with the king, & to me pertayneth Dauid more then to thee: Why hast thou done me wrong, and it was not told me first, that I might bring backe my king? And the men of Iuda answered more sharply then the men of Irael.