

Chapter 23

The laft wordes of Dauid concerning reward of the good, 6. and punishment of the bad. 8. A catalogue of Dauids valiant men.

And thefe are Dauides laft wordes. Dauid the fonne of Ifai fayd: The man fayd, to whom it was appointed concerning the Chrift of the God of Iacob, the excellent Pfalmift of Ifrael: ² The Spirit of our Lord hath fpoken by me, and his wordes by my tongue. ³ The God of Ifrael fayd to me, the Strong one of Ifrael hath fpoken, the Dominatour of men, the iuft ruler in the feare of God. ⁴ As the light of the mourning when the funne ryfeth, early without cloudes gliftereth, and as by rayne graffe fpringeth out of the earth. ⁵ ^{a)} Neither is my houfe fo great with God, that he should enter with me an eternal couenant firme in al thinges & affured. For al my faluation, and al my wil: neither is there ought therof that fpringeth not. ⁶ And tranfgreffors shal be plucked vp as thornes euerie one: which are not taken with handes. ⁷ And if a man wil touch them, he shal be armed with yron and a lance ftaffe, and kindled with fyre they shal be burnt vnto nothing. ⁸ Thefe be the names of the valiantes of Dauid. Sitting in his chaire the wifefte prince amongefte three, he is as it were the moft tender litle worme of the wood, which killed eight hundred at one brunt. ⁹ After him, Eleazar the fonne of his vncler the Ahohite among the three valiantes, that were with Dauid when they defyed the Philiftijms, and were gathered thither into battel. ¹⁰ And when the men of Ifrael were gone vp, he ftood and ftroke the Philiftians til his hand faynted, and waxed ftiffe with the fword: and our Lord made a

^a King Dauid in this laft prophecie plainly diftinguifheth between the couenant & promife made to him touching his earthlie kingdom and the kingdom of *Chrift*, who fhould be borne of his feede. In both which he foretelleth the reward of the good and punifhment of the bad.

great victorie that day: and the people, that was fled, returned to take away of the spoiles of them that were slayne. ¹¹ And after him Semma the sonne of Age of Arari. And the Philistines were gathered together in their ward: for there was there a fild full of rice. And when the people was fled from the face of the Philistines, ¹² he stood in the middes of the fild, and defended it, and stroke the Philistines: and our Lord gaue great saluation. ¹³ Moreouer also before there went downe three which were princes among thirtie, and came to Dauid in the hardest time into the caue of Odollam: and the campe of the Philistines was placed in the Vale of the gigantes. ¹⁴ And Dauid was in a hold: moreouer the ward of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁵ Dauid ^atherefore desired, & sayd: O that some man would geue me drinke of the water out of the cistern, that is in Bethlehem beside the gate. ¹⁶ Three valiantes therefore brake into the campe of the Philistines, and drew water out of the cistern of Bethlehem, that was beside the gate, and brought it to Dauid: but he would not drinke, but ^boffered it to our Lord, ¹⁷ saying: Our Lord be merciful to me, that I doe not this thing: shal I drinke the blood of these men that went, & the peril of their liues? Therefore he would not drinke. These things did the three strongest. ¹⁸ Abishai also the brother of Ioab the sonne of Sarua, was prince of three, it is he that lifted vp his speare agaynst three hundred, whom he slewe, renowned among three, ¹⁹ and the noblest of three, and he was the chiefe of them, but to the three first he raught not. ²⁰ And Benaiah the sonne of Ioiada the most valiant man of great workes, of Cabzeel: he stroke the two lions of Moab, and he went downe, and stroke the lyon in the middes of the cistern in the dayes of snow. ²¹ He also stroke the Egyptian, a man worthy to be a spectacle, hauing in his hand a speare: therefore when he came downe to him with a rod, by force

^a The king proposed not this for desire of that water, but to trie and exercise his mens fortitude.

^b Precious things are most mete to be offered to God.

he wrested the speare out of the hand of the Ægyptian, and flewe him with his owne speare. ²² These thinges did Banaias the sonne of Ioiada. ²³ And he renowned among the three valiantes, which were the nobler among thirtie: but vnto the three he raught not: and Dauid made him of his secreete counfel. ²⁴ Afael the brother of Ioab among the thirtie, Elahanan the sonne of his vnckle of Bethlehem. ²⁵ Semma of Harodi, Elica of Harori, ²⁶ Heles of Phalti, Hira the sonne of Acces of Thecua, ²⁷ Abiezer of Anathoth, Mobonnai of Hufati, ²⁸ Selmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, ²⁹ Heled the sonne of Baana, he also a Netophathite, Ithai the sonne of Ribai of Gabaath of the children of Benjamin, ³⁰ Banaia the Pharathonite, Heddai of the Torrent Gaas, ³¹ Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaueth of Beromi, ³² Eliaba of Salaboni: The sonnes of Iaffen, Ionathan, ³³ Semma of Orori, Ahiam the sonne of Sarar the Ararite, ³⁴ Eliphelet the sonne of Aafbai the sonne of Machati, Eliam the sonne of Achitophel the Gelonite, ³⁵ Hefrai of Carmel, Pharai of Arbi, ³⁶ Igaal the sonne of Nathan of Soba, Bonni of Gadi, ³⁷ Selec of Ammoni, Naharai the Berothite the squyer of Ioab the sonne of Saruia, ³⁸ Ira the Iethrite, Gareb he also a Iethrite, ³⁹ Vrias the Hetheite. Al thirtie feuen.