

Chapter 24

For Dauids finne in numbring the people, 11. three fortes of punishments are propofed to his election: 14. of which he choofeth the plague, and feuentie thoufand die in three dayes. 16. God sheweth mercie. 17. Dauid prayeth, 18. buildeth an altar, 25. and the plague ceafeth.

And ^{a)b)}the furie of our Lord added to be angrie agaynft Ifrael, and ftirred vp Dauid among them faying: Goe, number Ifrael and Iuda. ² And the king fayd to Ioab the General of his armie: Walke through al the tribes of Ifrael from Dan to Berfabee, and number ye the people, that I may know the number therof. ³ And Ioab fayd to the king: Our Lord thy God increafe thy people, as much more as now it is, and agayne multiplie it an hundred fold in the fight of my lord the king: but what meaneth my lord the king by this kind of thing? ⁴ Howbeit the kinges word more preuailed then the wordes of Ioab, and of the chiefe of the armie: and Ioab went forth, and the captaynes of the fouldiars from the face of the king, to number the people of Ifrael. ⁵ And when they had paffed Iordan, they came into Aroer to the right hand of the citie, which is in the Vale of Gad. ⁶ And by Iazer they paffed into Galaad, and into the lower countrie of Hodfi, and they came into the wooddie countrie of Dan. And going about neere Sidon, ⁷ they paffed nigh to the walles of Tyre, and al the land of the Heueite, and the Chananeite, and they came to the fouth of Iuda into Berfabee: ⁸ and hauing viewed the whole land, after nine monethes and twentie dayes, they were come to Ierufalem. ⁹ Ioab therefore gaue the number of the defcription of the people to the king, and there were found of Ifrael eight hundred thoufand ftrong

^a This finne & punifhment happened before, when Dauid had health and ftreingth of bodie.

^b The furie of our Lord, that is, Satan (a furious fpirite, yet Gods creature) not our Lord him felfe, but by permiffion only. *1. Par. 2, 1. Satan arofe againft Ifrael, & moued Dauid.*

men, that could drawe fword: and of Iuda fiue hundred thousand fighting men. ¹⁰ But Dauids ^a)hart ftrooke him, after the people was numbred: and Dauid fayd to our Lord: ^b)I haue finned very much in this fact: but I pray thee Lord to transferre the iniquitie of thy feruant, becaufe I haue done exceding folifhly. ¹¹ Dauid therefore arofe in the morning, and the word of our Lord was made to Gad the prophete and Seer of Dauid, faying: ¹² Goe, and fpeake to Dauid: Thus fayth our Lord: ^c)Choyfe is geuen thee of three thinges, choofe one of them which thou wilt, that I may do it to thee. ¹³ And when Gad was come to Dauid, he told him, faying: Either famine fhall come to thee feuen yeares in thy land: or three monethes thou fhalt flee thy aduerfaries, and they fhall purfue thee: or certes three dayes the peftilence fhall be in thy land. Now therefore deliberate, and fee what word I fhall anfwer to him that fent me. ¹⁴ And Dauid fayd to Gad: I am diftreffed excedingly: but it is better that I fall into the handes of our Lord (for his mercies be manie) then into the handes of men. ¹⁵ And our Lord fent the peftilence in Ifrael, from morning vnto the time appoynted, and there died of the people from Dan to Berfabee feuentie thousand men. ¹⁶ And when the Angel of Our Lord had ftretched forth his hand ouer Ierufalem to deftroy it, our Lord had pitie vpon the affliction, and fayd to the Angel that ftroke the people: ^d)It is fufficient: now hold thy hand: and the Angel of our Lord was befide the floore of Areuna the Iebufeite. ¹⁷ And Dauid fayd to our Lord when he faw the Angel ftriking the people: I am he that haue finned, I haue done wickedly: thefe that are the fheepe, what haue they done? let thy hand, I befeche thee be turned agaynft me, and agaynft my fathers houfe. ¹⁸ And Gad came to Dauid in that day, and fayd to him: Goe vp, and build an altar to our Lord

^a Contrition.

^b Confeffion.

^c Satisfaction.

^d Temporal punifhment inflicted after the guilt of finne was remitted.

in the floore of Areuna the Iebufeite. ¹⁹ And Daudid went vp according to the word of Gad, which our Lord had cōmanded him. ²⁰ And Areuna looking, perceiued the king and his feruantes to come towards him. ²¹ And going forth he adored the king with his face bowing to the earth, and fayd: What is the caufe that my lord the king cometh to his feruant? To whom Daudid fayd: That I may bye of thee the floore, and build an altar to our Lord, and the flaughter may ceafe which rageth among the people. ²² And Areuna fayd to Daudid: Let my lord the king take, and offer, as it pleafeth him: thou haft the oxen for holocauste, and the wayne, and the yokes of the oxen for prouifion of wood. ²³ Areuna gaue al thinges to the king: and Areuna fayd to the king: The Lord thy God receiue thy vowe. ²⁴ To whom the king anfwering, fayd: Not fo as thou wilt, but I wil bye it of thee at a price, and I wil not offer to our Lord my God holocaustes ^a)geuen gratis. Daudid therefore bought the floore, and the oxen, for fiftie ficles of filuer: ²⁵ and Daudid built there an altar to our Lord, & offered holocaustes and pacifiques: and our Lord became merciful to the land, and the plague was ftayed from Ifrael.

^a If fubiectes had not proprietie in their goodes, but that the right and dominion of al perteyned to the prince, then could nothing at al, in anie cafe be geuen gratis by the fubiect, but only yelded as due, to his fouereigne.