

Chapter 6

Salomon bleffeth the people, 4. prayeth to God, geuing thanks for benefites receiued, 16. and requesting continual protection, and that God wil heare the prayers of the people, 32. yea alfo of ftrangers that pray in the Temple.

Then Salomon fayd: Our Lord promifed that he would dwel ^ain darkeneffe: ² and I haue built a houle to his name, that he might dwel there for euer. ³ And the king turned his face, and bleffed al the multitude of Ifrael (for al the multitude ftood attent) and fayd: ⁴ Bleffed be our Lord the God of Ifrael, who in worke hath accomplifhed that, which he fpake to Dauid my father, faying: ⁵ From the day, that I brought my people out of the Land of Ægypt, I chofe not a citie of al the tribes of Ifrael, that a houle might be built in it to my name: neither did I choofe anie other man, to be Duke in my people Ifrael. ⁶ But I chofe Ierufalem, that my name may be in it: and I chofe Dauid, that I might appoynt him ouer my people Ifrael. ⁷ And wheras Dauid my father had meant to build a houle to the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael, ⁸ our Lord fayd to him: Becaufe thy wil was this, that thou wouldeft build a houle to my name, thou haft done wel certes to haue fuch a wil: ⁹ howbeit thou fhalt not build the houle, but thy fonne, which fhall come out of thy loynes, he fhall build a houle to my name. ¹⁰ Our Lord therfore hath accomplifhed his word, which he fpake: and I am rifen for Dauid my father, and fit vpon the throne of Ifrael, as our Lord hath fpoken: and haue built a houle to the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael. ¹¹ And I haue put in it the Arke, wherin is the couenant of our Lord, which he made with the children of Ifrael. ¹² He therfore ftoode before the Altar of our Lord, ouer agaynft al the multitude of Ifrael, and ftretched forth his handes.

^a God fhewed his prefence by the darke cloud which replenifhed the Temple.

Bafilica.

¹³ For Salomon had made an eminent place of braffe, and had put it in the middes of the Temple, hauing fiue cubites of length, & bredth, & three of height: & he ftoode vpon it: & afterward ^{a)}kneeling ouer agaynft al the multitude of Ifrael, and ^{b)}his handes lifted vp toward heauen, ¹⁴ he fayd: Lord God of Ifrael, there is not the like God to thee in heauen and in earth: which keepeft couenant and mercie with thy feruantes, that walke before thee in al their hart: ¹⁵ which haft performed to thy feruant Dauid my father what thinges foeuer thou hadft fpoken to him: and the thinges that by mouth thou hadft promifed, in worke thou haft accomplifhed, as alfo the prefent time proueth. ¹⁶ Now therfore Lord God of Ifrael, fulfil to thy feruant my father Dauid, what foeuer thou didft fpeake to him, faying: There fhall not fayle of thee a man before me, to fitte vpon the throne of Ifrael: yet fo if thy children keepe their waies, and walke in my law, as thou alfo haft walked before me. ¹⁷ And now Lord God of Ifrael, be thy word confirmed, which thou haft fpoken to thy feruant Dauid. ¹⁸ Is it credible then that God fhould dwel with men vpon the earth? If heauen and the heauens of heauens doe not take thee, how much more this houle, which I haue built? ¹⁹ But to this end only it is made, that thou fhouldest respect the prayer of thy feruant, and his fupplication Lord my God: and mayft heare the prayers, which thy feruant powreth out before thee: ²⁰ that thou open thine eies vpon this houle daies & nightes, vpon the place, wherein thou haft promifed that thy name fhould be inuocated, ²¹ and wouldest heare the prayer; which thy feruant prayeth in it: and mayft heare the prayers of thy feruant, and of thy people Ifrael. Whofoeuer fhall pray in this place, heare out of thy habitation, that is from the heauens, and be

^a Kneeling,

^b Lifting vp handes, ftretching forth armes, and the like external geftures do much helpe internal attention in prayer, and alfo fturre vp others to godlie imitation: and therfore hath bene much practifed by deuout perfons both in the old and new Testament.

propitious. ²² If anie man fhall finne agaynft his neighbour, and come readie to fweare agaynft him, and binde himfelf with a curfe before the altar in this houfe: ²³ thou fhalt heare from heauen, and fhalt doe the iudgement of thy feruantes, fo that thou render to the vniuft his way vpon his owne head, and reuenge the iuft, rewarding him according to his iuftice. ²⁴ If thy people Ifrael fhall be ouercome of their enemies, (for they wil finne to thee) and conuerted fhall doe penance, and befech thy name, and pray in this place, ²⁵ thou fhalt heare from heauen, and be thou propitious to the finne of thy people Ifrael, and reduce them into the land, which thou gaueft them, and their fathers. ²⁶ If the heauen being fhut, there fal no rayne for the finnes of the people, and they fhall befech thee in this place, and fhall confeffe to thy name, and fhall be conuerted from their finnes, when thou fhalt afflict them, ²⁷ heare from heauen ô Lord, and forgeue the finnes of thy feruantes and of thy people Ifrael, and teach them the good way, by the which they may goe: and geue rayne to thy land, which thou haft geuen thy people to poffeffe. ²⁸ If famine fhall arife in the land, and peftilence, ruft, and blaft, and locuft, and bruche, and the enemies, wafting the countries, fhall befiege the gates of the citie, and al plague and infirmitie fhall preffe them: ²⁹ if any of thy people Ifrael fhall pray, knowing their plague and infirmitie, and fhall fpred forth their handes in ^athis houfe, ³⁰ thou fhalt heare from heauen, to wit, out of thy high habitation, and be thou propitious, and render to euerie one according to his wayes which thou knoweft him to haue in his hart: (for thou onlie knoweft the hartes of the children of men:) ³¹ that they may feare thee, and walke in thy waies al the daies, that they liue vpon the face of the land, which thou haft geuen to our fathers. ³² The Forener alfo, which is not of thy people Ifrael, if he come from a far countrie, for thy ftrong hand, & thy ftreched out arme, and adore

^a In this chapter and often els where it is euident, that places dedicated to Gods feruice are more acceptable to him, then other places.

in this place: ³³ thou shalt heare from heauen thy most firme habitation, & shalt do al thinges, for the which that pilgrime shal inuocate thee: that al the peoples of the earth may know thy name, and may feare thee, as thy people Ifrael, and may know, that thy name is inuocated vpon this houle, which I haue built. ³⁴ If thy people shal goe forth to warre agaynst their aduerfaries, by the way, that thou shalt fend them, shal adore thee agaynst the way, wherein is this citie, which thou hast chofen, and the houle, which I haue built to thy name: ³⁵ thou shalt from heauen heare their prayers, and petition, and doe thou reuenge. ³⁶ And if they shal finne to thee (for there is no man that finneth not) and thou be angrie with them, and deliuer them to the enemies, and they leade them captiue into a farre countrie, or which is neere at the leaft, ³⁷ and being conuerted in their hart in the land, to the which they were led captiue, shal doe penance, and shal befech thee in the land of their captiuitie, faying: We haue finned, we haue done wickedly, we haue delt vniustly: ³⁸ and shal returne to thee in al their hart, and in al their foule, in the land of their captiuitie, to the which they were led, shal adore thee agaynst the way of their land, which thou gauest their fathers, and of the citie, which thou hast chofen, and of the houle, which I haue built to thy name: ³⁹ thou shalt heare from heauen, that is, from thy firme habitation their prayers, and doe thou iudgement, and forgeue thy people, although finneful: ⁴⁰ for thou art my God: let thine eies, I befech thee, be opened, and let thine eares be attent, to the prayer, that is made in this place. ⁴¹ Now therefore arise Lord God in thy rest, thou and the Arke of thy strength: Let thy Priestes Lord God put on saluation, & thy Saintes reioyse in good thinges. ⁴² Lord God turne not away from the face of thy Chrift: remember the mercies of Dauid thy seruant.