

Chapter 9

The Queene of Saba admireth Salomons wifdom, 9. geueth, and receiueth presents. 13. Of the great ftore of treafure which is yearely brought in, 13. king Salomon maketh pretious armour, 17. a throne, 20. and plate. 24. Other kinges fend him giftes, fo he abundeth in glorie, and riches. 29. After fourtie yeares reigne he dieth, and his fonne Roboam fuccedeth.

1. Reg. 10.

The queene of Saba alfo, when fhe had heard the fame of Salomon, came to proue him in hard propofitions in Ierufalem, with great riches, and camels, which caried fpices, and very much gold, and pretious ftones. And when fhe was come to Salomon, fhe fpake to him what thinges foeuer were in her hart. ² And Salomon expounded to her al thinges that fhe propounded: neither was there anie thing, that he made not playne vnto her. ³ Who after she faw, to witte, the wifdom of Salomon, and the houfe which he had built, ⁴ moreouer alfo the meates of his table, and the habitations of his feruantes, and the offices of his minifters, and their garmentes, the cupbearers alfo, and their garmentes, and the victimes, which he immolated in the houfe of our Lord: there was no fpirit in her anie longer, she was foe aftonied. ⁵ And she fayd to the king: The word is true, which I heard in my countrie of thy vertues and wifdom. ⁶ I did not beleue them that told it, vntil my felf was come, and mine eies had feene, and I had proued fcarce the half part of thy wifedom to haue beene told me: thou haft paffed the fame with thy vertues. ⁷ Bleffed are thy men, and bleffed are thy feruantes, which affift before thee at al time, and heare thy wifedom. ⁸ Be the Lord thy God bleffed, who would ordayne thee ouer his throne, king ^aof the Lord thy God. Befauce God loueth Ifrael, and wil preferue it for euer:

^a They are called kinges of God, which reigne by his grace and according to his wil. VWherevpon they vfe this ftile: *By the grace of God, K. of England, Ierufalem, &c.*

therefore hath he sette thee king ouer it, to doe iudgements and iustice. ⁹ And she gaue to the king an hundred twentie talentes of gold, and spices exceeding much, and most pretious stones: there were not such spices, as these, which the Queene of Saba gaue to King Salomon. ¹⁰ But the seruantes of Hiram also with the seruantes of Salomon brought gold from Ophir, and Thymtrees, and most pretious stones: ¹¹ wherof the king made, to witte, of the Thymtrees, stayers in the house of our Lord, and in the kings house, harpes also and psalteries for the singing men: neuer were there seene such trees in the Land of Iuda. ¹² And king Salomon gaue to the Queene of Saba all things that she would, and that she asked, and manie moe things then she brought to him: who returning, went into her countrie with her seruantes. ¹³ And the weight of gold, that was brought to Salomon euerie yeare was six hundred fixtie six talentes of gold: ¹⁴ beside that summe, which the legates of diuers nations, and the merchantes were accustomed to bring, and all the kings of Arabia, and the Dukes of the landes, which brought gold and siluer to Salomon. ¹⁵ King Salomon therefore made two hundred golden speares, of the summe of six hundred peces of gold, which were spent in euerie speare: ¹⁶ also three hundred golden shieldes of three hundred peces of gold, with which euerie shield was couered: and the king put them in the armarie, which was besette with a wood. ¹⁷ The king also made a great throne of iuorie, and couered it with most fyne gold. ¹⁸ Six steppes also, wherwith the going vp was to the throne, and a foote stoole of gold, and two litle armes on either side, and two lions standing by the litle armes, ¹⁹ yea and other twelue litle lions standing vpon the steppes on both sides: there was not such a throne in all kingdomes. ²⁰ All the vessels also of the kings table were of gold, and the vessels of the house of the forest of Libanus of most pure gold. For siluer in those daies was reputed for nothing. ²¹ For the kings shippes went into Tharfis with the seruantes of Hiram, once in three yeares: and they brought from thence gold and siluer, and iuorie, and apes, and peacockes. ²² Salomon therefore

was magnified aboue al the kinges of the earth for riches and glorie. ²³ And al the kinges of the earth defired to see Salomons face, that they might heare the wifedom, which God had geuen in his hart. ²⁴ And they brought him giftes, veffels of filuer, and gold, and garmentes, and armour, and fpices, horfes, and mules, euerie yeare. ²⁵ Salomon alfo had fourtie thoufand horfes in the ftables, and of chariotes, and horfemen, twelue thoufand, and he placed them in the cities of the chariotes, and where the king was in Ierufalem. ²⁶ He exercifed alfo authoritie ouer al the kinges from the riuer Euphrates vnto the land of the Philifthines, and vnto the borders of Ægypt. ²⁷ And he made fo great plentie of filuer in Ierufalem as it were of ftones: and of cedres fo great a multitude as of ficomores, which grow in the champayne. ²⁸ And horfes were brought him out of Ægypt, and al countries. ²⁹ But the reft of the workes of Salomon the firft and laft are writen in the wordes of Nathan the Prophet, and in the bookes of Ahas the Silonite, in the Vifion alfo of Addo the Seer, agaynft Ieroboam the fonne of Nabat. ³⁰ And Salomon reigned in Ierufalem ouer al Ifrael fourtie yeares. ³¹ And he ^aflept with his fathers: and they buried him in the citie of Dauid: and Roboam his fonne reigned for him.

^a His fall to luxurie and idolatrie is recorded, *3. Reg. 11.*