

Chapter 11

Roboam intending by force to reduce al Ifrael to his fubiectiō, is warned by a Prophet to ceafe from that enterprife. 5. He maketh walles about diuers cities, 11. furnifheth them with victuals, and munition. 13. Prieftes, Leuites, and manie others repaire to Ierufalem, becaufe Ieroboam maketh a new religion, and new prieftes. 18. Roboam taketh manie wiues, and concubines. 22. Preferreth Abias aboue al his other fonnes.

And Roboam came into Ierufalem, and called together al the houle of Iuda and Benjamin, an hundred fourefcore thoufand chofen men and warriors, to fight agaynft Ifrael, and to conuert his kingdom vnto him. ² And the word of our Lord came to Semeias the man of God, faying: ³ Speake to Roboam the fonne of Salomon the king of Iuda, and to al Ifrael, that is in Iuda and Benjamin: ⁴ Thus fayth our Lord: You fhall not goe vp, neither fhall you fight agaynft your brethren: let euerie man returne into his houle, becaufe this thing is done by my wil. Who when they had heard the word of our Lord, returned, neither went they forward agaynft Ieroboam. ⁵ And Roboam dwelt in Ierufalem, and built walled cities in Iuda. ⁶ And he built Bethlehem, and Etam, and Thecue, ⁷ Bethfur alfo, and Socho, & Odollam, ⁸ moreouer alfo Geth, and Marefa, and Ziph, ⁹ yea and Aduram, and Lachis, and Azeca, ¹⁰ Saraa alfo, and Aialon, and Hebron, which were in Iuda and Benjamin, moft fenced cities. ¹¹ And when he had inclofed them with walles, he put in them princes, and ftore houfes of victuals, that is, of oile and wine. ¹² Yea and in euerie citie he made armories of fhieldes and fpeares, and he ftrengthened them with great diligence, and reigned ouer Iuda and Benjamin. ¹³ And the Prieftes and Leuites, that were in al Ifrael, came to him out of al their feates, ¹⁴ ^{a)}leauing their fuburbes, and

^a A worthie example to fuffer temporal damage rather then to conforme them felues to the practife of falfe religion.

their poffeffions, and paffing to Iuda, and Ierufalem, becaufe Ieroboam had caft them of, and their pofteritie: that they should not execute the priefthood of our Lord. ¹⁵ Who made vnto him felfe prieftes of the excelfes, and of diuels, and of the calues which he had made. ¹⁶ Yea and of al the tribes of Ifrael, whofoeuer had geuen their hart to feeke our Lord the God of Ifrael, came into Ierufalem to immolate their victimes before our Lord the God of their fathers. ¹⁷ And they ftrengthened the kingdom of Iuda, and eftablished Roboam the fonne of Salomon for three yeares: for they walked in the waies of Daud and Salomon, onlie three yeares. ¹⁸ And Robaom tooke to wife Mahalath, the daughter of Ierimoth the fonne of Daud: Abihail alfo the daughter of Eliab the fonne of Ifai, ¹⁹ who bare him fonnes Iehus, and Somorias, and Zoom. ²⁰ After this woman alfo he tooke Maacha the daughter of Abfalom, who bare him Abia, and Ethai, and Ziza, and Salomith. ²¹ And Roboam loued Maacha the daughter of Abfalom aboue al his wiues, and concubines: for he had married eightene wiues, and threefcore concubines: and he begat eight and twentie fonnes, and threefcore daughters. ²² But he appoynted for head Abias the fonne of Maacha duke ouer al his brethren: for he meant to make him king, ²³ becaufe he was wifer, and mightier aboue al his fonnes, and in al the coftes of Iuda, and of Beniamin, and in al the walled cities: and he gaue them much meate, and he defired manie wiues.