

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 houfe 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 houfe, 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 ^aleauing their fuburbes, and

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

their possessions, and passing to Iuda, and Ierusalem, because Ieroboam had cast them of, and their posteritie: that they should not execute the priesthood of our Lord. ¹⁵ Who made vnto him false priestes of the excelses, and of diuels, and of the calves which he had made. ¹⁶ Yea and of al the tribes of Irael, whofoeuer had geuen their hart to seeke our Lord the God of Irael, came into Ierusalem to immolate their victimes before our Lord the God of their fathers. ¹⁷ And they strengthened the kingdom of Iuda, and established Roboam the sonne of Salomon for three yeares: for they walked in the waies of Dauid and Salomon, onlie three yeares. ¹⁸ And Roboam tooke to wife Mahalath, the daughter of Ierimoth the sonne of Dauid: Abihail also the daughter of Eliab the sonne of Ifai, ¹⁹ who bare him sonnes Iehus, and Somorias, and Zoom. ²⁰ After this woman also 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 threescore concubines: and he begat eight and twentie sonnes, and threescore daughters. ²² But he appoynted for head Abias the sonne of Maacha duke ouer al his brethren: for he meant to make him king, ²³ because he was wifer, and mightier aboue al his sonnes, and in al the costes of Iuda, and of Benjamin, and in al the walled cities: and he gaue them much meate, and he desired manie wiues.