

Chapter 14

Abias dieth, and his fonne Afa reigneth, deftroyeth idolatrie, 6. fortifieth his cities, 9. and ouercometh, by Gods ſpecial helpe, the Æthiopians armie of a million of men.

And Abias flept with his fathers, and they buried him in the Citie of Daud: and Afa his fonne reigned for him, in whoſe daies the land was quiet tenne yeares. ² And Afa did that which was good and pleaſing in the ſight of his God, and he ouerthrew the altars of ^a)ſtrange ſeruice, and the excelfes, ³ and brake the ſtatues, and cut downe the groues. ⁴ And he commanded Iuda that they ſhould ſeeke our Lord the God of their fathers, and ſhould doe the law, and al the commandementes. ⁵ And he tooke away out of al the cities of Iuda the altars, and temples, & reigned in peace. ⁶ He built alſo fenced cities in Iuda, becauſe he was quiet, and there had no battels riſen in his time, our Lord geuing peace. ⁷ And he ſayd to Iuda: Let vs build theſe cities, and compaſſe them with walles, and ſtrengthen them with towers, and gates, and lockes, whiles thinges are quiet from battels, becauſe we haue fought our Lord the God of our fathers, and he hath geuen vs peace round about. They therfore did build, and there was no impediment in building. ⁸ And Afa had in his armie of them that caried ſhieldes and ſpeares, of Iuda three hundred thouſand: and of Benjamin ſhield-bearers and archers, two hundred eightie thouſand, al theſe were moſt valiant men. ⁹ And Zara the Æthiopian with his armie iffued forth agaynſt them, tenne hundred thouſand, and with three hundred chariotes: and he came as far as Mareſa. ¹⁰ Moreouer Afa went on to meete him, and ſet his armie in aray to battel in the

^a It perteyned properly to the king to deſtroy the exterior practiſe of idolatrie, but to the Prieſtes, & prophetes to informe the interior mind, & conſciences of euerie one.

vale Sephata, which is neere Marefa. ¹¹ And he inuocated our Lord God, and fayd: Lord there is no difference with thee, whether thou helpe in few, or in manie: helpe vs ô Lord our God: for hauing confidence in thee, and in thy name we are come agaynft this multitude. Lord, thou art our God, let not man preuaile agaynft thee. ¹² Our Lord therfore terrified the Æthiopians before Afa and Iuda: and the Æthiopians fled. ¹³ And Afa purfewed them, and the people that was with him, vnto Gerara: and the Æthiopians fel to vtter destruction, becaufe our Lord killing them, and his armie fighting they were destroyed. They tooke therfore manie spoiles, ¹⁴ and they ftroke al the cities round about Gerara: for great terrour had inuaded al men: and they fpoyled the cities, and caried away much praye. ¹⁵ Yea and destroying the fheepecotes of fheepe, they tooke an infinite multitude of cattel, and of camels: and returned into Ierufalem.