

Chapter 15

Azarias prophecieth that Ifrael shal lack the true God, Priestes, and the law, a long time. 8. Which king Afa hearing moft ferioufly deftroyeth idolatrie, 12. maketh couenant and oath to ferue God, 16. and depofeth his mother for offering facrifice to Priapus.

And Azarias the fonne of Oded, the Spirit of God coming vpon him, ² went out to meete Afa, and fayd to him: Heare ye me Afa, and al Iuda and Beniamin: Our Lord is with you, ^a)because you haue beene with him. If you wil feeke him, you fhall finde: but if you forfake him, he wil forfake you. ³ And manie daies fhall paffe in Ifrael without the true God, and without Priest a teacher, and without the Law. ⁴ And when they fhall returne in their diftreffe to our Lord the God of Ifrael, and fhall feeke him, they fhall finde him. ⁵ At that time there fhall not be peace to him that goeth out and cometh in, but terrours on euerie fide in the inhabitors of the earth. ⁶ For nation fhall fight agaynft nation, and citie agaynft citie, because our Lord wil trouble them with al diftreffe. ⁷ You therefore take courage, and let not your handes be diffolued: for there fhall be reward to your worke. ⁸ Which when Afa had heard, to witte, the wordes, and the prophecie of Azarias the fonne of Oded the prophete, he tooke courage, and tooke away the Idols out of al the land of Iuda, and out of Beniamin, and out of the cities, which he had taken, of mount Ephraim, and he dedicated the altar of our Lord, which was before the porche of our Lord. ⁹ And he gathered together al Iuda and Beniamin, and the ftrangers with them of Ephraim, and of Manaffes, and of Simeon: for manie were fled to him of Ifrael, feing that our Lord his God was with him. ¹⁰ And when they were come into Ierufalem the third moneth, in the fifteenth yeare of the reigne of Afa, ¹¹ they immolated to our Lord in that day

^a Cooperation with Gods grace meriteth increafe of grace.

of the spoiles, & the praie, that they had brought, oxen feuen hundred, and rammes feuen thoufand. ¹² And he went in after the maner to eftablifh the couenant, that they fhould feeke our Lord the God of their fathers in al their hart, and in al their foul. ¹³ And if anie man, quoth he, fhall not feeke our Lord the God of Ifrael, let him die, from the leaft to the greateft, from man vnto woman. ¹⁴ And they fware to our Lord with a lowd voyce in iubilation, and in noyfe of trumpet, and found of fhaulmes, ¹⁵ al that were in Iuda with execration: for in al their hart did they fweare, and with al their wil did they feeke him, and found him, & our Lord gaue them reft round about. ¹⁶ Yea and Maacha the mother of king Afa he depofed from the royal empyre, becaufe fhe had made in a groue the idol of Priapus: which he wholly deftroyed, and breaking into peeces, burnt it in the Torrent cedron. ¹⁷ But the ^a)Excelfes were leaft in Ifrael: neuertheleffe the hart of Afa was perfect al his daies. ¹⁸ And thofe things which his father had vowed, and him felf, he brought into the houfe of our Lord, gold and filuer, and of veffels diuers furniture. ¹⁹ And there was no warre vnto the fiae and thirtieth yeare of the reigne of Afa.

^a King Afa deftroyed the places where Idoles were ferued, *chap. 14. v. 2.* but tollerated the places where fome offered facrifice to God befide the proper altar in Ierufalem, becaufe this was difpenfable and not the other.