

Chapter 16

Agaynft the king of Ifrael, king Afa procureth helpe of the Affyrians, 7. which a prophet reprouing is put in fetters. 11. Afa dieth, with difeafe of his feete, and is buried with pompe.

3. Reg. 15.

And in the fix and thirteth yeare of his reigne, came vp Baafa the king of Ifrael into Iuda, and with a wall compaffed Rama, that none could fafely goe out and come in of the kingdom of Afa. ² Afa therefore brought forth filuer and gold, out of the treafures houle of our Lord, and of the kinges treafures, and he fent to Benadad the king of Syria, who dwelt in Damafcus, faying: ³ There is league betwen me & thee, my father alfo and thy father had concord, wherefore I haue fent thee filuer and gold, that breaking the league, which thou haft with Baafa the king of Ifrael, thou make him retire from me. ⁴ Which being knownen, Benadad fent the princes of his hofte to the cities of Ifrael: who ftroke Ahion, and Dan, and Ablemaim, and al the walled cities of Nephthali. ⁵ Which when Baafa had heard, he ceafed to build Rama, and intermitted his worke. ⁶ Moreouer Afa the king tooke al Iuda, and caried away the ftones of Rama, and the timber that Baafa had prepared for the building: and he built of them Gabaa, & Mafpha. ⁷ At that time came Hanani the prophete to Afa the king of Iuda, and fayd to him: Becaufe thou haft had confidence in the king of Syria, and not in our Lord thy God, therfore hath the armie of the king of Syria efaped out of thy hand. ⁸ Were not the Æthiopians, and Libyians manie moe in chariotes, and horfemen, and a multitude exceding great: whom, when thou didft beleue in our Lord, he deliuered into thy hand? ⁹ For the eies of our Lord behold al the earth, and geue ftrength to them, that with perfect hart beleue in him. Thou therfore haft done foolyshly, & for this caufe from this prefent time fhall battels arife agaynft thee. ¹⁰ And Afa being angrie agaynft the Seer, commanded

him to be caſt into fetters: for he tooke indignation exceedingly vpon this thing: and he flewe of the people at that time verie manie. ¹¹ But the workes of Aſa the firſt & the laſt are written in the Booke of the kinges of Iuda and Ifrael. ¹² Aſa alſo fel ficke in the nine and thirtieth yeare of his reigne, of a moſt vehement ^a)payne of his feete, and neither in his infirmitie did he feeke our Lord, but rather truſted in the arte of Phifitians. ¹³ And he flept with his fathers: and he died the one and fourteth yeare of his reigne. ¹⁴ And they buried him in his ſepulchre, which he had digged for himſelf in the Citie of Daud: and they layd him vpon his bed full of ſpices and odoriferous oyntementes, which were made by the arte of apothecaries, and they burnt it ouer him with exceeding ambition.

^a Iuſt puniſhment with paine of his feete, for iniuriouſly putting Gods prophet in fetters. *v. 10.* So God puniſhed him temporally, for that and other paſſionate finnes: and he died in good ſtate, for his hart was perfect all his dayes, (*Chap. 15. v. 17.*) that is, moſt part of his life, eſpecially in his laſt dayes.