

Chapter 18

Iofaphat ioyned in affinitie with wicked Achab king of Ifrael, goeth with him againft Ramoth Galaad, four hundred falle prophetes promifing victorie. 14. Micheas prophecying the contrarie, 25. is put in prifon. 28. Achab (notwithftanding he changeth his attire, and leaueth Iofaphat in danger) 33. is flaine.

Iofaphat therefore was rich and verie glorious, and was ioyned in affinitie to Achab. ² And he went downe to him after certaine yeares into Samaria: at whoſe coming Achab killed mutttons, and oxen very manie for him and the people that came with him: and he perfwaded him to goe vp into Ramoth Galaad. ³ And Achab the king of Ifrael fayd to Iofaphat the king of Iuda: Come with me into Ramoth Galaad. To whom he answered: As I am thou alfo: as thy people; ſo my people alfo: and ^awe wil be with thee in battel. ⁴ Iofaphat fayd to the king of Ifrael: Conſult I befech thee preſently the word of our Lord. ⁵ Therefore the king of Ifrael gathered together of the prophetes four hundred men, and fayd to them: Shal we goe into Ramoth Galaad to fight, or fitte ftill? But they fayd: Goe vp, ſay they, and God wil deliuer it into thy hand. ⁶ And Iofaphat fayd: Is there not here a prophete of our Lord, that we may enquire alfo of him? ⁷ And the king of Ifrael fayd to Iofaphat: There is one man, of whom we may aſke the wil of our Lord: but I hate him, becauſe he doth not prophecie me good, but euil at al times: and it is Micheas the ſonne of Iemla. And Iofaphat fayd: Speake not in this maner ô king. ⁸ The king of Ifrael therefore called one of the Eunuches, and fayd to him: Cal quickly Micheas the ſonne of Iemla. ⁹ Moreouer the king of Ifrael, and Iofaphat the king of Iuda, both fate in their thrones, clothed with kinglie attyre, and they fate in the court beſide the

^a For this he was iuſtly reprehended, but his ſimple intention diminiſhed his fault, and ſo he was more eaſily pardoned, & for his good workes otherwiſe donne in Gods ſeruiſe. *ch. 19. 3.*

gate of Samaria, and al the prophetes prophecied before them. ¹⁰ But Sedecias the fonne of Chanaana made him hornes of yron, and fayd: Thus fayth our Lord: With thefe fhalt thou ftrike Syria, til thou deftroy it. ¹¹ And al the prophetes in like maner prophecied, and fayd: Goe vp into Ramoth Galaad, and thou fhalt prosper, and our Lord wil deliuer them into the kinges hand. ¹² And the meffenger that went to cal Micheas, fayd to him: Behold the wordes of al the prophetes with one mouth tel the king good things: I befech thee therefore that thy word alfo diffent not from them, and that thou fpeake prosperous things. ¹³ To whom Micheas answered: Our Lord liueth, whatfoeuer my God fhall fay to me, that I wil fpeake. ¹⁴ He therefore came to the king. To whom the king fayd: Micheas, fhall we goe into Ramoth Galaad to fight, or fit ftill? To whom he answered: ^a)Goe ye vp: for al things fhall fal out prosperous, and the enemies fhall be deliuered into your handes. ¹⁵ And the king fayd: Agayne, and agayne I adiure thee, that thou fpeake not to me, but that which is true in the name of our Lord. ¹⁶ But he fayd: I faw al Ifrael difperft in the mountaynes, as fheepe without a fhepherd: and our Lord fayd: Thefe haue no maifters: let euerie man returne into his houfe in peace. ¹⁷ And the king of Ifrael fayd to Iofaphat: Did I not tel thee that this man did not prophecie me anie good, but thefe things that be euil? ¹⁸ But he fayd: Heare ye therefore the word of our Lord: I faw our Lord fitting in his throne, and al the hoft of heauen affitting him on the right hand and on the left. ¹⁹ And our Lord fayd: Who fhall deceiue Achab the king of Ifrael, that he may goe vp and fal in Ramoth Galaad? And when one fayd in this maner, and an other otherwife: ²⁰ there came forth a fpirit, and ftood before our Lord, and fayd: I wil deceiue him. To whom our Lord fayd: Wherin wilt thou deceiue him? ²¹ But he answered: I wil goe forth, and wil be a lying fpirit in the mouth of al his prophetes. And our Lord fayd: Thou fhalt deceiue, and fhalt preuaile: goe forth, and doe fo. ²² Now therefore, behold our Lord

^a See *Annotation 3. Reg. 22. v. 15.*

hath geuen the fpirit of lying in the mouth of al thy prophetes, and our Lord hath fpoken of thee euil thinges. ²³ And Sedecias the fonne of Chanaana came, and ftroke the cheeke of Micheas, and fayd: Which way paffed the fpirit of our Lord from me, that it fhould fpeake to thee? ²⁴ And Micheas fayd: Thou thy felf fhalt fee in that day, when thou fhalt enter into chamber out of chamber, to be hid. ²⁵ And the king of Ifrael commanded, faying: Take Micheas, and lead him to Amon the gouernour of the citie, and to Ioab the fonne of Amelech. ²⁶ And you fhall fay: Thus fayth the king: Caft this felow into prifon, and giue him a litle bread, and a litle water, til I returne in peace. ²⁷ And Micheas fayd: If thou returne in peace, our Lord hath not fpoken in me, & he fayd: Heare al ye peoples. ²⁸ Therefore the king of Ifrael, and Iofaphat the king of Iuda went vp into Ramoth Galaad. ²⁹ And the king of Ifrael fayd to Iofaphat: I wil change my habite, and fo I wil goe to the fight, but be thou clothed with thine owne garmentes. And the king of Ifrael changing his habit came to the battel. ³⁰ And the king of Syria had commanded the captaynes of his horfemen faying: Fight not agaynft the leaft, or agaynft the greateft, but agaynft the king of Ifrael only. ³¹ Therefore when the princes of the horfemen faw Iofaphat, they fayd: This is the king of Ifrael. And they compaffed him fighting: but he cried to our Lord, and he holpe him, and turned them away from him. ³² For when the captaynes of the horfemen faw, that it was not the king of Ifrael, they leaft him. ³³ And it chanced that one of the people fhote an arrow at aduenture, and ftroke the king of Ifrael between the necke and the fhoulders, and he fayd to his cocher: Turne thy hand, and carie me out of the battel, becaufe I am wounded. ³⁴ And the fight was ended in that day: moreouer the king of Ifrael ftood in his chariote agaynft the Syrians vntil euening, and died at the funne fette.