

Chapter 19

Iofaphat being reprov'd by a prophet for yelding help to Achab, 5. appoynteth Iudges in feveral cities, admonishing them to doe iuftice: 8. exhorteth Prieftes and Leuites to execute their functions carefully. 11. Amarias High Priefte directing and ruling in thinges belonging to God, Zabedias general captayne gouerneth the kinges affayres.

And Iofaphat the king of Iuda returned into his houfe peaceably, into Ierufalem. ² Whom Iehu the fonne of Hanani the Seer mette, and fayd to him: ^{a)}To the impious man thou geueft ayde, and to them that hate our Lord thou art ioyned in frendfhip, and therefore thou didft deferue in deed the wrath of our Lord: ³ but good workes are found in thee, for that thou haft taken away the groues out of the land of Iuda, and haft prepared thy hart to feeke our Lord the God of thy fathers. ⁴ Iofaphat therefore dwelt in Ierufalem: and he went forth to the people agayne from Berfabee vnto mount Ephraim, and recalled them to our Lord the God of their fathers. ⁵ And he appoynted iudges of the land in al the fenced cities of Iuda, in euerie place, ⁶ and commanding the iudges, he fayd: Take heede what you doe: for you exercife not the iudgement of man, but of our Lord: and whatfoeuer you fhall iudge, it fhall redound to you. ⁷ Let the feare of our Lord be with you, and with diligence doe al thinges: for there is no iniquitie with the Lord our God, nor acception of perfonnes, nor defyre of giftes. ⁸ In Ierufalem alfo Iofaphat appoynted

^a Precifian Donatiftes holding it vnlawful to conuerfe with finners amongft other Scriptures alleaged this reprehention of Iofaphat for his focietie with Achab. To whom *S. Auguftin* anfwereth, that he was not blamed for other conuerfation with Achab, but for ayding him, and ioyning with him in the act of finne, when he contemning Micheas the true prophete of God, and beleuing falfe prophetes went to battel wherin both kinges offended, but with difference; fo one was flaine though he femed to be fecure, the other was faued in great danger, and repenting was pardoned. *li. 2. c. 18. cont. epift. Parmen.*

Leuites, and Priestes, and princes of families of Ifrael, that they fould iudge the iudgement and caufe of our Lord to the inhabitantes therof. ⁹ And he commanded them, faying: Thus shal you doe in the feare of our Lord faithfully, and with a perfect hart. ¹⁰ Euerie caufe, that shal come to you of your brethren, that dwel in their cities, betwen kinred and kinred, wherfoeuer there is queftion of the law, of the commandement, of ceremonies, of iuftifications: shew it them, that they finne not agaynft our Lord, and left there come wrath vpon you and your brethren: fo doing therfore you shal not finne. ¹¹ And ^{a)}Amarias the priest and your Bishop shal be chiefe in thefe thinges, which pertayn to God: moreouer Zabadias the fonne of Ifmahel, who is the prince in the houle of Iuda, shal be ouer thofe workes, which pertayne to the kinges office: and you haue maifters the Leuites before you, take courage, and doe diligently, and our Lord wil be with the good.

^a A moft plaine diftinction of fpiritual and temporal authoritie and offices, not intituted by Iofaphat, nor anie other king, but by God himfelf. *Deut. 17. Num. 27.*