

Chapter 20

The Ammonites, Moabites, and Syrians ioyning forces agaynft Iofaphat, 3. he feeketh Gods helpe by publique prayer and fafting. 14. A Prophet fortelleth that God wil fight for them: 20. fo they finging praifes to God, the enemies kil ech other. 24. Iofaphat with his men gather verie great fpoiles, 30. reigneth in peace, 35. but his nauie perisheth, for his focietie with wicked Ochozias.

After thefe things were the children of Moab gathered together, and the children of Ammon, and with them of the Ammonites, to fight agaynft Iofaphat. ² And there came meffengers, and told Iofaphat, faying: There cometh agaynft thee a great multitude from thofe places, which are beyond the fea, and out of Syria, and behold they ftay in Afafonthamar, which is Engaddi. ³ And Iofaphat being frighted with feare, he tooke him wholly to befech our Lord, and he ^a)proclamed a faft to al Iuda. ⁴ And Iudas was gathered together to pray to our Lord: yea and al ^b)came out of their cities to befech him. ⁵ And when Iofaphat ftood in the middes of the affemblie of Iuda, and Ierufalem in the houfe of our Lord before the new court, ⁶ he fayd: Lord God of our fathers, thou art God in heauen, and ruleft ouer al the kingdomes of Nations, in thy hand is ftrength and might, neither can anie man refift thee. ⁷ Didft not thou our God kil al the inhabitantes of this land before thy people Ifrael, and gaueft it to the feed of Abraham thy friend for euer? ⁸ And they dwelt in it, & built in it a Sanctuarie to thy name, faying: ⁹ If euils fal vpon vs, the fword of iudgement, peftilence, & famine, we wil ftand before this houfe in thy fight, wherein thy

^a They fafted not only to fubdue the flefh to the fpirite but alfo for other neceffities.

^b Example of pilgrimage to holie places, becaufe it pleafeth God to heare the prayers of good people rather in one place then in an other. *ch. 6. 7. &c.*

name is inuocated: & we wil crie to thee in our tribulations, and thou shalt heare, and faue vs. ¹⁰ Now therefore behold the children of Ammon, and mount Seir, by whom thou didst not grant Ifrael to passe, when they came out of Ægypt, but they declined from them, & flew them not: ¹¹ doe the contrarie, and endeuoure to cast vs out of the possession, which thou hast deliuered to vs. ¹² Our God, wilt not thou therefore iudge them? In vs in deed there is not so great strength, that we can resist this multitude, which cometh violently vpon vs. But whereas we are ignorant what we ought to doe, this onlie we haue leaft, that we direct our eyes to thee. ¹³ And al Iuda stood before our Lord with their litle ones, and wiues, and their children. ¹⁴ And there was Iahaziel the sonne of Zacharias, the sonne of Banaias, the sonne of Iehiel, the sonne of Mathanias, a Leuite of the children of Afaph, vpon whom the spirit of our Lord came in the middes of the multitude, ¹⁵ and he sayd: Attend ye al Iuda, and you that dwel in Ierusalem, and thou king Iofaphat: thus sayth our Lord to you: Feare not, neither dread ye this multitude: for it is not your battel, but Gods. ¹⁶ To morrow you shall goe downe agaynst them: for they wil come vp by the steepe named Sis, and you shall find them in the vtmost part of the torrent, which is agaynst the wilderneffe of Ieruel. ¹⁷ It shall not be you that shall fight, but onlie stand confidently, and you shall see the helpe of our Lord ouer you, ô Iuda, and Ierusalem: feare not, neither dreade ye: to morrow you shall goe out agaynst them, and our Lord wil be with you. ¹⁸ Iofaphat therefore, and Iuda, and al the inhabitantes of Ierusalem fell flat on the earth before our Lord, and adored him. ¹⁹ Moreouer the Leuites of the children of Caath, and of the children of Core prayed our Lord the God of Ifrael with a lowd voice, on high. ²⁰ And when they had risen early in the morning, they went forth by the desert of Thecua: and they being gone forth, Iofaphat standing in the middes of them, sayd: Heare me ye men

of Iuda, and al the inhabiters of Ierufalem: ^a)beleue in the Lord your God, and you fhall be fecure: beleue his prophetes, and al thinges fhall fal out prosperous. ²¹ He gaue counfel alfo to the people, and appoynted the finging men of our Lord, that they fhould prayfe him in their companies, and fhould goe before the hoft, and with agreeable voice fhould fay: Confefse to our Lord, becaufe his mercie is foreuer. ²² And when they began to fing prayfes, our Lord turned their embufhementes vpon themfelues, to witte, of the children of Ammon, and of Moab, and of mount Seir, who were gone forth to fight agaynft Iuda, and were ftriken. ²³ For the children of Ammon, and of Moab, rofe together agaynft the inhabitantes of mount Seir, to kil and deftroy them: and when they had in worke atcheued this, being turned alfo agaynft themfelues, they fel wounded one of an other. ²⁴ Moreouer Iuda when they were come to the watch place, that looketh to the defert, faw a far of al the countrie abrode ful of dead bodies, and that none remayned aliue that could efcape death. ²⁵ Iofaphat therefore came, and al the people with him to take away the fpoiles of the dead, and they found among the dead bodies, diuerfe ftuffe, garments alfo, and moft pretious veffels: and they fpoiled it, foe that they could not carie al thinges, nor in three dayes take away the fpoiles for the greatneffe of the praye. ²⁶ And in the fourth day they were affembled in the Vale of bleffing: for becaufe there they had bleffed our Lord, they called that place the Vale of bleffing vntil this prefent day. ²⁷ And euerie man of Iuda returned, and the inhabitantes of Ierufalem, and Iofaphat before them into Ierufalem with great ioy, becaufe our Lord had geuen them ioy of their enemies. ²⁸ And they entered into Ierufalem with pfalteries, and harpes, and trumpettes into the houfe of our Lord. ²⁹ And the dread of

^a Faith is the fundation of al good workes, *Heb. 11.* but not fufficient to faluation without other vertues, and therefore they not only beleued but alfo fafted and prayed, and where nede required fought with weapons, though at this time it pleaſed God to fight for them. See *Iofue. 23.*

our Lord fel vpon al the kingdomes of the landes when they heard that our Lord had fought agaynst the enemies of Ifrael. ³⁰ And the kingdom of Iofaphat was quiet and God gaue him peace round about. ³¹ Iofaphat therefore reigned ouer Iuda, and he was fiue and thirtie yeares old when he begane to reigne: and he reigned fiue and twentie yeares in Ierufalem: and the name of his mother was Azuba the daughter of Selahi. ³² And he walked in the way of his father Afa, neither declined he from it, doing the thinges that were pleafing before our Lord. ³³ But ^ayet the excelfes he tooke not away, and as yet the people had not directed their hart to our Lord the God of their fathers. ³⁴ But the reft of the actes of Iofaphat, the firft and the laft are writen in the wordes of Iehu the fonne of Hanani, which he difpofed into the Bookes of the kinges of Ifrael. ³⁵ After thefe thinges Iofaphat the king of Iuda entered frendshipe with Ochozias the king of Ifrael, whose workes were moft impious. ³⁶ And he was partaker to make fhippes, which should goe into Tharfis: and they made a nauie in Afiongaber. ³⁷ And Eliezer the fonne of Dodau of Marefa prophecied to Iofaphat, faying: Becaufe thou haft had a league with Ochozias, our Lord hath ftrooken thy workes, and the fhippes are broken, neither could they goe into Tharfis.

^a He deftroyed the places where facrifice was offered to idoles, *ch. 17. v. 6.* but tolerated other places where the people offered to God our Lord without the temple, not being able to reduce al to perfection.