

Chapter 21

Iofaphat dieth, and Ioram fucceding killeth his owne brethren, and some other chiefe men, 6. reigneth wickedly. 8. Edom, and Lobna reuolt from him. 12. Elias by letters forwarneth him of plagues, 16. which falling vpon him, he dieth after two yeares languishing, and horrible difeafe.

4. Reg. 8.

And Iofaphat flept with his fathers, & was buried with them in the Citie of Daud: and Ioram his fonne reigned for him. ² Who had brethren the fonnes of Iofaphat, Azarias, and Iahiel, and Zacharias, and Azarias, and Michael, and Sapharias. Al thefe were the fonnes of Iofaphat the king of Iuda. ³ And their father gaue them manie giftes of filuer, and of gold, and penfions, with the moft fenced cities in Iuda: but the kingdom he deliuered to Ioram, becaufe he was the firft begotten. ⁴ And Ioram rofe ouer the kingdom of his father: and when he had eftablifhed himfelf, he flew al his brethren with the fword, and certain of the princes of Irael. ⁵ Two and thirtie yeare old was Ioram when he began to reigne: and he reigned eight yeares in Ierufalem. ⁶ And he walked in the waies of the kinges of Irael, as the houfe of Achab had done: for Achabs daughter was his wife, and he did euil in the fight of our Lord. ⁷ But our Lord would not deftroy the houfe of Daud for the couenant, which he had made with him: and becaufe he had promifed that he would geue him a lampe, and to his fonnes for euer. ⁸ In thofe daies Edom rebelled, from being fubiect to Iuda, and made them felues a king. ⁹ And when Ioram had paffed with his princes, and al the horfemen, that were with him, he rofe in the night, and ftroke Edom, which had compaffed him, and al the captaynes of his horfemen. ¹⁰ But yet Edom rebelled, from being vnder the dominion of Iuda vntil this day: at that time Lobna alfo reuolted, from being vnder his hand. For he had forfaken our Lord the God of their fathers. ¹¹ Moreouer he built alfo excelfes in the cities of Iuda, and he made the inhabitantes of Ierufalem to

fornicate, and Iuda to tranfgreffe. ¹² And there were letters brought him ^afrom Elias the prophete, in which was writen: Thus fayth our Lord the God of Dauid thy father: Because thou haft not walked in the waies of Iofaphat thy father, & in the waies of Afa the king of Iuda, ¹³ but haft gone by the waies of the kinges of Ifrael, and haft made Iuda to fornicate, and the inhabitantes of Ierufalem, hauing imitated the fornication of the houfe of Achab, moreouer alfo haft killed thy brethren, the houfe of thy father, better men then thou: ¹⁴ behold our Lord wil ftrike thee with a great plague with al thy people, and children, and thy wiues, and al thy fubftance. ¹⁵ And thou shalt be ficke of a very fore difeafe of thy bealie, til thy vital partes come forth by litle and litle euerie day. ¹⁶ Our Lord therefore raifed vp agaynft Ioram the fpirit of the Philiftianes, and of the Arabians, which are borderers to the Æthiopians. ¹⁷ And they went vp into the Land of Iuda, and wafted it, and they fpoyled al the fubftance, that was found in the kinges houfe, moreouer alfo his fonnes, and wiues: neither was there a fonne left him but Ioachaz, who was the yongeft. ¹⁸ And befide al thefe thinges our Lord ftroke him with an incurable difeafe of the bealie. ¹⁹ And when day fucceded day, and the fpaces of times paffed about, the circuite of two yeares was complete: and foe being wafted with a long comfumption, foe that he voyded euen his very bowels, he was ridde of the difeafe, and of his life together. And he died in an exceding vile infirmitie, & the people made him not exequies according to the maner of burning, as they had done to his ancefters. ²⁰ He was two and thirtie yeares old, when he began to reigne, and he reigned eight yeares in Ierufalem. And he walked not rightly, and they buried him in the Citie of Dauid: but yet not in the fepulchre of the kinges.

^a Elias was affumped from ordinarie conuerfation with mortal men the eighteenth yeare of king Iofaphat *4. Reg. 2. 3.* who reigned twentie fue yeares. *3. Reg. 22. v. 42.* So he fhewed this fpecial care of Ioram and his kingdom, after his affumption feuen yeares.