

Chapter 23

Ioiada the Hiegh priest annoynteth and crowneth Ioas king, 12. caufeth Athalia to be flaine, 16. idolatrie to be deftroied, 18. and Gods feruice aduanced.

4. Reg. 11.

And in the feuenth yeare Ioiada taking courage, tooke the centurions, to witte, Azarias the fonne of Ieroham, and Ifmahel the fonne of Iohanen, Azarias also the fonne of Obed, and Maafias the fonne of Adaias, and Elifaphat the fonne of Zechri: and made a couenant with them. ² Who going about Iuda, gathered together the Leuites out of al the cities of Iuda, and the princes of the families of Ifrael, and they came into Ierufalem. ³ Therefore al the multitude made a couenant with the king in the houfe of God: and Ioiada fayd to them: Behold the kinges fonne fhall reigne, as our Lord hath fpoken, vpon the fonnes of Dauid. ⁴ This ^atherefore is the thing which you fhall doe. ⁵ The third part of you that come to the Sabbath of the Prieftes, and of Leuites, and of porters fhall be in the gates: and a third part at the kinges houfe: and a third at the gate, which is called of the Foundation: but let al the reft of the common people be in the courtes of the houfe of our Lord. ⁶ Neither let anie other enter into the houfe of our Lord, but the Prieftes, and they that minifter of the Leuites: let them onlie goe in, becaufe they are fanctified and let al the reft of the multitude obserue the watches of our Lord. ⁷ And let the Leuites enuiron the king, hauing euerie one their weapons: (and if anie other fhall enter into the temple, let him be flayne) and let them be with the king both coming in, and going out. ⁸ The Leuites therefore, & al Iuda did according to al thinges, which ^bIoiada the high Priefte had commanded;

The vveeke-
lie vvatch.

^a Gods promife being abfolute and certayne, yet humane meanes were neuertheles required.

^b In cafe of right and neceffitie we fee here what the high Priefte could do and did by his authoritie: who otherwife intermedled not in the kings affayres. *ch. 19. v. 11.*

and they tooke euerie one the men that were vnder them, and came by the order of the Sabbath, with them that had fulfilled the Sabbath, and were to goe forth. For Ioiada the high Priest permitted not the companies to depart, which were accustomed to succede one an other euerie weeke. ⁹ And Ioiada the Priest gaue to the centurions the speares, and the shields, and targattes of king Dauid, which he had consecrated in the house of our Lord. ¹⁰ And he appoynted al the people of them that held weapons on the right side of the temple, vnto the left side of the temple, before the altar, and the temple, round about the king. ¹¹ And they brought forth the kinges sonne, and put the crowne vpon him, and the testimony, and gaue the law to be in his hand, & they made him king: Ioiada also the high Priest, and his sonnes annoynted him: and they wished him wel, and said: God faue the king. ¹² Which thing when Athalia had heard, to witte, the voice of them that ranne and prayed the king, she went in vnto the people, into the temple of our Lord. ¹³ And when she had seene the king standing vpon the steppe in the entrance, and the princes, and the companies about him, and al the people of the land reioysing, and founding with trumpettes, and playing on instrumentes of diuerse kind, and the voice of them that prayed, she rent her garmentes, and sayd: Treason, treason. ¹⁴ And Ioiada the high Priest going forth to the centurions, and captaines of the armie, sayd to them: Bring her forth without the precinct of the temple, and let her be killed with the sword without. And the Priest commanded that she should not be killed in the house of our Lord. ¹⁵ And they layd handes vpon her necke: and when she was entred within the gate of the horses of the kinges house, they killed her there. ¹⁶ And Ioiada made a couenant between himself, and al the people, and the king, that they would be the people of our Lord. ¹⁷ Al the people therefore entred into the house of Baal, and destroyed it: and they brake his

simulacra. altars and ^{a)}his images: Mathan also the priest of Baal they flew before the altars. ¹⁸ And Ioiada appointed overseers in the house of our Lord, under the hands of the Priests, & the Levites, which David distributed in the house of our Lord: that they should offer holocausts to our Lord, as it is written in the law of Moyses, in joy and songs, according to the disposition of David. ¹⁹ He appointed also porters in the gates of the house of our Lord, that the unclean in any thing should not enter in. ²⁰ And he took the centurions, and the most valiant men and princes of the people, and all the common people of the land, and they made the king to go down from the house of our Lord, & to enter by the middle of the upper gate into the king's house, and placed him in the royal throne. ²¹ And all the people of the land rejoiced, & the city was quiet: moreover Athalia was slain with the sword.

^a They are wilfully blind that will not see difference between images of Baal & of Christ or of Saints.