

Chapter 30

Ezechias by meffengers and letters exhorteth the people both of Iuda and Ifrael, to make Pafch in Ierufalem. 11. Which fome of Ifrael, and al Iuda performe, 18. the fourteenth day of the fecond moneth, though al could not be purified according to the law. 23. They make an other feaft of Azimes feuen dayes more, the king and princes geuing hoftes to the people.

Ezechias alfo fent to al Ifrael and Iuda: and he wrote letters to Ephraim and Manaffes, that they fhould come to the houfe of our Lord in Ierufalem, and should make a Phafe to our Lord the God of Ifrael. ² Counfel therefore being taken of the king and the princes, and of al the affembly of Ierufalem, they decreed to make the Phafe the fecond moneth. ³ For they could not make it in his time: becaufe the Prieftes that might fuffice, had not bene fanctified, and the people had not as yet bene gathered into Ierufalem. ⁴ And the word pleased the king, and al the multitude. ⁵ And they decreed to fend meffengers into al Ifrael from Berfabee vnto Dan, that they should come, and make the Phafe of our Lord the God of Ifrael in Ierufalem: for manie had not made it as is prefcribed by the law. ⁶ And the poftes went forth with letters of commandement from the king, and his princes, into al Ifrael and Iuda, according to that, which the king had commanded, proclaiming: Children of Ifrael returne ye to our Lord the God of Abraham, and Ifaac, and Ifrael: and he wil returne to the remnant, that hath efaped the hand of the king of the Affyrians. ⁷ Become not as your fathers, and brethren, which haue reuolted from our Lord the God of their fathers, who hath deliuered them into deftruction, as your felues fee. ⁸ Harden not your neckes, as your fathers: geue handes to our Lord, and come to his Sanctuarie, which he hath fanctified for euer: ferue our Lord the God of your fathers, and the wrath of his furie fhall be turned away from you. ⁹ For if you fhall returne

to our Lord: your brethren, and children shal haue mercie before their Lordes, that haue led them captiue, and they shal returne into this land: for our Lord your God is merciful, and wil not turne away his face from you, if you shal returne to him. ¹⁰ Therefore the postes went forward fpedely from citie to citie, through the land of Ephraim, and of Manaffes, as farre as Zabulon, they mocking and fkorning them. ¹¹ Neuertheleffe certayne men of Afer, and Manaffes, and Zabulon, condescending to the counfel, came to Ierufalem. ¹² But the hand of God was in Iuda, to geue them one hart to doe the word of our Lord, according to the precept of the king and of the princes. ¹³ And much people was gathered into Ierufalem to make the folemnitie of Azimes in the fecond moneth: ¹⁴ And rifting they deftroyed the altars that were in Ierufalem, and ouerthrowing al thinges wherin incense was burnt to idols, they threw it into the Torrent cedron. ¹⁵ And they immolated the Phafe the fourteenth day of the fecond moneth. The Priestes alfo and the Leuites at length being fanctified offered holocaustes in the houle of our Lord. And they ftoode in their order according to the difpofition, & law of Moyfes the man of God: but the Priestes receiued the bloud to be powred out of the handes of the Leuites, ¹⁶ becaufe a great multitude was not fanctified: & therfore the Leuites immolated the Phafe for them, that came not in time to be fanctified to our Lord. ¹⁷ For a great part of the people of Ephraim, and Manaffes, and Iffachar, and Zabulon, that had not bene fanctified, did eate the Phafe, not according to that which is writen: and Ezechias prayed for them, faying: Our good Lord wil be merciful, ¹⁸ to al them, ^a)that in al their hart feeke our Lord the God of their fathers: and wil not impute it to them that they are not fanctified. ¹⁹ Whom our Lord heard, and was pacified to the people. ²⁰ And the children of Ifrael,

^a Being penitēt in hart for their finnes, Gods difpenfation might be fupposed for legal purification in cafe of necefitie, which otherwife was ftrictly commanded. *Leuit. 5. et feq. Deut. 27. &c.*

that were found in Ierufalem, made the folemnitie of Azimes feuen daies in great ioy, prayfing our Lord euerie day. The Leuites alfo and the Prieftes by instrumentes, that agreed to their office. ²¹ And Ezechias fpake to the hart of al the Leuites, that had good vnderftanding concerning our Lord: and they did eate during the feuen daies of the folemnitie, immolating victimes of pacifiques, and prayfing our Lord the God of their fathers. ²² And it pleaſed the whole multitude to celebrate it ^a)other feuen daies: which alfo they did with great ioy. ²³ For Ezechias the king of Iuda had geuen the multitude a thouſand oxen, and feuen thouſand ſheepe: but the princes had geuen the people oxen a thouſand, & ſheepe ten thouſand: there was ſanctified therfore a verie great multitude of Prieftes. ²⁴ And al the multitude of Iuda was ful of mirth, as wel of the Prieftes and Leuites, as of al the affemblie, that came out of Ifrael; of the profelites alfo of the land of Ifrael, and them that dwelt in Iuda. ²⁵ And there was made a great folemnitie in Ierufalem, ſuch as had not bene in that citie from the dayes of Salomon the ſonne of Dauid the king of Ifrael. ²⁶ And the Prieftes & the Leuites roſe vp bleſſing the people: & their voice was heard: and their prayer came into the holie habitation of heauen.

^a Voluntarie workes of ſupererogation, more then was commanded.