

Chapter 30

Ezechias by meffengers and letters exhorteth the people both of Iuda and Ifrael, to make Pasch in Ierufalem. 11. Which some 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 also sent to al Ifrael and Iuda: and he wrote letters to Ephraim and Manaffes, that they should come to the house 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 Priestes that might suffice, had not bene sanctified, 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 prescribed by the law. ⁶ And the postes 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 escaped 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 destruction, as your felues see. ⁸ Harden not your neckes, as your fathers: geue handes to our Lord, and come to his Sanctuarie, which he hath sanctified for euer: serue our Lord the God of your fathers, and the wrath of his furie shal be turned away from you. ⁹ For if you shal 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 spedyly from citie to citie, through the land of Ephraim, and of Manaffes, as farre as Zabulon, they mocking and skorning them. ¹¹ Neuertheleffe certayne men of Afer, and Manaffes, and Zabulon, condescending to the counsel, came to Ierusalem. 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 Ierusalem to make the solemnitie of Azimes in the second moneth: ¹⁴ And rifing they destroyed the altars that were in Ierusalem, and ouerthrowing al thinges wherin incense was burnt to idols, they threw it into the Torrent cedron. ¹⁵ And they immolated the Phafe the fourtenth day of the second moneth. The Priestes also and the Leuites at length being sanctified offered holocaustes in the house of our Lord. And they ftoode in their order according to the disposition, & law of Moyfes the man of God: but the Priestes receiued the bloud to be powred out of the handes of the Leuites, ¹⁶ because a great multitude was not sanctified: & therefore the Leuites immolated the Phafe for them, that came not in time to be sanctified to our Lord. ¹⁷ For a great part of the people of Ephraim, and Manaffes, and Iffachar, and Zabulon, that had not bene sanctified, did eate the Phafe, not according to that which is writen: and Ezechias prayed for them, saying: Our good Lord wil be merciful, ¹⁸ to al them, ^athat in al their hart feeke our Lord the God of their fathers: and wil not impute it to them that they are not sanctified. ¹⁹ Whom our Lord heard, and was pacified to the people. ²⁰ And the children of Ifrael, that were found in Ierusalem, made the solemnitie of Azimes seuen daies in

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

great ioy, praying our Lord euerie day. The Leuites also and the Priestes by instruments, that agreed to their office. ²¹ And Ezechias spake to the hart of al the Leuites, that had good vnderstanding concerning our Lord: and they did eate during the feuen daies of the folemnie, immolating victimes of pacifiques, and praying our Lord the God of their fathers. ²² And it pleased the whole multitude to celebrate it ^a)other feuen daies: which also 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 fancified therefore a verie great multitude of Priestes. ²⁴ And al the multitude of Iuda was ful of mirth, as wel of the Priestes and Leuites, as of al the affembly, that came out of Ifrael; of the profelites also of the land of Ifrael, and them that dwelt in Iuda. ²⁵ And there was made a great folemnie 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 Priestes & the Leuites rose vp bleffing 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.