

Chapter 31

Idoles being destroyed in al Iuda and part of Ifrael, Prieftes and Leuites freely execute their functions. 4. Tithes and firft fruites are payed in fuch abundance, 15. that they are put in ftore houfes, and diftributed by officers.

And when thefe things had bene ritely celebrated, al Ifrael that was found in the cities of Iuda, went forth, and they brake the idols, and cut downe the groues, ouerthrew the excelfes, and destroyed the altars, not onlie out of al Iuda and Benjamin, but out of Ephraim alfo and Manaffes, til they vtterly destroyed them: and al the children of Ifrael returned into their poffeffions and cities. ² And Ezechias appoynted companies of Prieftes, and of Leuites, by their diuifions, euerie man in his owne office, to witte, as wel of the Prieftes, as of the Leuites, for the holocaustes, and pacifiques, that they fould minifter, and ^a)confeffe, and fting in the gates of the campe of our Lord. ³ And the kinges part was, that of his proper fubftance holocaust fould be offered, morning alwaies and euening, in the Sabbathes alfo, and the Calendes and in other folemnyties, as it is wrien in the law of Moyfes. ⁴ He commanded alfo the people that dwelt in Ierufalem, to geue portions to the Prieftes, and the Leuites, that they might attend the law of our Lord. ⁵ Which when it was noyfed in the eares of the multitude, the children of Ifrael offered very manie firft fruites of corne, of wine, and of oyle, of honie alfo: and of al thinges, which the ground bringeth forth, they offered tithes. ⁶ Yea and the children of Ifrael and Iuda, that dwelt in the cities of Iuda, offered tithes of oxen, and fheepe, and tithes of fanctified thinges, which they had vowed to our Lord their God: and carying them al, made manie heapes. ⁷ The third moneth they began to lay the foundations of the heapes, and in the feuenth moneth they finifhed them. ⁸ And when Ezechias, and

^a Befides confeffion of finnes there is alfo cõfaffion of Gods excellencie & goodnes.

his princes came in, they saw the heapes, and blessed our Lord, and the people of Israel. ⁹ And Ezechias asked the Priests and the Levites, why the heapes lay so: ¹⁰ Azarias the high Priest of the stocke of Sadoc answered him, saying: Since first fruits began to be offered in the house of our Lord, we have eaten, and have benefited, and very much hath remained, because our Lord hath blessed his people: and of the remaines this is the abundance, which thou seest. ¹¹ Ezechias therefore commanded that storehouses should be prepared in the house of our Lord. Which when they had done, ¹² they brought in as well the first fruits, as the tithes, and whatsoever they had vowed, faithfully. And the overseer of them was Chonenias a Levite, and Semei his brother the second, ¹³ after whom Iahiel, and Azarias, and Nahath, and Afael, and Ierimoth, Iofabad also, and Eliel, and Iefmachias, and Mahath, and Banaias, overseers under the hand of Chonenias, and Semei his brother, by the commandment of Ezechias the king, and Azarias the high Priest of the house of God, to whom all things appertained. ¹⁴ But Core the sonne of Iemna a Levite, and porter of the east gate, was overseer of those things, which were voluntarily offered to our Lord, and of the first fruits and the things consecrated for *Sancta sanctorum*. ¹⁵ And under his charge Eden, and Benjamin, Iesue, and Semeias, Amarias also, and Sechenias, in the cities of the Priests, that they should faithfully distribute to their brethren portions, to the lesser and greater: ¹⁶ saving the men children from three yeares and above, to all that entered into the temple of our Lord, and whatsoever day by day was profitable in the ministerie, and the observations according to their divisions, ¹⁷ to the Priests by families, and to the Levites from the twentieth yeare and upward, by the orders and companies, ¹⁸ and to all the multitude, as well their wives, as their children of both sex, meates were given faithfully of these things, that had been sanctified. ¹⁹ Yea and of the children of Aaron by the fields and the suburbs of every citie, there were men ordained, that should distribute portions, to all the male sex, of the Priests and the Levites. ²⁰ Ezechias

therefore did al thinges which we haue fayd in al Iuda:
and wrought good and right, and truth before our Lord
his God, ²¹ in al the feruice of the minifterie of the houle
of our Lord, according to the law and the ceremonies,
willing to feeke his God in al his hart, and he did it and
profpered.