

Chapter 33

Manaffes for his manifold wickednes is led captiue into Babylon: 12. repenteth in prifon, is reftored to his kingdom, and deftroyeth idolatrie: 18. dieth, 23. & Amon fucceeding, 24. is flayne by his feruantes, and Iofias reigneth.

4. Reg. 21.

Twelue yeares old was Manaffes when he began to reigne, and he reigned fiftie fiue yeares in Ierufalem. ² And he did euil before our Lord, according to al the abominations of the nations, which our Lord ouerthrew before the children of Ifrael: ³ and being turned, he reedified the excelfes which Ezechias his father had deftroyed: and he built altars to Baalim, and made groues, and he adored al the hoft of heauen, and worshipped it. ⁴ He built alfo altars in the houfe of our Lord, wherof our Lord had fayd: In Ierufalem fhall my name be for euer. ⁵ And he built them to al the hoft of heauen in the two courtes of the houfe of our Lord. ⁶ And he made his fonnes to paffe through fyre, to the Valebenennom: he obserued dreames, folowed fouthfayings, gaue him felf to magike artes, he had with him magicians, & inchaunters: and he wrought manie euils before our Lord, to prouoke him. ⁷ Alfo a grauen, and a molten figne he put in the houfe of God, wherof our Lord fpake to Dauid, and to Salomon his fonne, faying: In this houfe, and in Ierufalem, which I haue chofen of al the tribes of Ifrael, wil I put my name for euer. ⁸ And I wil not make the foote of Ifrael to moue out of the land, which I haue deliuered to their fathers: yet fo if they fhall obserue to doe that I haue commanded them, and al the law, and the ceremonies, and iudgements by the hand of Moyfes. ⁹ Manaffes therefore feduced Iuda, and the inhabitantes of Ierufalem, that they did euil about al the nations, which our Lord had ouerthrowen before the face of the children of Ifrael. ¹⁰ And our Lord fpake to him, and to his people, and they would not attend. ¹¹ Therefore he brought vpon them the princes of the hoft of the king of the Affyrians: and they tooke Manaffes,

& led him bound with chaynes, and fetters into Babylon. ¹² Who after that he was in diftreffe, prayed our Lord his God: and did penance exceedingly before the God of his fathers. ¹³ And he defired him, and befought him earnestly: ^a)and he heard his prayer, and brought him agayne to Ierufalem into his kingdom, and Manaffes knew that our Lord he was God. ¹⁴ After these thinges he built a wal without the citie of Daud, on the west of Gihon in the valley, from the entrance of the fifth gate round about vnto Ophel, and rayfed it exceedingly: and he appoynted princes of the hoft in al the fenced cities of Iuda: ¹⁵ and he tooke away ftrange goddes, and the idol out of the houfe of our Lord: the altars alfo which he had made in the mount of the houfe of our Lord, and in Ierufalem, and he threw al without the citie. ¹⁶ Moreouer he reedified the altar of our Lord, and immolated vpon it victimes, and pacifiques, and prayfe: and he commanded Iuda to ferue our Lord the God of Ifrael. ¹⁷ Neuertheleffe as yet the people immolated in the excelfes to our Lord their God. ¹⁸ But the rest of the actes of Manaffes: and his obfecration to his God: the wordes alfo of the Seers, that spake to him in the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael, are conteyned in the wordes of the kinges of Ifrael. ¹⁹ His ^b)prayer alfo, and his obtayning, and al his finnes, and contempt, the places alfo wherein he built excelfes, and made groues, and ftatues before he did penance, are writen in the wordes of Hozai. ²⁰ Manaffes therefore flept with his fathers, and they buried him in his houfe: & his fonne Amon reigned for him. ²¹ Ammon was two and twentie yeares old when he began to reigne, and he reigned two yeares in Ierufalem. ²² And he did euil in the fight of our Lord, as Manaffes his father had done: and he immolated to al the idols, which Manaffes his father had made, and ferued them. ²³ And he did not reuerence the face of our Lord, as Manaffes his father did reuerence it, and he committed farre greater finnes.

^a A pregnant example of the effect of harty repentance.

^b This prayer is not extant in the Hebrew but in Greke & Latin, as yet neither receiued for canonical, by the Church nor refused.

²⁴ And when his feruantes had conspired agaynft him, they flewe him in his owne houfe. ²⁵ Moreouer the rest of the multitude of the people, hauing flaine them that ftroke Amon, made Iofias his fonne king for him.