

Chapter 34

Iofias deftroyeth idolatrie, 8. repaireth the Temple. 14. The booke of the law found in the Temple is redde before him. 19. Wherby vnderftanding the finnes of the people, 23. a prophete foresheweth their punishment, 26. but not in his daies. 29. He reneweth the couenant betwen God and the people.

4. Reg. 22.

Eight yeares old was Iofias when he began to reigne, & he reigned thirtie and one yeares in Ierufalem. ² And he did that which was right in the fight of our Lord, and walked in the waies of Daud his father: he declined not neither to the right hand, nor to the left. ³ And in the eight yeare of his reigne, when he was yet a child, he began to seeke the God of his father Daud: and the twelfth yeare after he began to reigne, he clenfed Iuda and Ierufalem from excelfes, and groues, and idols, & fculptils. ⁴ And they deftroyed before him the altars of Baalim, and the idols, that had bene fet vpon them, they deftroyed: the groues alfo and fculptils he cut downe and brake in peces: and ouer their tombes, that were accuftomed to immolate vnto them, he ftrawed the fragmentes. ⁵ Moreouer the bones of the Prieftes he burnt on the altars of the idols, and he clenfed Iuda and Ierufalem. ⁶ Yea and in the cities of Manaffes, and of Ephraim, and of Simeon, vnto Nephthali he ouerthrew al. ⁷ And when he had deftroyed the altars, and the groues, and had broken the idols into peces, and had ouerthrowen al profane temples out of al the land of Ifrael, he returned into Ierufalem. ⁸ Therefore in the eighteenth yeare of his reigne, the land now clenfed, and the temple of our Lord, he fent Saphan the fonne of Efelias, and Maafias the gouernour of the citie, and Ioha the fonne of Ioachaz Commenter, that they fhould repayre the houfe of our Lord his God. ⁹ Who came to Helcias the high prieft: and taking of him the money, which had bene brought into the houfe of our Lord, and which the Leuites and porters had gathered

3. Reg. 12.

together of Manaffes, and Ephraim, and of al the remnant of Ifrael, of al Iuda alfo, and Beniamin, and the inhabitants of Ierufalem, ¹⁰ they deliuered in their handes, that ouerfaw the workemen in the houfe of our Lord, that they fhould repayre the temple, and mend al weake partes. ¹¹ But they gaue it to the artificers, and to the mafons, that they fhould bye ftones out of the quarries, and timber for the ioyntures of the building, and for making the roofe of the houfe, which the kinges of Iuda had deftroied. ¹² Who did al thinges faithfully. And the ouerfeers of the workemen were Iahath & Abdias of the children of Merari, Zacharias and Mofollam of the children of Caath, which vrged the worke: al Leuites skilful to fing on instrumentes. ¹³ But ouer them, that caried burdens to diuerfe vfes, were fcribes, and mafters of the Leuites, and porters. ¹⁴ And when they caried forth the money, that had bene brought into the temple of our Lord, Helcias the Prieft found the Booke of the law of our Lord, ^a)by the hand of Moyfes. ¹⁵ And he fayd to Saphan the Scribe: I haue found the booke of the law in the houfe of our Lord: and deliuered it to him. ¹⁶ But he brought in the volume to the king, and told him, faying: Al thinges, which thou gaueft into the hand of thy feruantes, loe are accomplished. ¹⁷ The filuer that was found in the houfe of our Lord, they haue gathered into a maffe: and it was geuen to the ouerfeers of the artificers, and of them that make diuerfe workes. ¹⁸ Moreouer Helcias the Prieft deliuered me this booke. Which when he had read in the kinges prefence, ¹⁹ and he had heard the wordes of the law, he rent his garmentes: ²⁰ and he commanded Helcias, and Ahicam the fonne of Saphan, and Abdon the fonne of Micha, Saphan alfo the fcribe, and Afaa the kinges feruant, faying: ²¹ Goe, and pray our Lord for me, and for the remnant of Ifrael, and Iuda, concerning al the wordes of this Booke, which is found: for the great furie of our Lord hath diftilled vpon vs, for that our fathers haue not kept the wordes of

^a Geuen by the hand of Moyfes.

our Lord, to doe al thinges, that are writen in this volume. ²² Helcias therfore went, and they that were sent together by the king, to Olda a propheteffe, the wife of Sellum the fonne of Thecuath, the fonne of Hafra keeper of the garmentes: who dwelt in Ierufalem in the second part: and they spake to her the wordes, which we haue aboue mentioned. ²³ But she answered them: Thus sayth our Lord the God of Ifrael: Tel the man, that sent you to me: ²⁴ Thus sayth our Lord: Behold I wil bring euils vpon this place, and vpon the inhabitantes therof, and al the curfes, that are writen in this Booke, which they redde before the king of Iuda. ²⁵ Because they haue forsaken me, and haue sacrificed to ftrange goddes, that they might prouoke me to wrath in al the workes of their handes, therfore shal my furie droppe vpon this place, & shal not be extinguished. ²⁶ But to the king of Iuda that sent you to beseeche our Lord, thus speake ye: Thus sayth our Lord the God of Ifrael: Because thou hast heard the wordes of this volume, ²⁷ and thy hart is mollified, and thou art humbled in the sight of our Lord for these thinges, which are spoken against this place, and the inhabitantes of Ierufalem, and reuerencing my face, hast rent thy garmentes, and wept before me: I also haue heard thee, sayth our Lord. ²⁸ ^a)For now wil I gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be brought into thy graue in peace: neither shal thyne eies see al the euil that I wil bring in vpon this place, and vpon the inhabitantes therof. They therfore reported to the king al thinges that she had sayd. ²⁹ But he calling together al the ancientes of Iuda and Ierufalem, ³⁰ went vp into the house of our Lord, and al the men of Iuda, and the inhabitantes of Ierufalem, Priestes and Leuites, and al the people from the leaft to the greateft. In whose hearing in the house of our Lord, the king read al the wordes of the volume. ³¹ And standing on his tribunal seate, he made a couenant before our Lord, that he would walke after him, and keepe his preceptes, and testimonies, and

^a It is a benefite to be taken out of this world, before general miserie come vpon the people.

iustifications in al his hart, and in al his foule, and would do the thinges that were writen in that volume, which he had read. ³² He adiured also vpon this al that were found in Ierufalem, and Beniamin: and the inhabitantes of Ierufalem did according to the couenant, of our Lord the God of their fathers. ³³ Iofias therefore tooke away al abominations of al the countries of the children of Ifrael: and made al, that were left in Ifrael, to ferue our Lord their God. Al his daies they reuolted not from our Lord the God of their fathers.