

Chapter 16

God plaguing the Ægyptians for idolatrie, and crueltie, deliuered the Ifraelites. 5. Chafticed them alfo, but againe shewed them mercie, 20. and fedde them with Manna.

For ^{a)}theſe thinges, and ^{b)}by the like to theſe, they haue worthely ſuffered torments, and were deſtroyed by a multitude of beaſts. ² For the which torments thou didſt wel diſpoſe of thy people, to whom thou gaueſt the deſire of their delectation a new taſte, preparing them the quaile for meate: ³ that they in deede coueting meate, becauſe of thoſe thinges which were ſhewed and ſent them, might be turned away euen from neceſſarie concupiſcence. But they in ſhort time being made needie, taſted a new meate. ⁴ For it behoued that without excuſe deſtruction ſhould come vpon them exerciſing tyrannie: ^{c)}but to theſe onlie to ſhew how their enemies were deſtroyed. ⁵ For when the cruel wrath of beaſtes came vpon them, they were deſtroyed with the bytings of peruerſe ſerpents. ⁶ Howbeit thy wrath endured not for euer, but for chaſtifement they were troubled a ſhort time, hauing a ſigne of ſaluation for the remembrance of the commandment of thy law. ⁷ For he that turned to it, ^{d)}was not healed by that which he ſaw, but by thee the fauour of al: ⁸ and in this thou didſt ſhew to our enemies, that thou art he which deliuered from al euil. ⁹ For the bitings of locuſts, and flies killed them, and there was found no remedie for their life: becauſe they were worthie to be deſtroyed by ſuch thinges. ¹⁰ But neither the teeth of venemous dragons ouercame thy children: for thy mercie coming healed them. ¹¹ For

^a The Ægyptians were plagued for their idolatrie.

^b And that by beaſtes, becauſe they worſhipped beaſtes for goddes: and by death of their firſt begotten, for their crueltie againſt Gods people.

^c God puniſhed his owne people as a father, for their amendment.

^d The braſen ſerpent not by anie vertue inherent, but as a ſigne of Gods fauoure, vvas the meanes of curing the people. *Num. 21.*

in memorie of thy wordes they were examined, & were quickly faued, left falling into deepe obliuion, they might not vse thy helpe. ¹² For neither herbe, nor playfter healed them, but thy word, ô Lord, which healeth al thinges. ¹³ For it is thou, ô Lord, that haft powre of life and death, and bringeft downe to the gates of death, and fercheft agayne: ¹⁴ but man certes killeth by malice, and when the fpirit is gone forth, it shal not returne, neither shal he cal backe the foule that is receiued: ¹⁵ but it is vnpossible to escape thy hand. ¹⁶ For the impious denying to knowe thee, haue bene fcourged by the ftrength of thine arme, fuffering perfecution by ftrange waters, and haile, and rayne, and confumed by fyre. ¹⁷ For that which was meruelous in water, which extinguisheth al thinges, ^afyre more preuayled: for the world is reuenger of the iuft. ¹⁸ For a certayne time, the fyre was mitigated, that ^bthe beafts which were sent to the impious might not be burnt, but that they feing might know that by Gods iudgement they fuffer punishment. ¹⁹ And at a certaine time the fyre aboue his powre burnt ^cin water on euerie fide, that it might deftroy the nation of a wicked land. ²⁰ For the which thinges thou didft nourish thy people with the meate of Angels, and bread prepared thou gaueft them from heauen without labour, ^dhauing in it al delectation, and the fweetnes of al taſte. ²¹ For thy ſubſtance did ſhew thy fweetnes which thou haft toward thy children, and feruing euerie mans wil, it was turned to that, that euerie man would. ²² Yea ſnow and yce ſufteyned the force of fyre, and melted not: that they might know that fyre burning in hayle, and lightening in rayne deftroyed the fruites of the enemies. ²³ And this againe, that the iuft might be nourished, it forgot alfo his owne ſtrength. ²⁴ For the creature ſeruing thee the Creatour, is fierce into torment againſt

^a VVith the plague of haile there vvas alfo fire mixed. *Exo. 9. v. 24.*

VVhich deftroyed the profitable cattle,

^b but burnt not other beaſtes, that plagued the Ægyptians.

^c Haile did not extinguiſh the fire, by Gods povvre aboue nature.

^d See the miracles of Manna. *Annot. Exod. 16.*

the vniuft: and is made more gentle to doe good for them, that truſt in thee. ²⁵ For this caufe euen then being transformed into al thinges they ferued thy grace the nource of al, at their wil that defired thee: ²⁶ that thy children might know, whom thou loueſt ô Lord, that not the fruites of natiuitie doe feede men, but thy word preferueth them, that beleue in thee. ²⁷ For that which could not be deſtroyed by fyre, forthwith being ^a)heated with a litle beame of the funne did melt: ²⁸ that it might be knowen to al men, that we ought to preuent the funne to bleſſe thee, and at the ryſing of light to adore thee. ²⁹ For the ^b)fayth of the vngratful ſhal melt as winter yce, & ſhal periſh as vnprofitable water.

^a He ſpeaketh againe of Manna.

^b The vaine imagination of the vvicked that himſelf ſhal be faued vvil faile him.