

woman, and to all the Priests, that they might heare the Law the first day of the seuenth moneth.

41 And he red in the first broad place of the gate of the Temple, from morning to midday, before the men and the women, and all the multitude hearkened to y^e Law.

42 So Esdras the Priest and reader of the Law, stode vpo a pulpet of wood that was prepared.

^{or, Mattheias.} 43 And there stode by him "Matgathias, Sāmus, Ananias, Azarias, Ourias, Ezeccias, Balasamus at his right hand,

^{or, Pedaias.} 44 And at his left hand "Phaldaius, and Sail, Melchias, Aothasaphus, Nabarias.

45 Then Esdras toke y^e boke of the Law before the multitude (for he sate honorably before them all)

46 And they all stode vpright when he expounded the Law, and Esdras blessed the Lord the moste hie God, the moste mightie God of hostes.

47 And the whole multitude cryed, Amen.

^{or, Rami.} 48 Then Iesus and "Anus, and Sarabias, and Adimus, & Iacobus, Sābaraias, Autanias, Maianias and Calitas, Azarias, & Ioazab-

dus, and Ananias, & Biatas the Leuites lift vp their hands, and fell downe on the grounde, and worshiped the Lord,

49 And taught the Law of the Lord, and stode also earnestly vpon the reading.

50 Then said Achtharates to Esdras the ^{or, Nchemias.} chief Priest and reader, & to the Leuites, that taught the multitude in all things, This day is holie vnto the Lord, and all haue wept in hearing of the Law.

51 Go therefore and eat the fat meates, & drinke the swete drinks, and send presents to them that haue not.

52 For this day is holie to the Lord, and be not sorie: for the Lord God wil glorifie you.

53 So the Leuites commanded all these things to the people, saying, This day is holie to the Lord: be not sad.

54 Then they departed all to eat, and drinke, and to reioyce, and to giue presents to the that had not, and to make good chere.

55 For they were yet filled with the wordes wherewith they were instructed, whē they were assembled together.

II. Esdras.

CHAP. I.

¹ The people is reprobud for their unfaithfulness.
³⁰ God wil haue another people, if these wil not be reformed.

^{Esra. 7. 1.}



He second boke of the Prophet * Esdras, the sonne of Siraia, y^e sonne of Azarias, the sonne of Helcias, the sonne of Sadanias, the sonne of Sadoc, the sonne of Achitob,

2 The sonne of Achias, y^e sonne of Phinees, the sonne of Heli, the sonne of Amerias, the sonne of Asie, the sonne of Marimoth, the sonne of Arua, the sonne of Ozias, the sonne of Borith, the sonne of Abisei, the sonne of Phinees, the sonne of Eleazar,

3 The sonne of Aaron (of the tribe of Leui) which *Esdras* was prisoner in the lād of Medes, in the reigne of Artaxerxes King of Persia.

^{Isa. 58. 1.}

4 * And the worde of the Lord came vnto me, saying,

5 Go, and shewe my people their sinnes, & their children their wickednes, which they haue comitted against me, that they may tel their childrens children.

6 For the sinnes of their fathers are increased in them, because they haue forgotten me, and haue offred vnto strange gods.

7 Haue not I broght them out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage? but they haue prouoked me vnto wrath, and

despised my counsels.

8 Pull thou of then the heere of thine head, and cast all euil vpon them: for they haue not bene obedient vnto my Law, but they are a rebellious people.

9 How long shal I forbear the, vnto whom I haue done somuche good?

10 * Many Kings haue I destroied for their sakes: Pharao with his seruants and all his armie haue I smitten downe. ^{Exod. 14. 28.}

11 All the nacions haue I destroied before them: * I haue destroied the East, the people of the two countreis Tyrus and Sidō, and haue slaine all their enemies. ^{Nomb. 21. 24. 10th. 8. 12.}

12 Speake thou therefore vnto the, saying, Thus saith the Lord,

13 * I haue led you thorow the Sea, and haue giuen you a sure way, since the beginning: * I gaue you Moyses for a guide, and Aaron for a Priest. ^{Exod. 14. 29. 1st. 11. Exod. 3. 10. 4. 14.}

14 * I gaue you light in a pillar of fyre, and great wonders haue I done amōg you: yet haue ye forgotten me, saith the Lord. ^{Exod. 13. 21.}

15 Thus saith y^e Almighty Lord, The quailles * were a tokē vnto you: I gaue you tentes for sauegarde, wherein ye murmured: ^{Exod. 16. 13. 1st. 10. 4. 40.}

16 And ye triumphed not in my Name for the destruction of your enemies, but ye yet murmur still.

17 Where are the benefites, that I haue done for you? when ye were hungrie in the wilderness, * did ye not crye vnto me? ^{Nomb. 14. 8.}

18 Saying, Why hast thou broght vs into Ecce.iii.

II. Esdras.

- this wildernes to kill vs: It had bene better for vs to haue serued the Egyptians, then to dye in this wildernes.
- Wis. 16, 20.* 19 I had pitie vpon your mournings, and gaue you Manna to eat: so ye did eat Angels fode.
- Nom. 20, 11. Wis. 11, 4.* 20 *When ye were thirstie, did not I cleaue the stone, & waters did flowe out to satisfie you: from the heat I couered you with the leaues of the trees,
- Isa. 5, 4.* 21 And I gaue you fat countreys: I cast out the Cananites, & Pherisites, & Philistims before you: what shal I do more for you, saith the Lord?
- Exod. 15, 25.* 22 Thus saith the almightie Lord, *When ye were in the wildernes at the bitter waters, being a thirst, and blaspheming my Name,
- 23 I gaue you not fyre for the blasphemies, but cast a tre into the water, and made the riuer swete.
- Exod. 32, 8.* 24 What shal I do vnto thee, o Iacob: thou *Iuda woldest not obey: I wil turne me to other nations, and vnto those wil I giue my Name, that they may kepe my lawes.
- 25 Seing ye haue forsaken me, I wil also forsake you: when ye aske mercie of me, I wil not haue pitie vpon you.
- Isa. 1, 15.* 26 *When ye call vpon me, I wil not heare you: for ye haue defiled your hands with blood, and your fete are swift to commit murther,
- 27 Although ye haue not forsaken me, but your owne selues, saith the Lord.
- 28 Thus saith the almightie Lord, Haue I not prayed you, as a father his sonnes, and as a mother her daughters, and as a nurse her yong babes,
- 29 That ye wolde be my people, as I am your God, and that ye wolde be my children, as I am your father?
- Mat. 23, 37.* 30 *I gathered you together as an henne gathereth her chickens vnder her wings: but now what shal I do vnto you? I wil cast you out from my sight.
- Isa. 1, 13.* 31 *When ye bring gifts vnto me, I wil turne my face from you for your solene feast dayes: your new moones, & your circumcisions haue I forsaken.
- 32 I sent vnto you my seruants the Prophetes, whome ye haue taken and slaine, and torne their bodies in pieces, whose blood I wil reuenge, saith the Lord.
- 33 Thus saith the almightie Lord, Your house shalbe desolate: I wil cast you out as the winde doeth the stubble.
- 34 Your children shal not haue generaciō: for thei haue despised my commandemēt, & done the thing that I hate before me.
- 35 Your houses wil I giue vnto a people to come, who shal beleue me though they heare me not, and they, vnto whome I neuer shewed miracle, shal do the things that I command them.
- 36 Though they se no Prophetes, yet shal they hate their iniquities.
- 37 ¶ I wil declare the grace that I wil do for the people to come, whose children reioyce in gladnes, and though they haue not seene me with bodelie eyes, yet in heart they beleue the things that I say.
- 38 Now therefore brother, beholde what great glorie, and se the people that come from the East.
- 39 Vnto whome I wil giue for leaders Abraham, Isahac, Iacob, Oseas, Amos, Micheas, Ioel, Abdias, Ionas,
- 40 Naum, Habacuc, Sophonias, Aggeus, Zacharias, and Malachias (which is called also the *messenger of the Lord) *Malach. 3, 1.*

CHAP. II.

The Synagogue findeth faute with her owne children: 18 The Gentiles are called.

- 1 Thus saith the Lord, I broght this people out of bondage: I gaue them also my commandements by my seruants the Prophetes, whome they wolde not heare, but despised my counsels.
- 2 The mother that bare them, saith vnto them, Go ye away, o children: for I am a widdowe and forsaken.
- 3 I broght you vp with gladnes, but with sorowe and heauines haue I lost you: for ye haue sinned against the Lord your God, and done the thing that displeaseth him.
- 4 But what shal I now do vnto you? I am a widdowe and forsaken: go ye, o my children, and aske mercie of the Lord.
- 5 And thee, o father, I call for a witnes for the mother of these children, which wolde not kepe my couenant,
- 6 That thou bring them to confusion, and their mother to a spoile, that their kinred be not continued.
- 7 Let their names be scatred among the heathen: let them be put out of the earth, for they haue despised my couenant.
- 8 Wo vnto thee, Assur: for thou hidest the vnrighteous in thee: o wicked people, remember * what I did vnto Sodom and Gomorrha, *Gen. 19, 24.*
- 9 Whose lād is mixt with cloudes of pitch and heapes of ashes: so wil I do vnto the, that heare me not, saith the almightie Lord.
- 10 ¶ Thus saith the Lord vnto Esdras, Tel my people, that I wil giue them the kingdom of Ierusalem, which I wolde haue giuen vnto Israel.
- 11 And I wil get me glorie by them, and giue the the euerlasting tabernacles, which I had prepared for those.
- 12 They shal haue at wil the tre of life, smelling of ointment: they shal nether labour nor be weary.
- 13 Go ye, & ye shal receaue it: pray that the time,

time, which is long, may be shortened: the kingdom is already prepared for you: watche.

14 Take heauen and earth to witnes: for I haue abolished the euil, and created the good: for I liue, saith the Lord.

15 Mother, embrace thy children, and bring them vp with gladnes: make their fete as fast as a pillar: for I haue chosen thee, saith the Lord.

16 And those that be dead, wil I raise vp from their places, and bring them out of the graues: for I haue known my Name in Israel.

17 Feare not, thou mother of the children: for I haue chosen thee, saith the Lord.

18 I wil send thee my seruants Esaie and Ieremie to helpe thee, by whose counsel I haue sanctified & prepared for thee twelue trees laden with diuers frutes,

19 And as many fountaines, flowing with milke and hony, and seuen mightie mountaines, whereupon there growe roses and lilies, whereby I wil fil thy children with ioye.

20 Execute iustice for the widdowe: iudge the cause of the fatherles: giue to the poore: defende the fatherles: clothe the naked.

21 Heale the wounded, and sicke: laugh not a lame man to scorne: defend the crepel, and let the blinde come into the light of my clerenes.

22 Kepe the olde & the yong that are within thy walles.

23 *Wherefoeuer thou findest the dead, take them and burye them, and I wil giue thee the first place in my resurrection.

24 Abide stil, o my people, and rest: for thy quietnes shal come.

25 Nourish thy childre, o thou good nurse: stablish their fete.

26 None of the seruants that I haue giuen thee, shal perish: for I wil seke them from among thy number.

27 Be not weary: for when the day of trouble and heauines commeth, other shal wepe and be soroweful, but thou shalt be merry and haue abundance.

28 The heathen shal enuie thee, and shal do nothing against thee, saith the Lord.

29 Mine hands shal couer thee, so that thy children shal not fe hell.

30 Be ioyful, o thou mother, with thy children: for I wil deliuer thee, saith the Lord.

31 Remember thy children that slepe: for I wil bring the out of the sides of the earth, and wil shewe mercie vnto them: for I am merciful, saith the Lord almightie.

32 Embrace thy children, vntil I come and shewe mercie vnto the: for my fountaines runne ouer, and my grace shal not faile.

33 I Esdras receiued a charge of the Lord

vpon the mount Horeb, that I shulde go vnto them of Israel, but when I came to them, thei cast me of, and despised the commandement of the Lord.

34 And therefore I say vnto you, o ye heathen, that heare and vnderstand, Wait for your shepherd, who shal giue you euerlasting rest: for he is nere at hand, that shal come in the end of the worlde.

35 Be ready to the rewarde of the kingdom: for the euerlasting light shal shine vpo you for euermore.

36 Ele the shadowe of this worlde: receiue y ioye of your glorie: I testifie my Sauour openly.

37 Receiue the gift that is giuen you, and be glad, giuing thanks vnto him, that hath called you to the heauenlie kingdom.

38 Arise, and stand vp, and beholde the number of those that are sealed for the feast of the Lord,

39 Which are departed from the shadowe of the worlde, and haue receiued glorious garments of the Lord.

40 Take thy number, o Sion, and shut vp them that are clothed in white, which haue fulfilled the Law of the Lord.

41 The number of thy children whome thou longest for, is fulfilled: beseeche y power of the Lord, that thy people which haue bene called fro the begining, may be sanctified.

42 *I Esdras sawe vpo mount Sion a great people whome I colde not number, and they all praised the Lord with songs. *Reuel. 7. 9.*

43 And in the middes of them there was a yong man hier in stature then them all, & vpo euerie one of their heads he set crownes, and was hier then the others, which I muche marueiled at.

44 So I asked the Angel, and said, Who are these, my lord?

45 Who answered, and said vnto me, These be they, that haue put of the mortal clothing, and haue put on the immortal, and haue confessed the Name of God: now are they crowned, and receiue the palmes.

46 Then said I vnto y Angel, What yong man is it, that setteth crownes on them, & giueth them the palmes in their hands.

47 And he answered, & said vnto me, It is the sonne of God, whome they haue confessed in the worlde. Then began I greatly to commend them, that had stand so strongly for the Name of the Lord.

48 Then the Angel said vnto me, Go thy way, and tel my people, what, and how great wonders of the Lord God thou hast seene.

CHAP. III.

4 The wonderous workes, which God did for the people, are recited. 31 Esdras marueileth that God suffereth the Babylonians to haue rule ouer his people, which yet are synners also.

Eccē. iiii.

Tob. 1. 20.

II. Esdras.

- I**N the thirtieth yere after the fall of the citie, as I was at Babylon, I lay troubled vpon my bed, and my thoghts came vp to mine heart,
- Because I sawe the desolacion of Sion, & the wealth of them that dwelt at Babylon.
- So my spirit was sore moued, so that I beganne to speake fearful wordes to the most High, and said,
- O Lord, Lord, thou spakest at the beginning when thou alone plantedst the earth, and gauest comādemēt vnto the people,
- Gen. 2.7.* And a bodie vnto Adam, without soule, who was also the workmanship of thine hands, and hast breathed in him the breth of life, so that he liued before thee,
- And leddest him into Paradise, which thy right hand had planted, or euer the earth brought forth.
- for, went forward.* Euen then thou gauest him commandement to loue thy way: but he transgressed it, and immediatly thou appointedst death to him and his generacion, of whome came nations, tribes, people and kinreds out of number.
- Gen. 6.12.* And euerie people walked after their owne wil, and did wonderful things before thee, and despised thy commandements.
- Gen. 7.10.* But at ſ time appointed thou broughtest the flood vpon those ſ dwelt in the worlde and destroyedst them,
- So that by the flood, that came to euerie one of them, which came by death vnto Adam,
- 1. Pet. 3.20.* Yet thou leftest one, euen Noe, with his housholde, of whome came all righteous men.
- And when they that dwelt vpon ſ earth, began to multiplie, and the number of the children, people and many nations were increased, they began to be more vngodlie then the first.
- Gen. 12.1.* Now when they liued wickedly before thee, * thou didest chose thee a man from among them, whose name was Abraham.
- Gen. 17.5.* Whome thou louedst, and vnto whome onely thou shewedst thy wil,
- And madest an euerlasting couenāt with him, promising him that thou woldest neuer forsake his fede.
- Gen. 21.2.* And vnto him thou gauest Isahac, * vnto Isahac also thou gauest Iacob and Esau,
- Gen. 25.25.* * and didest chose Iacob, and cast of Esau, and so Iacob became a great multitude.
- Malac. 1.2.* And whē thou leddest his fede out of Egypt, * ſ broughtest thē vp to mount Sina,
- Exod. 19.1.* And enclinedst the heauens and bowedst downe the earth, and didest moue the grounde, and cause the depths to shake, and didest astonish the worlde.
- deu. 4.10.* And thy glorie went thorowe foure gates of fyre, with earthquakes, winde and colde, that thou mightest giue the Lawe vnto the fede of Iacob, and that which the generacion of Israel shulde diligently obserue.
- Yet tokest thou not away from them the wicked heart, that thy Law might bring forth the frute in them.
- For * Adam first hauing a wicked heart, *Gen. 3.6.* was ouercome and vauquished, & all they that are borne of him.
- Thus remained weakenes ioyned with the lawe in the hearts of the people, with the wickednes of the roote: so that the good departed away, & the euil abode stil.
- So the times passed away, and the yeres were brought to an end, * til thou didest raise thee vp a seruant called Dauid,
- 1 Sam. 16.13.* * Whome thou commandedst to buyld a citie vnto thy Name, to call vpon thee therein with incense and sacrifice.
- 2 Sam. 7.1.* Whē this was done many yeres, the inhabitants forsoke thee,
- Following the waies of Adam and all his generacion: for they also had a wicked heart.
- Therefore thou gauest thy citie ouer into the hands of thine enemies.
- But do they that dwell at Babylon, any better, that they shulde haue the dominio of Sion?
- For when I came thether, and sawe their wicked dedes without number (for this is the thirtieth yere that I se many trespassing) I was discouraged.
- For I sawe, how thou sufferedst them that sinne, and sparedst the wicked doers, where as thou hast destroyed thine owne people, and preferred thine enemies, and thou hast not shewed it.
- I can not perceiue how this cometh to passe. Are the dedes of Babylon better then they of Sion?
- Or is there any other people ſ knoweth thee besides Israel? or what generacion hathe so beleued thy Testimonies, as Iacob?
- And yet their rewarde appeareth not, and their labour hathe no frute: for I haue gone here & there thorow out the heathē, and I se them flourish, and thinke not vpon thy commandements.
- Weigh ſ therefore our wickednes now in the balance, and theirs also that dwell in the worlde, and no mention of thee shal be founde but in Israel.
- Or when is it that they that dwell on the earth, haue not sinned in thy sight? or what people hathe so kept thy commandements?
- Thou shalt surely finde that Israel by name hathe kept thy precepts, but not the heathen.

CHAP. IIII.

a The Angel reproveth Esdras, because he seemed to entre into the profounde iudgements of God.

1 And the Angel that was sent vnto me, whose name was Vriel, answered,

2 And said, Thine heart hath taken to much upon it in this worlde, and thou thinkest to comprehend the waies of the Highest.

3 The said I, Yea, my lord. And he answered me, and said, I am sent to shewe thee thre waies, and to set forth the thre similitudes before thee,

4 Whereof if thou canst declare me one, I wil shewe thee also the way, that thou desirest to see, and I wil shewe thee from whence the wicked heart cometh.

5 And I said, Tell on, my lord. Then said he vnto me, Go thy way: weigh me the weight of the fyre, or measure me y^e blast of the winde, or call me againe the daye that is past.

6 Then answered I, and said, What man is borne, that can do that, which thou requir^{est} me, concerning these things?

7 And he said vnto me, If I shulde aske thee how deepe dwellings are in the middes of the sea, or how great springs are in the beginning of the depth, or how great springs are in the stretching out of the heauen, or which are the borders of Paradise,

8 Peradventure thou woldest say vnto me, I neuer went downe to the depe, nor yet to the hell, nether did I euer clime vp to heauen.

9 But now haue I asked thee but of fyre & winde, and of the day, whereby thou hast passed, and from the which things thou canst not be separated, and yet canst thou giue me none answer of them.

10 He said moreover vnto me, Thine owne things, and suche as are growen vp with thee, canst thou not knowe?

11 How shulde thy vessel then be able to comprehend the wayes of the Highest, and now outwardly in the corrupt worlde, to vnderstand the corruption, that is euident in my sight?

12 Then said I vnto him, It were better that we were not at all, the that we shulde liue in wickednes, and to suffer, and not to knowe wherefore.

13 And he answered me, & said, * I came to a forest in the plaine where the trees helde a counsel,

14 And said, Come, let vs go fight against the sea, that it may giue place to vs, and that we may make vs more woods.

15 Likewise the floods of the sea toke counsel and said, Come, let vs go vp and fight against the trees of the wood, that we may

get another countrey for vs.

16 But the purpose of the wood was vaine: for the fyre came and consumed it.

17 Likewise also the purpose of the floods of the sea: for the sand stode vp and stopped them.

18 If thou were iudge betwene these two, whome woldest thou iustifie, or whome woldest thou condemne?

19 I answered and said, Verely it is a foolish purpose, that thei bothe haue deuised: for the grounde is appointed for y^e wood, and the sea hath his place to beare his floods.

20 Then answered he me, and said, Thou hast giuen a right iudgement: but why iudgest thou not thy self also?

21 For like as the grounde is appointed for the wood, and the sea for his floods, so * they that dwell vpon earth, can vnderstand nothing, but that which is vpon earth: *1 Jo. 3. 19. Iohn 3. 32. 1 Cor. 2. 13.* & they that are in the heauens, the things that are about the height of the heauens.

22 Then answered I, & said, I beseeche thee, o Lord, let vnderstanding be giuen me.

23 For I did not purpose to inquire of thine hie things, but of suche as we daiely meddle with all, *namely* wherefore Israel is made a reproche to the heathen, and for what cause the people, whome thou hast loued, is giuen ouer to wicked nations, and why the Law of our fathers is abolished, and the written ceremonies are come to none effect,

24 Why we are tossed to and fro through the worlde as the greshoppers, and our life is a very feare, and we are not thought worthy to obtaine mercie.

25 But what wil he do to his Name, which is called vpon ouer vs? Of these things haue I asked the question.

26 Then answered he me, and said, The more thou searchest, the more thou shalt marvel: for the worlde hasteth fast to passe away,

27 And can not comprehend the things, that are promised to the righteous in time to come: for this worlde is ful of vnrighteousnes and weakenes.

28 But to declare thee the things whereof thou askest, the euil is sown, but the destruction thereof is not yet come.

29 If the euil now that is sowne, be not turned vp side downe, and if the place where the euil is sowne, passe not away, then can not the thing come, that is sowne wth good.

30 For the corne of euil sede hath bene sowne in the heart of Adam from the beginning, & how muche vngodlines hath he brought vp vnto this time? & how much shal he bring forth vntil the haruest come?

31 Ponder with thy self, how muche frute

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of wickednes, the corne of euil fede bringeth forth,

32 And when the stalkes shalbe cut downe, which are without number, how great an haruest must be prepared.

33 Then I answered, and said, How, & when shal these things come to passe? wherefore are our yerres fewe and euil?

34 And he answered me, saying, Hastenot to be aboute y^e moste High: for thou laborest in vaine to be aboute him, thogh thou indeuer neuer so muche.

35 Did not the soules also of the righteous aske question of these things in their chambers, saying, How long shal I thus hope? & when cometh the frute of my barne and our wages?

36 And vpon this Ieremiel the Archangel answered, and said, When the number of y^e fedes is filled in you: for he hathe weighed the worlde in the balance.

37 The measure of the times is measured: the ages are counted by number, and they shal not be moued or shaken, til the measure thereof be fulfilled.

38 Then answered I, & said, O lord, lord, we are all euen full of sinne,

39 And for our sake paraduenture the haruest of y^e righteous is not fulfilled, because of the sinne of them that dwell vpon earth.

40 So he answered me, and said, Go, & aske a woman with childe, when she hathe fulfilled her nine moneths, if her wombe may kepe the birth anie longer within her.

41 Then said I, No, lord, she can not. And he said vnto me, In the graue the places of soules are like the wombe.

42 For as she that is with childe, hasteth to escape the necessitie of the trauail, so do these places hast to deliuer those thigs that are committed vnto them.

43 That which thou desirest to se, shalbe shewed thee from the beginning.

44 Then answered I, and said, If I haue founde grace in thy sight, and if it be possible, and if I be mete therefore,

45 Shewe me whether there be more to come then is past, or more things past, then are to come.

46 What is past, I knowe, but what is to come, I knowe not.

47 And he said vnto me, Stand on the right side, and I wil expounde thee this by example.

48 So I stode, and beholde, a whote burning ouen passed before me: and when the flame was gone by, I looked, & beholde, the smoke had the vpper hand.

49 After this there passed before me a waterie cloude, and sent downe muche raine with a storme: and when the stormie raine was past, the droppes came after.

50 Then said he vnto me, Consider with thy

self, as the raine is more the the droppes, and as fyre exceedeth the smoke, so the porcion that is past, hathe the vpper hand, & the droppes and the smoke were muche.

51 Then I praied, & said, Maie I liue, thinkest thou vntil that time? or what shal come to passe in those daies?

52 He answered me, and said, Of the tokens whereof thou alkest me, I can tell thee a parte: but I am not sent to shewe thee of thy life: for I do not knowe it.

CHAP. V.

In the latter times truth shalbe hid. 6 Vnrighteousnes & all wickednes shal reigne in the worlde. 23 Israel is reiected, and God deliuereth the. 35 God doeth all thing in season.

1 Neuertheles concerning the tokens, beholde, the times shal come, that thei which dwell vpon earth, shalbe taken in a great nuber, & the way of the truth shalbe hid & y^e land shalbe barren fro faith,

2 And iniquitie shalbe increased more the thou hast sene now, or hast heard in time past.

3 And it shal come to passe, that one shal set in sote, and thou shalt se the land desolate, which now reigneth.

4 Yea, if God grate thee to liue, thou shalt se after the third trumpet, that the sunne shal suddenly shine againe in the night, & the moone thre times a day.

5 Blood shal drop out of the wood, and the stone shal giue his voyce, and the people shalbe moued.

6 And he shal rule, of whome they hope not that dwell vpon earth, and the foules shal change place.

7 And the sea of Sodom shal cast out fish, and make a noyse in the night, which many shal not knowe, but they shal all heare the voyce thereof.

8 There shalbe a confusion in many places, and the fyre shal oft breake forth, & the wilde beasts shal change their places, and menstruous women shal beare monstres,

9 And salt waters shalbe founde in the sweete, & all frieds shal fight one against another: then shal wit hide it self, and vnderstanding departe into his secret chamber.

10 It shalbe sought of many, and yet not be founde: then shal vnrighteousnes and voluptuousnes haue y^e vpper hand vpon earth.

11 One land also shal aske another, & say, Is righteous iustice gone thorowe thee? And it shal say, No.

12 At the same time shal men hope, but not obtaine: they shal labour, but their enterprises shal not prosper.

13 To shewe thee suche tokes I haue leaue, and if thou wilt praie againe and wepe as now, and fast seuen daies, thou shalt heare yet greater things then these.

Matt. 24. 12.

14 ¶ Then I awaked, and a fearefulnes went thorow

- thorow all my bodie, and my minde was feble and fainted.
- 15 But the Angel that was come to talke with me, helde me, comforted me, and set me vp vpon my fere.
- 16 And in the seconde night, Salathiel the captaine of the people came vnto me, saying, Where hast thou bene? and why is thy countenance so heauie?
- 17 Knowest thou not that Israel is committed vnto thee in the land of their captiuitie?
- 18 Vp then and eat, & forsake vs not, as the shepherd that leaueth his flocke in *h*y hands of the cruel wolues.
- 19 Then said I vnto him, Go thy waies fro me, and come not nere me: and when he heard it, he went from me.
- 20 And I fasted seuen daies, mourning and weping, as Vriel the Angel had commanded me.
- 21 And after seuen daies the thoughts of mine heart were very grievous vnto me againe.
- 22 And I had a desire to reason againe, and I beganne to talke with the moste High againe,
- 23 And said, O Lord, Lord: of euerie forest of the earth, and of all the trees thereof thou hast chosn thee one onely vine-
yard.
- 24 And of all lands of the worlde thou hast chosn thee one pit, & of all the flours of the *grounde* thou hast chosn thee one lillie.
- 25 And of all *h*y depths of the sea thou hast filled thee one riuer, and of all buylded cities thou hast sanctified Sion vnto thy self.
- 26 And of all the foules that are created, thou hast named thee one doue, and of all the cattel that are made, thou hast appointed thee one shepe.
- 27 And among all the multitude of people thou hast gotten thee one people, and vnto this people whome thou louedst, thou gauest a Law, that is proued of all.
- 28 And now, o Lord, why hast thou giuen this one *people* ouer vnto many? and vpon one roote thou hast set others, & hast scattered thine onelic *people* among many.
- 29 They treade them downe, which haue withstand thy promises, and beleue not thy testimonies.
- 30 And if thou didst somuche hate thy people, they shulde haue bene punished with thine owne hands.
- 31 ¶ Now when I had spoken these wordes, *h*y Angel that came to me the night afore, was sent vnto me,
- 32 And said vnto me, Heare me, and I will teache thee, & hearké that I may instruct thee further.
- 33 And I said, Speake on, my lord. Then said he vnto me, Thou art fore vexed and troubled for Israels sake. Louest thou thé better, then he doeth that made them?
- 34 And I said, No, lord: but of very sorow haue I spoké: for my raines paine me euerie houre, while I labour to comprehend the way of the moste High, & to sike out parte of his iudgement.
- 35 And he said vnto me, Thou canst not. And I said, Wherefore, lord, wherefore was I borne? or why was not my mothers wombe then my graue? so had I not sene the trouble of Iacob, and the grief of the stocke of Israel.
- 36 And he said vnto me, Nomber vnto me the things that are not yet come, or gather me the droppes, that are scatred, or make me the withered floures grene againe.
- 37 Open me the places that are closed, and bring me forth the windes, that are shut vp therein: shewe me the image of a voyce, and then wil I declare thee the thing, that thou alkest and laborest to knowe.
- 38 And I said, O Lord, Lord, who cá knowe these things, but he that hathe not his dwelling with men?
- 39 But I that am ignorant, how can I speake of these things, whereof thou alkest me?
- 40 Then said he vnto me, Like as thou canst do none of these things, that I haue spoken of, so canst thou not finde out my iudgement, nor the least benefite, that I haue promised vnto my people.
- 41 Then I said, Beholde, o Lord, the last things are present vnto thee, and what shal they do that haue bene before me, or we that be now, or they that shal come after vs?
- 42 And he said vnto me, I wil compare my iudgemēt vnto a ring: as there is no slacknes of the last, so is there no swiftnes of the first.
- 43 Then I answered, and said, Coldest thou not make at once those *h*y haue bene, those that are now, & those that shal come, that thou mightest shewe thy iudgement the soner?
- 44 Thé answered he me, The creature, said he, can not preuent the Creator, neither can the worlde holde them at once, that shalbe created therein.
- 45 And I said, As thou hast taught thy seruant, that thou, which giuest strength to *all*, hast giuen life at once to all the worke created by thee, and hast sustained it, so might it now also containe all men at once.
- 46 And he said vnto me, Aske the wombe of a woman, and say vnto her, Why must thou haue time before thou bringest forth: require her to bring forth the ten at once.

II. Esdras.

- 47 And I said, Surely she can not, but by distance of time.
 48 Then said he vnto me, So haue I deuided the number of the earth by times when seede is sown vpon it.
 49 For as a yong child begetteth not that that belongeth to the aged, so haue I ordeined the time which I haue created.
 50 ¶ I asked againe, and said, Seing thou hast now shewed me thy way, I wil procede to speake before thee: for our mother, whome thou hast tolde me is yong, draweth she nere vnto age?
 51 He answered me, and said, Aske a woman that traueileth, and she wil tell thee.
 52 Say vnto her, Wherefore are not they (whome thou hast now brought forth) like those that were before thee, but lesse of stature?
 53 And she shal answer thee, Some were borne in thy floure of youth, others were borne in the time of age, when the wombe failed.
 54 Consider now thy self, how that ye are lesse of stature, then those that were before you,
 55 And so are they that come after you, lesse then ye, as the creatures which now beginne to be olde, and haue passed ouer the strength of youth.
 56 Then said I, Lord, I beseeche thee, if I haue founde fauour in thy sight, shewe thy seruant, by whome doest thou gouerne thy workmanship?

CHAP. VI.

*God hath foreseene all things in his secret counsel, and is autor thereof, and hath created them for his childre.
 25 The felicitie of the age to come.*

- 1 **A**Nd he said vnto me, In the beginning when the rounde worlde was made, and before the borders of the worlde were set, and before the windes blew one against another:
 2 Before the noyce of thunders sounded, before the bright lightening did shine forth, before the fundacions of Paradise were laide:
 3 Before the faire floures did appeare, before the moueable powers were stablished, before the innumerable armies of Angels were gathered:
 4 Before the heights of the aire were lifted vp, before thy measures of the heauens were named, before the chimneis in Sion were hote:
 5 Before the present yeres were sought out, and before the affectiōs of them that now sinne, were turned away, and they that haue laid vp the treasure of faith, were sealed,
 6 Then did I purpose these things, & they were made by me alone, and by none other: by me also they shalbe ended, and by

none other.

- 7 Then answered I, and said, What shalbe the diuision of times? or when shalbe the end of the first, and the beginning of it that followeth?
 8 And he said vnto me, From Abraham vnto Isaac, when Iacob and Esau were borne of him, * Iacobs hand helde first the heale of Esau. *Gen. 25. 26.*
 9 For Esau is the end of this worlde, and Iacob is the beginning of it that followeth.
 10 The hand of man is betwixt the heale and the hand. Other thing, Esdras, aske thou not.
 11 ¶ I answered the, & said, O Lord, Lord, if I haue founde fauour in thy sight,
 12 I beseeche thee, make an end to shewe thy seruāt thy tokens, whereof thou shewedst me parte the last night.
 13 So he answered me, and said, Stand vp vpon thy fete, and heare a mightie sounding voyce.
 14 There shal come as an earthquake, but the place where thou standest, shal not be moued.
 15 And therefore when he speaketh, be not afraied: for of the end shal be the worde, & of the fundacion of the earth shal it be vnderstand.
 16 Therefore while one speaketh of the, it trembleth and is moued: for it knoweth, that it must be changed at the end.
 17 And when I had heard it, I stode vp vpon my fete, and hearkened, and beholde, there was a voyce that spake, and the sounde of it was like the sounde of many waters:
 18 And it said, Beholde, the daies come, that I wil come & inquire of them that dwell vpon the earth,
 19 And when I beginne to inquire of them, who by their vnrighteousnes haue hurt others, and when the affliction of Sion shal be fulfilled,
 20 And the worlde, that shal vanish away, shalbe sealed, the wil I shewe these signes: the booke shalbe opened before the heauen, and they shal se all it together.
 21 And the children of a yere olde shal speake with their voyces: the womē with child shal bring forth vntimelie childre of thre or foure moneths olde, and they shal liue that are raised vp.
 22 Then suddēly shal the sowne places appeare as the vnsowne, & the full store houses shal suddenly be founde emptie.
 23 And the trūpet shal sounde, and all they that heare it, shalbe suddenly afraied.
 24 At that time shal friends fight with friends, as with enemies, and the earth shal feare with them: the springs of the welles shal stand stil, & in thre houres they shal not renne.
 25 Whosoever remaineth from all these things

things that I haue tolde thee, shal be fa-
ned & se my saluacion; & the end of your
worlde.

26 And the men that are receiued, shal se it:
they that haue not tasted death from their
birth, and the heart of the inhabitants shal
be changed, and turned to another mea-
ning.

27 For euil shal be put out, and disceate shal
be quenched,

28 But faith shal flourish: corruption shal be
ouercome, and the trueth which hathe be-
ne so long without frute, shal come forth.

29 ¶ And when he talked with me, beholde,
I loked a litle vpon him before whome I
stode.

30 And these wordes said he vnto me, I am
come to shewe thee the time of the night
to come.

31 If thou wilt pray againe, and fast seuen
daies more, I wil tel thee more things, &
greater then these, which I haue heard in
the day.

32 For thy voyce is heard before y^e Higheft:
surely y^e mightie hathe sene thy righteous
dealing: he hathe sene also thy chastitie,
which thou hast kept since thy youth.

33 Therefore hathe he sent me to shewe thee
all these things, and to say vnto thee, Be of
good comfort, and feare not,

34 And haste not in the vaine considera-
tio of the first times, nor make haste to the
latter times.

35 And after this I wepte againe and fas-
ted seue daies in like maner, that I might
fulfil the thre wekes, which he had ap-
pointed me.

36 And in the eight night was mine heart
vexed within me againe, and I began to
speake before the moste High.

37 For my spirit was greatly set on fyre, &
my soule was in distresse,

38 And I said, o Lord, thou spakest expres-
ly in the first creation (euen the first day)
and comandedst* that the heauen and the
earth shulde be made, and the worke fol-
lowed thy worde.

39 And then was there the spirit, and the
darknes was on euerie side with silence:
there was no mans voyce as yet created of
thee.

40 Then commandedst thou a bright light
to come forth out of thy treasures; that it
might giue light to thy worke.

41 Vpon the second day thou createdst the
heauenlie ayre, and commandedst it, that,
going betwene, it shulde make a diuision
betwene the waters, that the one parte
might remaine aboue, and the other be-
neath.

42 Vpon the third day thou commandedst,
that y^e waters shulde be gathered together
in the seuenth parte of y^e earth: six partes di-

dest thou drye, & kept them to the intent
that of these there shulde be that shulde
serue thee, being sowne of God and tilled.

43 Allone as thy worde went forth, the
worke was incontinently made.

44 For immediatly great and innumera-
ble frute did spring vp, and manie diuerse
pleasures for the taste, and floures of vn-
changeable colour, and odours of a moiste
wonderful smel & these things were crea-
ted the third day.

45 * Vpō the fourth day thou createdst the *Gen. 1. 14.*
light of the sunne, and of the moone, and
the order of the starres,

46 And gauest them a charge, to do* seruice *Gen. 1. 14.*
euen vnto man that was for to be made. *Ex. 15.*

47 And vpon the fift day thou saidest vnto *Deu. 4. 19.*
the seuenth parte* where the waters were
gathered, that it shulde brig forth the beasts,
as foules and fishes: and it was so. *Gen. 1. 20.*

48 For the dome waters, and without life
brought forth the liuing things at the com-
mandement of God that the nations might
praise thy wonderous workes.

49 Then didst thou prepare two liuing
things: the one thou calledst Behemoth, &
the other thou calledst Leuiathan, *100, Beasts.*

50 And didest separate the one from the
other: for the seuenth parte, where the wa-
ter was gathered, colde not holde them.

51 Vnto Behemoth thou gauest one parte,
which was dryed vp the third day, that he
shulde dwell in the same parte, wherein
are a thousand hilles.

52 But vnto Leuiathan thou gauest y^e seuenth
parte, that is wett, and hast prepared him
to deuoure what thou wilt, and when thou
wilt.

53 Vpon the sixt day thou gauest comman-
dement vnto the earth, that before thee it
shulde bring forth the beasts, catel and cre-
ping things.

54 And besides this Adam, whome thou
madest lord ouer all the workes which y^e
hast created, of him come we all, and the
people also, whome thou hast chosen.

55 All this haue I spokē before thee, o Lord,
because thou hast created the worlde for
our sakes.

56 As for the other people, which also co-
me of Adam, thou hast declared them that
they are nothing before thee, but be like
vnto spittle, and hast compared their riches
vnto a drop that falleth from a vessel.

57 And now, o Lord, beholde these heathen
which haue bene reputed as nothing, ha-
ue begonne to be lords ouer vs, and to deu-
oure vs.

58 And we thy people (whome thou hast
called the first borne, the onely begotten,
and thy feruent louer) are giuen into their
hands.

59 If the worlde then be created for our
Ffff.iii.

II. Esdras.

sakes, why haue we not the inheritaunce thereof in possession: or how long shal we suffer these things?

CHAP. VII.

5 Without tribulation none can come to felicitie. 12 God aduertiseth all in time. 28 The coming and death of Christ. 32 The resurrection and last iudgement. 43 After the which all corruption shal cease. 48 All fell in Adam. 59 The true life. 62 The mercies and goodnes of God.

1 **A**ND when I had made an end of these wordes, there was sent vnto me an Angel, which had bene sent downe to me the nights afore.

2 And he said vnto me, Vp, Esdras, and heare the wordes that I am come to tell thee.

3 And I said, Speake on, my God. Then said he vnto me, The sea is set in a wyde place, that it might be deepe and great,

4 But presuppose that the entrance thereof were narrow, and like the riuers,

5 Who colde go into the sea to loke vpon it, and to rule it? If he went not thorow the narrowe, how colde he come into the broad?

6 There is also another thing: a citie is buylded and set vpon a broad field, and is full of all good things:

7 The entrance thereof is narrowe and in a dangerous place to fall, that there is fyre at the right hand, and a deepe water at the lefte,

8 And there is but one path betwixt them, euen betwene the fyre and the water, so that there colde but one man go there.

9 If this citie were giuen vnto a man for an inheritance, if he neuer went thorow the peril before it, how colde he receaue his inheritance?

10 And I said, It is so, Lord. Then said he, So is the portion of Israel.

11 Surely for their sakes haue I made the worlde: and when Adam transgressed my statutes, then came this thing to passe.

12 Then were the entrances of the worlde made narrowe, full of sorowe and trauail: they are but fewe and euill, and full of perils, and very peinesful.

13 For the entrances of the fore worlde were wyde and sure, and broght immortal frute.

14 If then they that are liuing, labour not to enter by these strait and brittle things, they can not attaine to those things that are hid.

15 Why then disquietest thou thy self, seing thou art corruptible? and why art thou moued, seing thou art mortal?

16 And why hast thou not considered in thy minde the things to come, rather then them that are present?

17 Then said I, O Lord, Lord, * seing thou

hast ordeined in thy Law, that the righteous shulde inherite these things, and that the vngodlie shulde perish,

18 Shulde the righteous suffer straitnes in hoping for large things? yett thei that haue liued vngodly and suffered straitnes, shal not see the large things.

19 Then he said vnto me, There is no iudge more iuste then God, and there is none more wise then the moste High.

20 For manie perish in this life, because they despise the Law of God that is appointed.

21 For God hathe diligently admonished suche as came, so oft as they came, what they shulde do to haue life, and what they shulde obserue, to auoid punishment.

22 Neuertheles, they were not obedient vnto him, but spake against him, and imagined vaine things,

23 And deceiued them selues by their wicked dedes, & denied the power of the moste High, and regarded not his waies.

24 But they despised his Law, and refused his promises: they haue vnfaithfully broken his ordinances, and haue not performed his workes.

25 And therefore, Esdras, vnto the emptie are emptie things, & to the full things.

26 Beholde, the time shal come, that these tokens which I haue tolde thee, shal come to passe, and the bride shal appeare, and she shal come forth, and be sene that now is vnder the earth.

27 And whosoever shal escape these euils, he shal see my wonders.

28 For my sonne Iesus shal appeare with those that be with him, and they that remaine, shal reioyce within foure hundred yeres.

29 After these same yeres shal my sonne Christ dye, and all men that haue life.

30 And the worlde shalbe turned into the olde silence for seuen dayes, as in the fore iudgements, so that no man shal remaine.

31 But after seuen dayes, the worlde that is yet a slepe, shalbe raised vp: and that shal dye, that is corrupt.

32 Then the earth shal restore those, that haue slept in her, and so shal the dust those that dwell therein in silence, and the secret places shal deliuer the soules that were committed vnto them.

33 And the most High shal appeare vpon the seate of iudgement, and miseries shal vanish away, and long suffering shal haue an end.

34 Iustice onely shal continue: the trueth shal remaine, and faith shal be strong.

35 The worke shal followe, and the reward shalbe shewed: the good dedes shalbe of force, and vnrighteousnes shal beare no more rule.

Then

- Gen. 18, 23.* 36 Then said I, * Abraham prayed first for
exod. 32, 3. the Sodomites, and Moyses for the fathers
that sinned in the wilderness,
37 And they that came after him, for Israel
in the time of Achaz, and Samuel,
2 Sam. 24, 17. 38 And * Dauid for the destruction, * and
2 Chro. 6, 14. Salomon for them that came into the
Sanctuarie,
1 King. 17, 21. 39 * And Elias for those that receiued raine,
Ex. 18, 25. and for the dead that he might liue,
2 King. 19, 15. 40 And Ezechias for the people in the ti-
me of Sennacherib, and diuerse others for
manie.
41 Euen so now, seeing vice is increased, &
wickednes aboundeth, and the righteous
haue prayed for the vngodlie, wherefo-
re shal not the same effect followe also
now?
42 Then he answered me, & said, This pre-
sent life is not the end: oft times honour is
retained in it: therefore haue they prayed
for the weake.
43 But the day of iudgement shal be the
end of this worlde, and the beginning of
the immortalitie to come, wherein all cor-
ruption shal cease.
44 Intemperancie shal passe away: infideli-
tie shalbe cut of: righteousness shal growe
vp, and the veritie shal spring vp.
45 The shal no mā be able to saue him that
is destroyed, nor oppresse him that hathe
gotten the victorie.
46 I answered then, and said, This is my
first and last saying: that it had bene bet-
ter not to haue giuen the earth vnto Adā,
or when it was giuen him, to haue kept
him that he shulde not haue sinned.
47 For what profit is it for men in this pre-
sent life to be in heauines, and after death
to feare punishment?
Rom. 5, 18. 48 O Adam, what hast thou done? * for in
that that thou hast sinned, thou art not fal-
len alone, but the fall also redundeth vnto
vs that come of thee.
49 For what profit is it vnto vs, if there be
promised an immortal life, when we do
the workes that bring death?
50 And that an euerlasting hope shulde be
promised vs, seeing that we bitide our sel-
ues to deadlie vanitie?
51 And that there shulde be appointed vs
dwellings of health and safetie, if we haue
liued wickedly?
52 And that the glorie of the moste High
shulde be kept to defende the which haue
led a pacient life, if we haue walked in the
wicked wayes?
53 And that an eternal Paradise shulde be
shewed, whose frute remaineth incorrup-
tible, wherein is safetie and health, if we
wil not enter into it?
54 (For we haue bene conuersant in vnplea-
sant places)
- 55 And that the faces of them, which haue
abstained, shulde shine more then starres,
if our faces be blacker then darckeness?
56 For while we liued, we did not remēber
whē we did vnrighteously, that we shulde
suffer after death.
57 Then answered he me, and said, This is
the maner of the battel, which man, that
is borne in the earth, shal fight,
58 That if he be ouercome, he shulde suffer
as thou hast said: but if he get the victo-
rie, he shulde receaue the thing that I
said.
59 For this is the life, whereof Moyses spa-
ke vnto the people, while he liued, saying,
* Chuse thee life that thou maist liue. *Deu. 30, 19.*
60 Neuertheles, they beleued him not,
nether the Prophetes after him, nor me
also which haue said vnto them,
61 That heauines shulde not so be to their
destruction, as ioye shulde come vnto the,
to whome saluacion is perswaded.
62 I answered then and said, I know, Lord,
that the moste High is called merciful, in
that he hathe mercie vpō them, which are
not yet come to that worlde,
63 And y he hathe pitie on those that walke
in his Law,
64 And that * he is pacient: for he long suf-
freth those y haue sinned as his creatures, *Rom. 2, 4.*
65 And that he is liberall: for he wil giue as
muche as nedeth,
66 And that he is of great mercie: for he
ouercometh in mercie those that are pre-
sent, and that are past, and them which are
to come.
67 For if he were not abundant in his merci-
es, the worlde colde not continue, nor thei
that haue the possession thereof.
68 He pardoneth also: for if he gaue not of
his goodnes that they, which haue done
euil, might be relieued from their wicked-
nes, the ten thousand parte of men shulde
not remaine aliue.
69 And if he, being iudge, forgauē not tho-
se that be healed with his worde, and toke
away the multitude of sinnes,
70 There shulde peraduenture be verie fewe
left in an vnnumerable multitude.

CHAP. VIII.

*1 The number of the godlie is smale 6 The workes of
God are excellent. 20 Esdras prayer for him and for
his people. 39 The promise of saluation to the iuste.
55 The destruction of the vniust.*

1 **A**ND he answered me, saying, The
most High made this worlde for ma-
nie, but the worlde to come for fewe.
2 I wil tel thee a similitude, o Esdras. As whē
thou askest the earth, it shal say vnto thee,
that it giueth muche earthlie matter to
make pottes, but litle dust that golde co-
meth of, so is it with the worke of this
worlde.

II. Esdras.

- Mat. 20. 16.* 3 *There be manie created, but fewe shalbe saued.
- 4 Then answered I, and said, The swalowe vp the wit, o my soule, and deuoure vnderstanding.
- 5 For thou hast promised to heare, and thou wilt prophetic: for thou hast no longer space, but the life giuen thee.
- 6 O Lord, if thou suffer not thy seruant, that we may intreat thee, that thou maist giue fede vnto our heart, and prepare our vnderstanding, that there may come frute of it, whereby euerie one which is corrupt, may liue, who can set him self for man?
- 7 For thou art alone, and we all are one worke manship of thine hands, as thou hast said.
- 8 For when the bodie is facioned now in the wombe, & thou hast giue it members, thy creature is preserued by fyre & water, and the worke, created by thee, doeth suffer nine moneths the creature, which is facioned in it.
- 9 But the thing that containeth, and that which is cōteined, shal bothe be preserued, and when time is come, the wombe, being preserued, deliuereth y things that grewe in it.
- 10 For thou hast commāded the members, eue the breasts, to giue milke vnto y frute appointed to the breasts,
- 11 That the thing, which is created, may be nourished for a time, til thou disposest it to thy mercie.
- 12 Thou bringest it vp with thy righteousness, nurture it in thy Law, & reformest it with thy iudgement.
- 13 Thou slayest it as thy creature, & giuest it life as thy worke.
- 14 Seing then that thou destroyest him, which with so great labours is facioned, it is an easie thing to appoint by thy cōmādemēt, that the thing also which is made, might be preserued.
- 15 Now therefore, o Lord, I wil speake (as touching men in general thou shalt rather prouide) but concerning thy people, for whose sake I am forie,
- 16 And for thine inheritāce for whose cause I mourne: for Israel, for whome I am woful, and for Iacob, for whose sake I am grieved.
- 17 For them wil I pray before thee, as wel for my self, as for them: for I se our fautes that dwell in the land.
- 18 ¶ But I haue heard the sudden comming of the iudge, which is to come.
- 19 Therefore heare my voyce, and vnderstand my wordes, which I wil speake before thee. The beginning of y wordes of Esdras, before he was taken vp.
- 20 O Lord, that liuest for euer, which beholdest from aboue that which is aboue, and in the ayre,
- 21 Whose throne is inestimable, & his glorie incomprehensible, before whome the hoste of the Angels stand with trembling,
- 22 Whose keeping is turned in winde and fyre, whose worde is true, and sayings stedfast, whose commandement is strong, and gouernement terrible,
- 23 Whose loke dryeth vp the depths, and wrath maketh y mountaines to melt away as the thing beareth witnes.
- 24 Heare the prayer of thy seruant, and receiue into thine cares the petition of thy creature.
- 25 For while I liue, I wil speake, and so long as I haue vnderstanding, I wil answer.
- 26 Loke not vpon the sinnes of thy people, rather then thy faithful seruants.
- 27 Haue not respect vnto the wicked dedes of men, rather then to them that haue thy testimonies in afflictions.
- 28 Thinke not vpon those that haue walked fainedly before thee, but remember them that reuerence thy wil.
- 29 Let it not be thy wil to destroye them, which haue liued like beasts, but loke vpon them that haue clearly taught thy Law.
- 30 Take not displeasure with them, which appeare worse then beasts, but loue them, that alway put their trust in thy righteousness and glorie.
- 31 For we and our fathers haue all the same sickness: but because of vs that are sinners, thou shalt be called merciful.
- 32 If therefore thou wilt haue mercie vpon vs, thou shalt be called merciful towards vs which haue no workes of righteousness.
- 33 For the righteous, which haue laid vp manie good workes, let them receiue the rewarde of their owne dedes.
- 34 But what is man, that thou shuldest take displeasure at him? or what is this mortal generacion, that thou shuldest be so grieved towards it?
- 35 *For verely there is no man among them ^{1. King. 3. 14.} that be borne, but he hath done wickedly, ^{2. chro. 6. 36.} nor anie that doeth confesse thee, which hath not done amisse.
- 36 For in this, o Lord, thy righteousness and thy goodnes shalbe praised, if thou be merciful vnto them, which haue not the substance of good workes.
- 37 ¶ Then answered he me, and said, Some things hast thou spoken aright, and according vnto thy wordes it shalbe.
- 38 For I wil not verely consider the workes of them, before the death, before the iudgement, before destruction:
- 39 But * I wil reioyce in the wayes of the righteous, and I wil remember the pilgrimage, the saluation and the rewarde that they shal haue. *Gen. 4. 11.*

40 Like as I haue spoken now, so shal it come to passe.

41 For as the housbād man soweth muche sēde vpon the grounde, & planteth many trees, & yet alway the thing that is sowed, cometh not vp in time, nether yet doth all that is plāted, take roote: so nether shal thei all that are brought into the worlde, be saued.

42 I answered then & said, If I haue founde grace, let me speake.

43 Like as the housbandmans sēde perisheth, if it come not vp, and receiue not raine in due season, or if it be destroyed with to muche raine,

44 So perisheth man, which is created with thine hands, & thou art called his patern, because he is created to thine image, for whose sake thou hast made all things, and lickened him vnto the housbandmans sēde.

45 Be not wroth with vs, o Lord, but spare thy people & haue mercie vpon thine inheritance: for thou wilt be merciful vnto thy creature.

46 Then answered he me, and said, The things present are for the present, and the things to come for suche as be to come.

47 For thou art farre of that thou shuldest loue my creature about me: but I haue oft times drawn nere vnto thee and vnto it, but neuer to the vnrighteous.

48 In this also thou art maruelous before the Higheſt,

49 In that thou hast humbled thy self, as it becometh thee, and hast not iudged thy self worthie to boast thy self greatly among the righteous.

50 For many miseries & calamities remaine for them that shal liue in the latter time, because thei shal walke in great pride.

51 But learne thou for thy self, and seke out the glorie for suche as be like thee.

52 For vnto you is paradise opened: the tree of life is planted: the time to come is prepared, plenteousnes made ready: the citie is buylded, and rest is prepared, perfite goodnes and absolute wisdom.

53 The roote of euil is sealed vp from you: the weakenes and moth is destroyed from you, and into hell fleeth corruption to be forgotten.

54 Sorowes are vanished away, and in the end is shewed y treasure of immortalitie.

55 Therefore aske thou no more questions concerning the multitude of them that perish.

56 For when thei had libertie, thei despised the most High: they contemned his Law & forsoke his wayes.

57 Moreouer, they haue troden downe his righteous,

58 *Saying in their heart, that there was no

God, thogh they knewe that they shulde dye.

59 For as the thing that I haue spoken of, is made readie for you: so is thirſt and peine prepared for them: for God wolde not that man shulde perish:

60 But they, after that they were created, haue defiled the Name of him that made them, & are vnthankful vnto him, which prepared life for them.

61 Therefore my iudgement is now at hād.

62 These things haue I not shewed vnto all men, but vnto thee, and to a fewe like thee: then I answered, and said,

63 Beholde now, o Lord: thou hast shewed me the many wonders, which thou art determined to do in y last time, but in what time, thou hast not shewed me.

CHAP. IX.

1 All things in this worlde haue a beginning and an end. 10 Torments for the wicked after this life. 15 The number of the wicked is more then of the good. 25 The lewes ingratitude: 36 Therefore they perish. 38 The vision of a woman lamenting.

1 HE answered me then, & said, Measure the time with it self, & when thou seest that one parte of the tokens come to passe, which I haue tolde thee before,

2 Then shalt thou vnderstand, that it is the time wherein the moste High wil begin to visite the worlde which he made.

3 Therefore whē there shalbe sene an^eerthquake in the worlde, and an uproare of the people,

4 Thē shalt thou vnderſtād that the moste High spake of those things, frō the daies that were before thee, euen from the beginning.

5 For as all that is made in the worlde, hath a beginning and an end, and the end is manifest,

6 So the times also of the most High haue plaine beginnings in wonders and signes, and end in effect and miracles.

7 And euerie one that shal escape safe, & shalbe deliuered by his workes, and by the faith wherein ye haue beleued,

8 Shalbe preferred from the said perils and shal se my saluacion in my land, and within my borders: for I haue kept me holy frō the worlde.

9 Then shal they haue pitie of them selues, which now haue abused my waies: & thei that haue cast them out dispitely, shal dwell in peines.

10 For suche as in their life haue receiued benefites, and haue not knowen me,

11 But haue abhorred my Law, while they were yet in libertie, and when they had yet leasure of amendement, and wolde not vnderstand but despised it,

12 They must be taught it after death by peine.

Gggg.i.

I I. Esdras.

Chap. 8, 3.
mat. 20, 16.

Exod. 19, 9.
Et 24, 3.
deut. 4, 12.

- 13 And therefore be thou no more careful, to knowe how the vngodlie shalbe punished, but inquire how the righteous shalbe sauēd, and whose the worlde is, and for whome it is, and when.
- 14 Then answered I, and said,
- 15 I haue afore said that which I say now & wil speake it hereafter, that there be many mo of them which perish, then of the that shalbe sauēd,
- 16 As the flood is greater then a drop.
- 17 And he answered me, saying, As the field is, so is also the sēde: as the floures be, so are the colours also: suche as the workemā is, suche is the worke: and as the housbādman is, so is his housbādrie: for it was the time of the worlde.
- 18 Surely whē I prepared the worlde, which was not yet made for the to dwell in that now liue, no man spake against me.
- 19 For then euerie one obeyed, but now the maners of them that are created in this worlde, that is made, are corrupted by a perpetual sēde, & by a Law, whereout they can not rid them selues.
- 20 So I considered the worlde, & beholde, there was peril, because of the deuises, that were sprung vp into it.
- 21 Yet when I sawe it, I spared it greatly, and haue kept me one grape of the cluster, and a plant out of a great people.
- 22 Let therefore y multitude perish, which are borne in vaine: and let my grape be kept, and my plant, which I haue dressed with great labour.
- 23 ¶ Neuertheles, if thou wilt cease seuen daies mo(but thou shalt not fast in them,
- 24 But shalt go into a faire field, where no house is buylded, & shalt eat onely of the floures of the field, and eat no flesh, nor drinke wine, but the floures onely,
- 25 And pray vnto y moste High continually) then wil I come, and talke with thee.
- 26 So I went my waye, as he had commanded me, into the field, which is called Ardath, & there I sate among the floures, & did eat of the herbes of the field, and the meat of the same satisfied me.
- 27 And after seuen dayes, as I sate vpo the grasse, and mine heart was vexed within me, as afore,
- 28 I opened my mouth, and began to talke before the moste High, and to say,
- 29 O Lord, when thou woldest shewe thy self vnto vs, * thou declaredst thy self vnto our fathers in the wildernes, in a place where no man dwelleth, in a baren place, when they came out of Egypt,
- 30 And expressly spakest vnto the, saying, Heare me, o Israel, and marke my wordes, thou sēde of Iacob.
- 31 For beholde, I sawe my Law in you, that it may bring forth the frute in you, and that ye may be honored by it for euer.
- 32 But our fathers, which receiued the Law, kept it not, nether obserued thine ordinances, nether did the frute of the Law appeare, nether colde it, for it was thine.
- 33 * For they that receiued it, perished because they kept not the thing y was sown in them.
- 34 And lo, it is a custome when the ground receiueth sēde, or the sea a ship, or a vessel meat and drinke, if that perish wherein a thing is sowne, or wherein any thing is put,
- 35 Likewise the thing that is sowne, or is put therein, and the things that are receiued, must perish: so the things that are receiued, do not remaine with vs: but in vs it cometh not so to passe.
- 36 For we that haue receiued the Law, perish in sinne, and our heart also which receiued it.
- 37 But the Law perisheth not, but remaineth in his force.
- 38 ¶ And when I spake these things in mine heart, I loked about me, & vpon the right side * I sawe a woman, which mourned sore, and lamented with a loude voyce, and was grieved in heart, and rent her clothes, and she had ashes vpon her head.
- 39 Then I left my thoughts, wherein I was occupied, and turned me vnto her,
- 40 And said vnto her, wherefore wepest thou? why art thou so sory in minde?
- 41 And she said vnto me, Syr, let me alone, that I may bewaile my self, and increase sorowe: for I am sore vexed in my minde, and broght verie lowe.
- 42 Then I said vnto her, What aileth thee? tel me.
- 43 And she said vnto me, I thy seruant haue bene baren, & haue had no childe, hauing an housband thirtie yeres.
- 44 And euery houre, & euery day these thirtie yeres I pray to the moste High day & night.
- 45 And after thirtie yeres God heard me thine handmaid, & loked vpo my miserie, considered my trouble, & gaue me a sonne, & I was glad of him: so was mine housbād also, and all they of my countrey, and we gaue great honour vnto the Almightye.
- 46 And I nourished him with great trauail.
- 47 So when he grewe vp, and came to take a wife, I made a feast.

CHAP. X

Esdras and the woman that appeareth vnto him, commune together.

- 1 **B**Ut when my sonne went into his chamber, he fell downe, and dyed.
- 2 Then we all ouerthrew the lights, & all my neighbours rose vp to comfort me: so I rested vntil the seconde day at night.
- 3 And when they had all left of to comfort me, that I shulde be quiet, the I rose vp by night,

- night, & fled, and am come into this field as thou seest,
- 4 And am not purposed to returne into the citie, but to remaine here, and nether to eat nor drinke, but continually to mourne & fast, vntill I dye.
- 5 Then left I my purpose wherein I was, and spake to her angerly, and said,
- 6 Thou foolish woman aboute all other, seest thou not our heauines, and what cometh vnto vs?
- 7 For Sion our mother is all woful and is sore afflicted, and mourneth extremely.
- 8 Seing we be all now in heauines, and make our mone (for we be all sorowful) art thou sorie for one sonne?
- 9 Demande the earth, and she shal tell thee that it is she which ought to mourne for the fall of so manie that growe vpon her.
- 10 For fro the beginning all men are borne of her, and other shal come, and beholde, they walke almoste all into destruction, & the multitude of them shalbe destroyed.
- 11 Who shulde then rather mourne, she that hathe lost so great a multitude, or thou which art sorie but for one?
- 12 But if thou woldest say vnto me, My mourning is not like the mourning of the earth (for I haue lost the frute of my wōbe, which I broght forth with heauines, & bare with sorowes,
- 13 But the earth is according to the maner of the earth, and the present multitude returneth into her as it came)
- 14 Then say I vnto thee, As thou hast borne with trauail, so the earth also from the beginning giueth her frute vnto man, euen to him that labored her.
- 15 Now therefore withholde thy sorow in thy self, and beare constantly that which cometh vnto thee.
- 16 For if thou allowest Gods purpose, and receiuest his counsell in time, thou shalt be commended therein.
- 17 Go thy way then into the citie to thine housband.
- 18 ¶ Then she said vnto me, I wil not, I wil not go into the citie, but here wil I dye.
- 19 So I continued to speake more with her, and said,
- 20 Do not so, but be coufessed: for how manie fallas hathe Sion? Be of good comfort because of the sorowe of Ierusalem.
- 21 For thou seest y^e our Sanctuarie is layed waste: our altar is broken downe: our Temple is destroyed.
- 22 Our psalterion fainteth, and the song ceaseth, and our mirth is vanished away, and the light of our candellsticke is quenched, and the Arke of our coucnant is takē away, and our holie things are defiled, and the Name that is called vpon ouer vs, is almoste dishonored, and our children are put to shame, and our Priests are burnt, & our Leuites are caryed into captiuitie, and our virgines are defiled, and our wiues rauished, and our righteous men spoyled, & our children destroyed, and our yong men are broght in bondage, and our strong mē are become weake,
- 23 And, which is the greatest of all, Sion the scale hathe lost her worship: for she is deliuered into the hands of them that hate vs.
- 24 And therefore shake of thy great heauines, and put away the multitude of sorowes, that the Almighty may be merciful vnto thee, and that the moste High may giue thee rest and ease from thy labour.
- 25 And when I was talking with her, her face and beautie shined suddenly, and her countenance was bright, so that I was afrayed of her & mused what it might be.
- 26 And beholde, immediatly she cast out a great voyce, very fearful, so y^e the earth shoke at the noyce of the woman.
- 27 And I looked, and beholde, the woman appeared vnto me nomore: but there was a citie buylded, and a place was shewed fro the grounde and fundacion. Then was I afrayed, and cryed with a loude voyce, and said,
- 28 Where is Vriel the Angel * which came *Chap. i.* to me at the first: for he hathe caused me to come into manie and depe considerations, and mine end is turned into corruption, and my prayer to rebuke.
- 29 And as I was speaking these wordes, beholde, he came vnto me, and looked vpon me.
- 30 And lo, I laye as one dead, and mine vnderstanding was altered, and he toke me by the right hand and comforted me, and set me vpon my feete, and said vnto me,
- 31 What aileth thee? and why is thine vnderstanding vexed? and the vnderstanding of thine heart? & wherefore art thou sorie?
- 32 And I said, Because thou hast forsaken me, and I haue done * according vnto thy *Chap. ii.* wordes: I went into the field, and there haue I sene things, & se that I am not able to expresse.
- 33 Then said he vnto me, Stand vp manly, and I wil giue thee exhortacion.
- 34 Then said I, Speake vnto me, my lord, and forsake me not, lest I dye through rashnes.
- 35 For I haue sene that I knewe not, and heare that I do not knowe.
- 36 Or is mine vnderstanding disceiued, or doeth my minde, being haucie, erre?
- 37 Now therefore I beseeche thee that thou wilt shewe thy seruant of this wondre.
- 38 Thē he answered me, and said, Heare me, and I wil informe thee, & tel thee where-
- Gggg.ii.

II. Esdras.

fore thou art afrayed: for the moste High
hathe reueiled manie secret things vnto
thee.

39 He hath sene thy good purpose, that thou
art sorie continually for thy people, and
makest great lamentacion for Sion.

40 This therefore is the vnderstanding of
the visio, which appeared vnto thee a litle
while ago.

41 Thou sawest a womā mourning, & thou
beganest to comfort her:

42 But now seest thou the likenes of the
woman no more, but there appeared vnto
thee a citie buylded.

43 And where as she tolde thee of the death
of her sonne, this is the solution,

44 This woman, which thou sawest, she is
Sion: and where as she tolde thee (euen she
which thou seest now as a citie buylded)

45 And as touching that she said vnto thee,
that she was baren thirtie yeres, this was
concerning that, there was euen thirtie
yeres wherein there was no offring offred
in her.

46 But after thirtie yeres, Salomon buylt
the citie, and offred offerings: then bare the
baren a sonne.

47 And where as she tolde thee, that she
nourished him with labour, that was the
inhabiting of Ierusalem.

48 But where as she tolde thee that her son-
ne, as his chance was, dyed when she came
into her chamber, that is the fall that is come
to Ierusalem.

49 And when thou sawest her like one that
mourned for her sonne, thou beganest to
comfort her: of these things which haue cha-
ced these are to be opened vnto thee.

50 For now the moste High seeth, that thou
art sorie in thy mind, & because thou suf-
ferest with all thine heart for her, he shewed
thee the clerenes of her glorie, and the fai-
renes of her beautie.

51 And therefore I bad thee remaine in the
field where no house was buylt.

52 For I knewe that the moste High wolde
shewe these things vnto thee.

53 Therefore I commāded thee to go into
thy field, where no fundacio nor buylding is.

54 For the worke of mans buylding can not
stand in that place where the citie of the
moste High shulde be shewed.

55 And therefore feare not, nether let thine
heart be afrayed, but go in, and se the beau-
tie & greatnes of the buylding as muche
as thou art able to se with thine eyes.

56 And after this shalt thou heare, as muche
as thine eares may comprehend.

57 For thou art blessed aboue manie, & art
called with thy moste High among the few.

58 But to morow at night thou shalt remai-
ne here,

59 And the moste High shal shewe thee vi-

sions of high things, which the moste High
wil do vnto them that dwell vpon earth, in
the last dayes. So I slept the same night &
another, as he had commanded me.

CHAP. XI.

*The vison of an egle coming furthe of the sea, and
of her feathers. 37 Of a lyon coming out of the forest.*

1 Then saw I a dreame, & beholde, there
came vp from the sea an egle, which
had twelue feathered wings & thre heads.

2 And I sawe and beholde, she spred her
wings ouer all the earth, & all the windes
of the ayre blew on her, and gathered
them selues.

3 And I behelde, & out of her feathers grew
out other contrarie feathers, and they be-
came litle feathers and smale.

4 But her heads remained stil, & the head
in the middes was greater then the other
heads, yet rested it with them.

5 Moreouer, I sawe that the egle flewe with
his feathers and reigned vpon earth & ouer
them that dwelt therein.

6 And I sawe that all things vnder heauen
were subiect vnto her, and no man spake
against her, no not one creature vpon earth.

7 I sawe also that the egle stode vp vpon
her clawes, & spake to her feathers, saying,

8 Watch not all together: slepe euerie one
in his owne place, and watch by course.

9 But let the heads be preferred for the last.

10 Neuertheles, I sawe that thy voice went
not out of her heads, but from the middes
of her bodie.

11 Then I nombred her contrarie feathers,
and beholde, there were eight of them.

12 And I looked, and beholde vpon the right
side there arose one feather, and reigned
ouer all the earth.

13 And when it had reigned, the end of it
came, and the place thereof appeared no
more. So the next stode vp, and reigned: it
continued a long time.

14 And when it had reigned, the end of it
came also, and as the first, so it appeared
no more.

15 Then there came a voyce vnto it, and
said,

16 Heare thou that hast kept the earth so
long: this I say vnto thee, before thou be-
ginnest to appeare no more,

17 There shal none after thee atteine vnto
thy time, nether to the halfe thereof.

18 Then arose the third and reigned as the
other afore, and it appeared no more also.

19 So came it to all thy others one after ano-
ther, so that euerie one reigned, and then
appeared no more.

20 Then I looked, and beholde in processe of
time thy feathers that followed, stode vp on
the right side, that they might rule also, &
some of the ruled, but within a while they
appeared no more.

- 21 For some of the were set vp, but ruled not.
 22 After this I looked & beholde, & twelve feathers appeared nomore, nor & two wings.
 23 And there was no more vpon the egles bodie, but two heads that rested and six wings.
 24 Then sawe I also that two wings deuidded them selues from the six, and remained vnder the head, that was vpon the right side: for the foure continued in their place.
 25 So I looked, & beholde, the vnderwings thought to set vp them selues, and to haue the rule.
 26 Then was there one set vp, but shortly it appeared no more.
 27 And the second were soner gone then the first.
 28 The I behelde, & lo, the two that remained, thought also in them selues to reigne.
 29 And when they so thought, beholde, there awaked one of the heads that were at rest, which was in the middes: for that was greater then the two.
 30 And then I sawe, that the two heads were ioyned therewith.
 31 And beholde, the head was turned with them, that were with it, and did eat vp the two vnderwings that wolde haue reigned.
 32 But this head put the whole earth in feare and bare rule in it, ouer all those that dwelt vpon earth with much labour, & it had the gouernance of the worlde, more then all the wings that had bene.
 33 After this I looked, and beholde, the head that was in the middes, suddenly appeared no more, as did the wings.
 34 But the two heads remained, which also ruled likewise vpon earth, and ouer those that dwelt therein.
 35 And I behelde, and lo the head vpon the right side deuoured that was vpon the left side.
 36 ¶ Then I heard a voyce which said vnto me, Loke before thee, and consider y thing that thou seest.
 37 So I sawe, and beholde as it were a lyon that roareth, renning hastely out of the wood: and I sawe that he sent out a mans voyce vnto the egle, and spake, and said,
 38 Heare thou, I wil talke with thee, & the moste High shal say vnto thee,
 39 Art not thou that that of the foure beasts remainest, whome I made to reigne in my worlde, that by them the end of times might come,
 40 And the fourth is come, and hath ouercome all the beasts that were past, & hath power ouer the worlde with great fearfulness, and ouer the whole compasse of the earth with moste wicked oppression, and that dwelleth so long time in all y worlde with disceite?
 41 For y hast not iudged the earth w truely.
- 42 Seing thou hast troubled the meke, thou hast hurte the peaceable, and thou hast loued lyers, and destroyed the dwellings of them that brought forth the frute, & hast cast downe the walles of such as did thee no harme,
 43 Therefore is thy wrongful dealing come vp vnto the moste High, and thy pride vnto the Mightie.
 44 The moste High also hath looked vpon the proude times, & beholde, they are ended, and their abominacions are fulfilled.
 45 Therefore appeare no more, thou egle, nor thine horrible wings, nor thy wicked feathers, nor thy malicious heads, and thy wicked clawes, nor all thy vaine bodie,
 46 That all the earth may be refreshed, & come againe, as one deliuered from thy violence, & that she may hope for the iudgement and mercie of him that made her.

CHAP. XII.

The declaration of the former visions.

- 1 And when the lion spake these wordes to the egle, I sawe,
 2 And beholde, the head that had the vpper hand, appeared no more, nether did the foure wings appeare any more, that came to it, and set vp them selues to reigne, whose kingdome was finall and full of vproares.
 3 And I sawe, and beholde, they appeared no more, and the whole bodie of the egle was burnt, so that the earth was in great feare. Then I awaked out of the trouble and trance of my minde, and fro the great feare, and said vnto my spirit,
 4 Lo, this hast thou done vnto me in that thou searchest out the waies of the moste High.
 5 Lo, yet am I wearie in my minde, and very weake in my spirit, and litle strength is there in me, for the great feare that I receiued this night.
 6 Therefore now I wil beseeche the moste High that he wil comfort me vnto the end.
 7 And I said, O Lord, Lord, if I haue founde grace before thy sight, & if I am iustified with thee before many other, and if my praier in dede be come vp before thy face,
 8 Comfort me, and shewe me thy seruant the interpretation and difference of this horrible sight, that thou maist perfectly comforte my soule,
 9 Seing thou hast iudged me worthy to shewe me the last times.
 10 ¶ Then he said vnto me, This is the interpretation of this vision,
 11 The egle, whome thou sawest come vp from the sea, is the kingdome which was sene in the vision of thy brother Daniel.
 12 But it was not expounded vnto him: therefore now I declare it vnto thee.
 13 Beholde, the daies come, that there shal
 Gggg. iii.

Da. 7. 7.

II. Esdras.

- rise vp a kingdome vpon the earth, and it shalbe feared about all kingdomes that were before it.
- 14 In it shal twelue Kings reigne one after another,
- 15 Whereof the seconde shal beginne to reigne and shal haue more time then the twelue.
- 16 And this do the twelue wings signifie, which thou sawest.
- 17 As for the voice that thou heardest speake, and that thou sawest not go out from the heads, but from the middes of the bodie thereof, this is the interpretation,
- 18 That after the time of that kingdome there shal arise great strife, & it shalbe in danger to fall, but it shal not then fall, but shalbe restored againe to his beginning.
- 19 Concerning the eight vnderwings, which thou sawest hang vnto her wings, this is the interpretation,
- 20 In him shal arise eight Kings, whose time shal be but smale, and their yerres swift, and two of them shal perish.
- 21 But when the midde time cometh, there shalbe foure kept a time, whiles his time beginneth to come, that it maye be ended, but two shalbe kept vnto the end.
- 22 And where as thou sawest thre heads resting, this is the interpretation,
- 23 In his last dayes shal y^e moste High raise vp thre kingdomes, and shal call againe manie things into the, and they shal haue the dominion of the earth,
- 24 And of those that dwell therein, with muche grief about all those that were before them: therefore are they called the heads of the egle.
- 25 For they shal accomplish his wickednes, and shal finish his last end.
- 26 And where as thou sawest that the great head appeared no more, it signifieth that one of them shal dye vpon his bed, and yet with peine.
- 27 For the two that remaine, the sworde shal deuoure them.
- 28 For the sworde of the one shal deuoure the other: but at the last, shal he fall by the sworde him self.
- 29 And where as y^e sawest two vnderwings, that went of towarde the head, which was on the right side, this is the interpretation,
- 30 These are thei whome y^e moste High hathe preserued for their end, whose kingdome is litle, and ful of trouble as thou sawest.
- 31 And the lyon whome thou sawest rising vp out of the wood and roaring, and speaking vnto the egle, and rebuking her for her vnrighteousnes with all the wordes that thou hast heard,
- 32 This is the winde which the moste High hathe kept for them, and for their wickednes vnto the end, & he shal proue them, and cast before them their spoiles.
- 33 For he shal set them alieue in the iudgement, and shal rebuke them and correct them.
- 34 For he wil deliuer the residue of my people by affliction, which are preserued vpon my borders, and he shal make them ioyful, vntil the comming of the day of iudgement, whereof I haue spoken vnto thee from the beginning.
- 35 This is the dreame that thou sawest, and these are the interpretations.
- 36 Thou onely hast bene mete to know this secret of the moste High.
- 37 Therefore write all these things that thou hast sene, in a booke and hide them,
- 38 And teache them the wise of the people, whose hearts thou knowest may comprehend and kepe these secrets.
- 39 But waite thou here yet seuen daies mo, that it may be shewed thee whatsoeuer it pleaseth the moste High to declare vnto thee: and with that he went his way.
- 40 And when all the people perceiued, that the seuen daies were past, and I not come againe into the citie, they gathered them all together, from the least vnto the moste, and came vnto me, and spake vnto me, saying,
- 41 What haue we offended thee? or what euil haue we done against thee, that thou forsakest vs, and sittest in this place?
- 42 For of all the people thou onely art left vs as a grape of the vine, and as a candle in a darke place, & as an haufen or shippe preserued from the tempest.
- 43 Are not the euils which are come vnto vs, sufficient?
- 44 If thou then forsake vs, how muche better had it bene for vs, that we had bene burnt also as Sion was burnt?
- 45 For we are no better then they that dyed there: and they wept with a loude voyce. Then answered I them, and said,
- 46 Be of good comfort, o Israel, and be not heauie, thou house of Iacob.
- 47 For the moste High hathe you in remembrance, & the Almighty hathe not forgotten you in temptation.
- 48 As for me I haue not forsake you, nether am I departed from you, but am come into this place to praye for the desolation of Sion, that I might seke mercie for the low estate of your Sanctuarie.
- 49 And now go your way home euerie mā, and after these daies wil I come vnto you.
- 50 So the people went their way into the citie, as I commanded them:
- 51 But I remained stil in the field seuen daies, as he had commanded me, and did eat onely of the floures of the field, & had my meat of the herbes in those daies.

CHAP. XIII.

The vision of a winde coming forth of the sea, 3 Which became a man. 5 His propertie & power against his enemies. 21 The declaration of this vision.

- 1 **A**ND after the seuen daies I dreamed a dreame by night.
- 2 And beholde, there arose a winde frō the sea, and it moued all the waues thereof.
- 3 And I looked, & beholde, there was a mightie man with the thousands of heauen: and when he turned his countenance to loke, all the things trembled that were sene vnder him.
- 4 And whē the voyce wēt out of his mouth, all they burned that heard his voyce, as the earth faileth when it feeleth the fyre.
- 5 After these things I sawe, and beholde, there was gathered together a multitude of men out of nōber, frō the foure windes of the heauē, to fight against the man that came out from the sea.
- 6 And I looked, and beholde, he graued him self a great mountaine, and slewe vp vp-on it.
- 7 But I wolde haue sene the countrei or place whereout the hil was grauen, and I colde not.
- 8 I sawe after these things, and beholde, all they which came to fight against him, were sore afraied, and yet they durst fight.
- 9 Neuertheles, when he sawe the fiercenes of the multitude that came, he list not vp his hand: for he helde no sworde nor any instrument of warre,
- 10 But onely, as I sawe, he sent out of his mouth, as it had bene a blaste of fyre, and out of his lippes the winde of the flame, and out of his tongue he cast out sparkes and stormes.
- 11 And they were all mixt together, *even* this blast of fyre, the winde of the flame, and the great storme, and fell wiche violence vpon the multitude, which was prepared to fight, and burnt them vp all, so that of the innumerable multitude there was nothing sene, but onely dust, and smel of smoke. When I sawe this, I was afraied.
- 12 ¶ Afterwarde sawe I the same man come downe from the mountaine, and calling vnto him another peaceable multitude.
- 13 And there came many vnto him, some with ioyful countenance, & some with sad: some of the were bound, and some brought of them that were offred: and I was sicke thorow great feare, and awaked, and said,
- 14 Thou hast shewed thy seruāt these wonders from the beginning, and hast counted me worthie to receiue my praiser.
- 15 Shewe me now therefore the interpretation of this dreame.
- 16 For thus I consider in mine vnderstanding, wo vnto them y shalbe left in those

daies, and muche more wo vnto them that are not left behinde.

- 17 For they that were not left, were in heauines.
- 18 Now vnderstand I the things that are laid vp in the latter daies, which shal come bothe vnto them, and to those that are left behinde.
- 19 Therefore are they come into great perils and many necessities, as these dreames declare.
- 20 Yet is it easier, that he that is in danger, shulde fall into these, & forese the things to come hereafter, then to passe away as a cloude out of the worlde.
- 21 ¶ Then answered he me, & said, The interpretation of the vision wil I shewe thee, and I wil open to thee the thing that thou hast required.
- 22 Where as thou hast spoken of them that are left behinde, this is the interpretation,
- 23 He that shal beare the danger in that time, he shal kepe him self. They that be fallen into danger, are such as haue workes and faith toward the moste Mightie.
- 24 Knowe therefore, that they which be left behinde, are more blessed the thei that be dead.
- 25 These are the meanings of the vision, Where as thou sawest a man comming vp from the middes of the sea,
- 26 The same is he whome the moste High hathe kept a great season, who by his owne self shal deliuer his creature, & he shal order them that are left behinde.
- 27 ¶ And where as thou sawest, that out of his mouth there came as a blast with fyre and storme,
- 28 And y he nether helde sworde nor weapon, but that by his fiercenes he destroyed the whole multitude, that came to fight against him, this is the interpretation,
- 29 Beholde, the daies come that the moste High wil beginne to deliuer the that are vpon the earth:
- 30 And he shal astonish the hearts of them that dwell vpon the earth:
- 31 And one shal prepare to fight against another, citie against citie, & place against place, *Mat. 24. 7.* and nation against nation, & realme against realme.
- 32 When this commeth to passe, then shal the tokens come, that I shewed thee before, & then shal my Sonne be reueiled, whome thou sawest go vp as a man.
- 33 And when all the people heare his voyce, euerie mā shal in their owne land leaue the battel that they haue one against another.
- 34 And an innumerable multitude shalbe gathered as one, as they that be willing to come, and to fight against him.

Gggg. iiii.

II. Esdras.

- 35 But he shal stand vpon the toppes of mount Sion.
- 36 And Sion shal come, and shalbe shewed to all, being prepared and buylded, as thou sawest the hil grauen forthe without any hands.
- 37 And this my Sonne shal rebuke the wicked inuentions of those nacions, which for their wicked life are fallen into the tempest,
- 38 And into torments like to flame, whereby they shalbe tormented: and without any labour wil he destroy them, euen by the Law, which is compared vnto the fyre.
- 39 And where as thou sawest that he gathered another peaceable people vnto him,
- 40 Those are the ten tribes which were carryed away captiues out of their owne lād, * in the time of Oseas the King, whome Salmanasar the King of the Assyrians toke captiue, and carryed them beyonde the riuer: so were they brought into another land.
- 41 But they toke this counsel to the selues, that they wolde leaue the multitude of the heathen, and go forthe into a further countrey, where neuer mankinde dwelt,
- 42 That they might there kepe their statutes, which they neuer kept in their owne land.
- 43 And they entred in at the narowe passages of the riuer Euphrates.
- 44 For the moste High then shewed the signes, * and stayed the springs of the flood til they were passed ouer.
- 45 For thorow y^e countrey there was a great journey, euen of a yere and an halfe, and the same region is called Arfareth.
- 46 Then dwelt they there vntil the latter time: and when they came forthe againe,
- 47 The moste High shal holde stil the springs of the riuer againe, that they may go thorow: therefore sawest thou the multitude peaceable.
- 48 But thei that be left behinde of thy people, are those that be founde within my borders.
- 49 Now when he destroyeth the multitude of the nacions that are gathered together, he shal defende the people that remaine,
- 50 And then shal he shewe great wonders vnto them.
- 51 Then said I, O Lord, Lord, shewe me this, wherefore haue I sene the man coming vp from the middes of the sea?
- 52 And he said vnto me, As thou canst neither seke out, nor knowe these things, that are in the deepe of the sea, so can no man vpon earth se my Sonne, or those that be with him, but in the time of that day.
- 53 This is the interpretation of the dreame which thou sawest, and whereby thou onely art lightened.
- 54 For thou hast forsaken thine owne Law, and applied thy diligence vnto mine, and fought it.
- 55 Thy life hast thou ordered in wisdom, & hast called vnderstanding thy mother.
- 56 Therefore haue I shewed thee y^e rewardes with the moste High: and after thre other daies I wil speake other things vnto thee, and wil declare the great and wonderful things.
- 57 Then went I forth vnto the field, glorifying and praising the moste High for the wonders which he did in time,
- 58 Which he gouerneth, and suche things as come in their seasons: and there I sate thre dayes.

CHAP. XIII.

How God appeared to Moses in the bush. 10 All things decline to age. 15 The latter times worse then the former. 20 The ingratitude of Israel. 35 The resurrection and iudgement.

1 Vpon the thirde day I sate vnder an oke, and beholde, there came forth a voyce vnto me out of the bush, & said, Esdras, Esdras?

2 And I said, Here am I, Lord, & stood vpon my fete.

3 Then said he vnto me, * In the bush I reueiled my self, and spake vnto Moyse, when my people serued in Egypt: Exo. 3. 6.

4 And I sent him, and led my people out of Egypt, and brought him vpon the mount Sinai, & I helde him with me a long season,

5 And I tolde him many wōders, & shewed him the secrets of the times and the end, and commanded him, saying,

6 These wordes shalt thou declare, & these shalt thou hide.

7 And now I say vnto thee, that thou lay vp in thine heart the signes that I haue shewed, and the dreames that thou hast sene, & the interpretations which thou hast heard.

8 For thou shalt be taken away from all, and thou shalt remaine hence forth with my counsel, & with suche as be like thee, vntil the times be ended.

9 For the worlde hath lost his youth, & the times beginne to waxe old.

10 For the worlde is deuided into twelue partes, & ten partes of it are gone alreadye and halfe of the tenth parte.

11 And there remaineth that which is after the halfe of the tenth parte.

12 Therefore set thine house in order, and reforme thy people, and comfort suche of them as be in trouble, and now renounce the corruption.

13 Let go from thee mortal thoghts: cast away from thee the burdens of men, & put of now the weake nature,

14 And set aside thy moste grievous thoghts, and haste thee to departe from these times.

15 For

15 For greater euils then those, which thou hast sene now, shal thei commit.

16 For the weaker that the worlde is by reason of age, the more shal the euils be increased vpon them that dwell therein.

17 For the trueth is fled farre away, & lies are at hand: for now hasteth the vision to come, that thou hast sene.

18 ¶ Then answered I, and said before thee, Beholde, o Lord, I wil go as thou hast commanded me, and reforme the people, which are present: but they that shal be borne afterwarde, who shal admonish the?

20 Thus the worlde is set in darkenes, and they that dwell therein, are without light.

21 For thy Law is burnt, therefore no man knoweth the things that are done of thee, or the workes that shalbe done.

22 But if I haue founde grace before thee, send the holie Gost into me, & I wil write all that hath bene done in the worlde since the beginning, which was written in thy Law, that men may finde the path, & that thei which wil liue in the latter daies, may liue.

23 And he answered me, saying, Go, and gather the people, and say vnto them, that thei seke thee not for fortie daies,

24 But prepare thee many boxe tables, and take with thee these fiue, Sarea, Dabria, Selemia, Ecanus, and Asiel, which are readie to write swiftly,

25 And come hether, & I wil light a candle of vnderstanding in thine heart, which shal not be put out til the things be performed which thou shalt beginne to write.

26 And the shalt thou declare some things openly vnto the perfite men, and some things shalt thou shewe secretly vnto the wise: to morowe this houre shalt thou beginne to write.

27 Then went I forthe, as he commanded me, and gathered all the people together, and said,

28 Heare these wordes, o Israel,

Gen 47.4. 29 *Our fathers at y beginning were strangers in Egypt, from whence they were deliuered,

AB. 7.13. 30 And receiued the Law of life, * which they kept not, which ye also haue trasgrefsed after them.

31 Then was the land, euen the lad of Sion parted amog you by lot: but your fathers and ye also haue done vnrighteously, and haue not kept the wayes, which the moste High commanded you.

32 And for so muche as he is a righteous Iudge, he toke from you in time the thing that he had giuen you.

33 And now are ye here, and your brethren among you.

34 Therefore if so be that ye wil subdue your owne vnderstanding, and reforme

your heart, ye shalbe kept aliue, and after death shal ye obtaine mercie.

35 For after death shal the iudgemēt come, when we shal liue againe: & then shal the names of the righteous be manifest, and the workes of the vngodlie shalbe declared.

36 Let no man therefore come now vnto me, nor seke me these fortie daies.

37 So I toke the fiue men, as he commanded me, and we went into the field, and remained there.

38 The next daye beholde, a voyce called me, saying, Eldras, * open thy mouth, and drinke that I giue thee to drinke. *Exch. 3.2.*

39 Then opened I my mouth, and beholde, he reached me a full cuppe, which was full as it were with water: but the colour of it was like fyre.

40 And I toke it and dranke, and when I had dronke it, mine heart had vnderstanding and wisdome grewe in my brest: for my spirit was strēgthened in memorie.

41 And my mouth was opened, and shut no more.

42 The moste High gaue vnderstanding vnto the fiue men, that they wrote the hie things of the night, which they vnderstood not.

43 But in the night they did eat bread, but I spake by day, & helde not my tongue by night.

44 In fortie daies, they wrote two hundredeth and foure bokes.

45 And when the fortie dayes were fulfilled, the moste High spake, saying, The first that thou hast written, publish openly, y the worthie and vnworthie may read it.

46 But kepe the seuentie last, that thou maiest giue them to the wise among thy people.

47 For in them is the veine of vnderstanding, and the fountaine of wisdome, and the riuer of knowledge: and I did so.

CHAP. XV.

1 The prophetic of Eldras is certaine. 5 The euils that shal come on the worlde. 9 The Lord wil aduenge the innocent blood. 12 Egypt shall lament. 16 Sedicion. 20 And punishment vpon the Kings of the earth. 24 Cursed are they that sime. 29 Troubles & warres vpon the whole earth. 53 God is the reuenger of his elect.

1 Beholde, speake thou in the eares of my people the wordes of prophecie, which I wil put in thy mouth, saith the Lord:

2 And cause them to be written in a letter: for they are faithful and true.

3 Feare not the imaginacions against thee: let not the vnfaithfulnes of the speakers trouble thee, that spake against thee.

4 For euery vnfaithful shal dye in his vnfaithfulnes.

5 Beholde, saith the Lord, I wil bring plagues. Hhh. i.

II. Esdras.

- gues vpon all the worlde, the sworde, famine, death and destruction:
- 6 Because that iniquitie hath fully polluted all the earth, and their wicked workes are fulfilled.
- 7 Therefore, saith the Lord, I wil holde my tongue no more for their wickednes, (they do vngodlie) nether wil I suffer the in the things, that they do wickedly.
- 8 Beholde, * the innocent and righteous blood cryeth vnto me, and the soules of the iust cry continually.
- 9 I wil surely auenge them, saith the Lord, and receiue vnto me all y innocent blood from among them.
- 10 Beholde, my people is led as a flocke to the slaughter: I wil not suffer them now to dwell in the land of Egypt,
- 11 But I wil bring them out with a mightie hand, and a stretched out arme, & smite it with plagues as afore, & wil destroe all the land thereof.
- 12 Egypt shal mourne, and the fundacions thereof shalbe smitten with the plague and punishment, that God shal bring vpon it.
- 13 The plowmen that till the ground, shal mourne: for their sedes shal faile thorowe the blasting and haile, and by an horrible starre.
- 14 Wo to the worlde, & to them that dwell therein.
- 15 For the sworde and their destruction draweth nere, and one people shal stand vp to fight against another with swordes in their hands.
- 16 For there shalbe sedicion among men, & one shal inuade another: they shal not regarde their King, & the princes shal measure their doings by their power.
- 17 A man shal desire to go into a citie, and shal not be able.
- 18 Because of their pride the cities shalbe troubled, the houses shalbe afraied, & men shal feare.
- 19 A man shal haue no pitie vpon his neighbour, but shal destroe their houses with the sworde, & their goods shalbe spoyled for lacke of bread, and because of great trouble.
- 20 Beholde, saith God, I call together all the Kings of the earth to reuerence me, which are from the " East, and from the South, from the East, and from Libanus, to turne vpon the, & to repay the things, that they haue done to them.
- 21 As they do yet this day vnto my chosen, so wil I do also, and recompense them in their bosome: thus saith the Lord God,
- 22 My right had shal not spare the sinners, nether shal the sworde cease from them, that shed innocent blood vpon earth.
- 23 The fyre is gone out from his wrath, and hath consumed the fundacions of the earth, and the sinners like the strawe, that is kindled.
- 24 Wo to them that sinne, and kepe not my commandements, saith the Lord.
- 25 I wil not spare them: departe, & childre, from the power: defile not my Sanctuarie.
- 26 For the Lord knoweth all them that sinne against him, and therefore deliuereth he them vnto death and destruction.
- 27 For now are the plagues come vpon the worlde, and ye shal remaine in them: for God wil not deliuer you, because ye haue sinned against him.
- 28 Beholde, an horrible vision cometh from the East,
- 29 Where generacions of dragons of Arabia shal come out with manie charers, and the multitude of them shalbe caryed as the winde vpon the earth, that all they which heare them, may feare and tremble.
- 30 Euen the Carmanians raging in wrath, shal go forthe as the bores of the forest, and shal come with great power, and stand against them in battel, and shal destroe a porcion of the land of the Assyrians.
- 31 But after this shal the dragons haue the vpper hand, and remember their nature, and shal turne about, and conspire to consume them with a great power.
- 32 Then these shalbe troubled, and kepe silence by their power, and shal flee.
- 33 From the land of the Assyrians shal the enemy besiege them, and consume some of them, and in their hoste shalbe feare & dread, and strife among their Kings.
- 34 Beholde cloudes from the East, & from the North vnto the South, and they are verie horrible to loke vpon, ful of wrath and storme.
- 35 They shal smite one vpon another: and they shal smite downe a great multitude of starres vpon the earth, euen their owne starre, & the blood shalbe from the sworde vnto the bellie,
- 36 And the dongue of man vnto the Camels litter.
- 37 And there shalbe great searefulness, and trembling vpon earth, and they that see the wrath, shalbe afraied, and a trembling shal come vpon them.
- 38 And then there shal come great stormes from the South, and from the North, and parte from the West.
- 39 And from the East shal windes arise and shal open it with the cloude, which he raised vp in wrath, & y starre, raised to feare the East & West winde, shalbe destroyed.
- 40 And the great, and mightie cloudes shal be lift vp, ful of wrath, and the starre, that they may make all the earth afraied, and them

Reuel. 6, 10.
& 19, 2.

10r, 3v, ff.

- them that dwell therein, & that they may powre out ouer euerie hie place, and lifted vp, an horrible constellation,
- 41 As fyre and hayle, and flying swordes, & many waters, that all fields may be full, & all riuers wth the abundāce of great waters.
- 42 And they shal breake downe the cities and walles, and mountaines, and hilles, and the trees of the wood, and the grasse of the medowes, and their corne.
- 43 And they shal go with a streight course vnto Babylon, and make it afraied.
- 44 They shal come to her, and besiege her, and shal powre forth the constellation, & all the wrath against her: then shal the dust and smoke go vp vnto the heauen, and all they that be about her, shal bewaile her.
- 45 And they that remaine vnder her, shal do seruice vnto them, y^e haue put her in feare.
- 46 ¶ And thou Asia, that art partaker of the hope of Babylon, and the glorie of her persone,
- 47 Wo vnto thee, o wretch, because thou hast made thy self like vnto her, and hast dect thy daughters in whoredome, y^e they might please & glorie in thy louers, which haue alway desired to comit whoredome with thee.
- 48 Thou hast followed her that is hated in all her workes, and in her inuencions: therefore saith God,
- 49 I wil send plagues vpō thee, wedowed, pouertie, and famine, & the sworde, and pestilence, to waste thine houses with destruction and death.
- 50 And y^e glorie of thy power shalbe dried vp, as a floure when the heat riseth, that is sent vpon thee.
- 51 Thou shalt be sicke as a poore wife y^e is plagued and beaten of women, so that the mightie and the louers shal not be able to receiue thee.
- 52 Wolde I thus hate thee, saith y^e Lord,
- 53 If thou hadest not alway flaine my chosen, exalting the stroke of thine hands, and said ouer their death, when y^e wast drōken,
- 54 Set forth the y^e beaurie of thy countenance?
- 55 The rewarde of thy whoredome shalbe in thy bosome: therefore shalt thou receiue a rewarde.
- 56 As thou hast done vnto my chosen, saith the Lord, so wil God do vnto thee, & wil deliuer thee vnto the plague.
- 57 And thy children shal dye of hunger, & thou shalt fall by the sworde, & thy cities shalbe broken downe, and all thy men shal fall by the sworde in the field.
- 58 And they that be in the mountaines shal dye of hunger, and eat their owne flesh, & drinke their owne blood for wāt of bread and thirst of water.
- 59 And thou, as vnhappy, shalt come thorow the sea, and receiue plagues againe.
- 60 In the passage they shal cast downe the flaine citie, and shal roote out one parte of thy land, & consume y^e porcion of thy glorie, & shal returne to her y^e was destroyed.
- 61 When thou shalt be cast downe, thou shalt be to them as stubble, and they shalbe to thee as fyre.
- 62 And they shal destroy thee, & thy cities, thy land, & thy mountaines: all thy woods and all thy fruteful trees shal they burne with fyre.
- 63 Thy childrē shal they carye away captiue, and shal spoile thy substance, & marre the beaurie of thy face.

CHAP. XVI.

Against Babylon, Asia, & Egypt and Syria. 12. 11 Of the euils that shal come vpon the worlde, with admonition how to gouerne them selues in afflictions. 54 To acknowledge their finnes, & to comit them selues to the Lord. 55 Whose mightie prouidence and iustice is to be reuerenced.

WO to thee, Babylon & Asia: wo to thee, Egypt and Syria.

2 Gird your selues with sacke & heereclothe, and mourne your children, & be forie: for your destruction is at hand.

3 A sworde is sent vnto you, and who wil turne it backe? a fyre is sent among you, & who wil quenche it?

4 Plagues are sent vnto you, and who can driue them away?

5 May any mā driue away an hungrie lion in the wood? or quenche the fyre in stubble whē it hath once begonne to burne? may one turne againe the arrowe, that is shot of a strong archer?

6 The mightie Lord sendeth the plagues, and who can driue them away? the fyre is gone forth in his wrath, and who can quench it?

7 He shal cast lightnings, & who shal not feare? he shal thunder, and who shal not be afraied?

8 The Lord shal threaten, & who shal not vtterly be broken in pieces at his presence? the earth quaketh & the fundaciō thereof: the sea riseth vp with waues frō the depe, & the waues thereof are troubled, & the fishes thereof, before the Lord and the glorie of his power.

9 For strōg is his right hand, y^e bendeth the bowe: his arrowes y^e he shooteth, are sharpe, & shal not misse, when they beginne to be shot into the ends of the worlde.

10 Beholde, the plagues are sent, & shal not turne againe, til they come vpon earth.

11 The fyre is kindled, & shal not be put out, til it consume the fundacions of the earth.

12 As an arrow w^{ch} is shot of a mightie archer, returneth not backward, so y^e plagues that shalbe set vpō earth, shal not turne againe.

13 Wo is me, wo is me: who wil deliuer me in those daies?

14 The beginning of sorowes and great
Hhhh. ii.

II. Esdras.

- mourning: the beginning of famine, and great death: the beginning of warres, and the powers shal feare: the beginning of euils, and all shal tremble. What shal I do in these things, when the plagues come?
- 15 Beholde, famine and plague, and trouble, and anguish are sent as scourges for amendment.
- 16 But for all these things they wil not turne fro their wickednes, nor be alway mindeful of the scourges.
- 17 Beholde, vitailles shalbe so good cheape vpon earth, that they shal thinke them selues to be in good case: but then shal the euils bud forthe vpon earth, euen the sworde, the famine and great confusion.
- 18 For many of them that dwell vpon earth, shal perish with famine, and the other that escape y^e famine, shal the sworde destroy.
- 19 And the dead shalbe cast out as dongue, and there shalbe no man to comforte the: for the earth shalbe wasted, and the cities shalbe cast downe.
- 20 There shalbe no mā left to till the earth, and to sowe it: the trees shal giue frute, but who shal gather them?
- 21 The grapes shalbe ripe, but who shal treade them? for all places shalbe desolate, so that one mā shal desire to se another, or to heare his voyce.
- 22 For of one citie there shalbe ten left, and two of the field, which shal hide them selues in the thicke woods, and in the cleftes of rockes.
- 23 As when there remaine thre or foure oliues in the place where oliues growe, or among other trees,
- 24 Or as whē a vineyarde is gathered, there are left some grapes of them that diligently soght thorowe the vineyarde:
- 25 So in those daies there shalbe thre or foure left by them that seache their houses wth the sworde.
- 26 And the earth shalbe left waste, and the fields thereof shal waxe olde, & her waies and all her paths shal growe full of thornes, because no man shal trauail there-through.
- 27 The virgines shal mourne, hauing no bridegromes: the women shal make lamentacion, hauing no housbands: their daughters shal mourne hauing no helpers.
- 28 In the warres shal their bridegromes be destroyed, and their housbands shal perish with famine.
- 29 But, ye seruants of the Lord, heare these things, and marke them.
- 30 Beholde the worde of the Lord, receaue it: beleue not the gods of whome y^e Lord speaketh: beholde the plagues drawe nere, and are not slacke.
- 31 As a trauailing womā which in the ninth moneth bringeth forthe her sonne, when the houre of birth is come, two or thre houres afore the paines come vpon her bodie, and when the childe cometh to the birth, they tarie not a whit,
- 32 So shal not the plagues be slacke to come vpon the earth, & the worlde shal mourne, & sorowes shal come vpon it on euerie side.
- 33 O my people, heare my worde: make you ready to the battel, and in the troubles be euen as strangers vpon earth.
- 34 He that selleth, let him be as he y^e fleeth his way: & he that byeth, as one y^e wil lose.
- 35 Who so occupieth marchādise, as he that winneth not: and he that buyldeth, as he that shal not dwell therein:
- 36 He y^e soweth, as one that shal not reape: he that cutteth the vine, as he that shal not gather the grapes:
- 37 They that mary, as they that shal get no children: and they that mary not, so as the widdowes.
- 38 Therefore they that labour, labour in vaine.
- 39 For strangers shal reape their frutes, and spoile their goods, and ouerthrowe their houses, and take their children captiue: for in captiuitie & famine shal they get their children.
- 40 And they that occupie their marchādise with couetousnes, the more they decke their cities, their houses, their possessions, and their owne persones,
- 41 So muche more wil I be angrie against them for their sinnes, saith the Lord.
- 42 As a whore enuieth an honest and virtuous woman,
- 43 So shal righteoufnes hate iniquitie, whē she decketh her self, & shal accuse her openly, when he shal come that shal bridle the autor of all sinne vpon earth.
- 44 And therefore be ye not like thereunto, nor to the workes thereof: for or euer it be long, iniquitie shalbe taken away out of the earth, and righteoufnes shal reigne among you.
- 45 Let not the sinner say, that he hath not sinned: for coles of fyre shal burne vpon his head, which saith, I haue not sinned before the Lord God and his glorie.
- 46 Beholde, the Lord^{*} knoweth all the workes of men, their imaginaciōs, their thoghtes and their hearts. Luk. 16. 15.
- 47 ^{*}For as lone as he said, Let the earth be made, it was made: let the heauen be made, and it was created. Gen. 1. 1.
- 48 By his worde were the starrs established, and he^{*} knoweth the number of them. Psal. 147. 4.
- 49 He searcheth the depth, and the treasures thereof: he hath measured the sea, and what it containeth.
- 50 He hath shut the sea in the middes of the waters, and with his worde hath he hanged

- hanged the earth vpon the waters.
- 51 He spreadeth out the heauē like a vawte: vpon the waters hathe he founde it.
- 52 In the desert hathe he made springs of water, and poles vpon the toppes of the mountaines, to powre out floods from the hie rockes to water the earth.
- 53 He made man, and put his heart in the middes of the bodie, and gaue him breth, life and vnderstanding.
- 54 And the Spirit of the almightie God, which made all things, & hathe searched all the hid things in the secrets of y^e earth,
- 55 He knoweth your inuencions, and what ye imagine in your heart when ye sinne & wolde hide your finnes.
- 56 Therefore hathe the Lord searched and soght out all your workes, and wil put you all to shame.
- 57 And when your finnes are broght forthe before men, ye shalbe confounded, and your owne finnes shal stand as your accusers in that day.
- 58 What wil ye do, or how wil ye hide your finnes before God and his Angels?
- 59 Beholde, God him selfe is the iudge: feare him: cease from your finnes, and forget your iniquities, and medle no more from hence forthe with them: so shal God lead you forthe, and deliuer you from all trouble.
- 60 For beholde, the heate of a great multitude is kindled against you, and they shal take away certeine of you, and shal slaye you for meat to the idoles.
- 61 And they that consent vnto them, shalbe had in derision and in reproche, and troden vnder foote.
- 62 For in euerie place and cities that are nere, there shalbe great insurrectio against those that feare the Lord.
- 63 They shalbe like mad men: they shal spare none: they shal spoyle, & waste suche as yet feare the Lord.
- 64 For they then shal waste and spoile their goods, and cast them out of their houses.
- 65 The shal the tryal of my chosen appeare, as the golde is tryed by the fyre.
- 66 Heare, o ye my beloued, saith the Lord: beholde, the daies of trouble are at hand, but I wil deliuer you from them: be not ye afraied: doute not, for God is your captaine.
- 67 Who so kepeth my commādements and precepts, saith y^e Lord God, let not your finnes weigh you downe, and let not your iniquities list them selues vp.
- 68 Wo vnto the that are bounde with their finnes, and couered with their iniquities, as a field is hedged in with bushes, and the path thereof couered with thornes, whereby no man may trauail: it is shut vp, and is appointed to be deuoured with fyre.

T O B I T.

CHAP. I.

Tobias parentage. 2 His godlines. 6 His equitie. 8 His charitie and prosperitie. 23 He fleeth, and his goods are confiscate. 25 And after, restored.

Tobias, being captiue amongst the Assyrians, did not leaue the way of crueth.



IN the booke of the wordes of Tobit sonne of Tobiel, the sonne of Ananuel, the sonne of Asael, the sonne of Gabael, of the seed of Asael & of the tribe of Nephthalim,

Utr, Salmanafer. 2 King. 17. 3.

2 Who in the time of Enemessar King of the Assyriās was ledde away captiue out of Thibbe, which is at the right hand of that citie, w^{ch} is called properly Nephthalim, in Galilee about Aser.

Tobias was merciful.

3 I Tobit haue walked all my liue long in the way of trueth and iustice, and I did manie things liberally to the brethren, w^{ch} were of my nation, and came with me to Ninieue into the land of the Assyrians.

4 And when I was in mine owne countrei in the land of Israel, being but yong, all the tribe of Nephthalim my father fell from the house of Ierusalem, which was chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, that

all the tribes shulde sacrifice there, where the Tēple of the tabernacle of the moste High was consecrated, and buylt vp for all ages.

5 Now all the tribes, which fell from God, yea, and my father Nephthalims house of-fred to the heifar called Baal.

6 But I (as it was ordeined to all Israel by an euerlasting decre) went alone often to Ierusalem, bringing the first frutes, and the tenth of beasts, with that which was first shorne, and offered them at the altar to the Priests the children of Aaron.

7 The first tenth parte I gaue to y^e Priests the sonnes of Aaron, which ministred in Ierusalē: the other tēch parte I solde, & came & bestowed it euerie yere at Ierusalē. The thirde tenth parte I gaue vnto them to whome it was mete, as Debora my fathers mother had commanded me: for my father left me as a pupil.

9 Furthermore when I was come to the age of a mā, I married Anna of mine owne kined, and of her I begate Tobias.

10 But whē I was ledde captiue to Ninieue, all my brethren, & those w^{ch} were of my kined did eate of the bread of y^e Gētiles.

1. King. 12. 30

He fledde fro idoles. Exod. 22. 29. deu. 12. 6.

He maryeth to wife Anna, & beareth him Tobias. Nomb. 36. 7.

Gen. 43. 32.

Hhhh.iii.