

Chapter 22

Iofias repayreth the temple, and Diuine seruice. 8. The booke of law is found, 11. wherupon they confult our Lord, 15. and are foretold that much euil shal fal vpon them, 18. but the good king shal dye in peace.

Eight yeares old was Iofias when he began to reigne, he reigned one and thirtie yeares in Ierufalem: the name of his mother was Idida, the daughter of Hadaia of Befecath. ² And he did that which was liked before our Lord, and walked in al the waies of Daud his father: he declined not to the right hand, or to the lefte. ³ And in the eighteenth yeare of king Iofias, the king fent Saphan the fonne of Aflia, the fonne of Meffulam, the fcribe of the temple of our Lord, faying to him: ⁴ Goe to Helcias the high prieft, that the money may be gathered into a fumme, which hath beene brought into the temple of our Lord, which the porters of the temple haue gathered of the people, ⁵ and let it be geuen to the workemen by the ouerfeers of the houfe of our Lord: who alfo fhall deftribute it to them that worke in the temple of our Lord, to make reparations of the temple: ⁶ that is, to the carpenters and mafons, and to them that mend broken places: and that timber may be bought, and ftones out of the quarries to repayre the temple of our Lord. ⁷ Yet let not the money which they receiue be accounted to them, but let them haue it in their powre, and vpon their fidelitie. ⁸ And Helcias the highe prieft fayd to Saphan the fcribe: I haue found the Booke of the law in the houfe of our Lord: and Helcias gaue the volume to Saphan, who alfo did reade it. ⁹ Saphan alfo the fcribe came to the king, and reported vnto him that which he had commanded, and fayd: Thy feruantes haue gathered into a fumme the money, which is found in the houfe of our Lord: and they haue geuen it to be deftributed to the workemen, by the ouerfeers of the workes of the temple of our Lord. ¹⁰ Saphan alfo the fcribe told the king, faying: Helcias the prieft hath geuen me a Booke. Which when Saphan had read before the

king, ¹¹ and the king had heard the wordes of the law of our Lord, he rent his garmentes. ¹² And he willed Helcias the priest, and Ahicam the sonne of Saphan, and Achobor the sonne of Micha, and Saphan the Scribe, and Afaia the kinges seruant, saying: ¹³ Goe and consult our Lord for me, and for the people, and for al Iuda, concerning the wordes of this volume, which is found: for the great wrath of our Lord is kindled agaynst vs: because our fathers haue not heard the wordes of this Booke, to doe al that is written for vs. ¹⁴ Helcias therefore the priest, and Ahicam, and Achabor, and Saphan, and Afaia went to Holda a propheteffe the wife of Selmum the sonne of Thecua, the sonne of Araas keeper of the garmentes, who dwelt in Ierusalem in the ^asecond: and they spake to her. ¹⁵ And she answered them: Thus sayth our Lord the God of Ifrael: Tel the man, that sent you to me: ¹⁶ Thus sayth our Lord: Behold, I wil bring euils vpon this place, and vpon the inhabitantes therof, al the wordes of the law which the king of Iuda hath read: ¹⁷ because they haue forsaken me, and haue sacrificed to strange goddesses, prouoking me in al the workes of their handes: and my indignation shal be kindled in this place, and shal not be quenched. ¹⁸ But to the king of Iuda, that sent you to consult our Lord, thus you shal say: Thus sayth our Lord the God of Ifrael: For that thou hast heard the wordes of the volume, ¹⁹ and thy hart is stricken with feare, and thou art humbled before the Lord, hearing the wordes agaynst this place, and the inhabitantes therof, to witte that they should become a wonder and a curse: and hast rent thy garmentes, and wept before me, and I haue heard it, sayth our Lord: ²⁰ therefore I wil gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy sepulchre in peace, that thy eyes may not see al the euils, which I wil bring in vpon this place.

^a Within the second wall the citie hauing three wals. *3. Reg. 3.*