

Chapter 9

The people repenting in fasting and sackcloth, put away their wiues of ftrange nations. 5. Efdras confeffeth Gods benefites, and the peoples ingratitude, 32. prayeth for them, and maketh league with God.

And in the foure and twenteth day of the moneth the children of Ifrael came together in fasting and facke-clothes, and earth vpon them. ² And the feede of the children of Ifrael was ^a)feperated from euerie ftrange childe: and they ftood, and confeffed their finnes, and the iniquities of their fathers. ³ And they rofe vp to fstand: and they read in the volume of the law of our Lord their God, foure times in a day, and foure times they confeffed, and adored our Lord their God. ⁴ And there arofe vpon the fteppe of the Leuites Iofue, and Bani, Cedmihel, Sabania, Bonni, Sarebias, Bani, and Chanani: and they cried with a lowde voice to our Lord their God. ⁵ And the Leuites Iofue and Cedmihel, Bonni, Hafebnia, Serebia, Odaia, Sebnia, and Phathahia, faid: Arife. Bleffe our Lord your God from eternitie to eternitie: and let them bleffe the high name of thy glorie in al bleffing & praife. ⁶ Thou the fame ô Lord, alone thou haft made heauen, & al the hoft therof: the earth & al thinges that are in it: the feas and al thinges that are therein: and thou doft giue life to al thefe thinges, and the hoft of heauē adoreth thee. ⁷ Thou the fame ô Lord God, which didft choofe Abram, & broughteft him out of the fire of the Chaldees, and gaueft him the ^b)name Abraham. ⁸ And thou didft finde his hart faithful before thee: and thou madeft a couenante with him, that thou wouldeft geue him the land of the Chananite, of the Hetheite, and of the Amorrheite, and of the Pherezeite, and of the Iebuſeite, & of the Gergeſeite,

^a True repentance requireth workes of penance, & eſpecially the remouing of occaſions of finne: as feperation from euil companie, abandoning of euil cogitations, and of much worldly pleaſure.

^b Changing of names importeth ſome beneficial myſterie. *Gen. 17.*

to geue vnto his feede: and thou haft fulfilled thy wordes, because thou art iuft. ⁹ And thou sawest the affliction of our fathers in Ægypt: & their crie thou didst heare vpon the Red sea. ¹⁰ And thou gauest signes & wonders in Pharao, and in al his seruants, and in al the people of his land: for thou didst know that they had done proudly against them: and thou madest thyself a name, as also at this day. ¹¹ And thou didst diuide the sea before them, and they passed through the midst of the sea in drie land: but their persecutors thou threwest into the depth, as a stone into the rough waters. ¹² And in a pillar of a cloude thou wast their leader by day, and in a pillar of fire by night, that the way might appeare to them, by the which they went. ¹³ To mount Sinai also thou didst descend, and spakest with them from heauen, and thou gauest them right iudgements, and the law of truth, ceremonies, and good preceptes. ¹⁴ Thy sanctified Sabbath thou didst shew them, and the commandements, and ceremonies, and the law thou didst command them in the hand of Moyfes thy seruant. ¹⁵ Bread also from heauen thou gauest them in their hunger, and water out of the rocke thou didst bring forth to them thirsting, and thou saidest to them that they should enter in, and possesse the land, vpon which thou didst lift vp thy hand to diliuere it them. ¹⁶ But they and our fathers did proudly, and hardned their neckes and heard not thy cōmandements. ¹⁷ And they ^awould not heare, and they remembred not thy merueylous workes which thou haft done to them.

Num. 17. And they hardned their neckes, and gaue the head to returne to their feruitude, as it were by contention. But thou a propitious God, and gracious, and merciful, long suffering and of much compaffion, didst not forsake them. ¹⁸ Yea and when they had made to them selues a molten calfe, and had said: This is thy god, which brought thee out of Ægypt: and they did great blasphemies. ¹⁹ But thou in thy manie mercies didst not leaue them in the desert: the pillar of the cloude departed not from them by day to lead them into the way, and the pillar of fire by

^a Free wil in finners.

night to fthew them the way by which they fould goe.
 20 And thou gaueft them thy good fpirite, which fould
 teach them, and thy Manna thou didft not withhold
 from their mouth, and thou gaueft them water in thirft.
 21 Fourtie yeares didft thou feede them in the defert, and
 nothing was wanting to them, their garmentes waxed not
 old, and their feete not worne. 22 And thou gaueft them
 kingdomes, and peoples, and didft part lottes vnto them:
 and they poffeffed the land of Sehon, and the land of
 the king Hefebon, and the land of Og the king of Bafan.
 23 And thou didft multiplie their children as the ftarres
 of heauen, & brought them to the land wherof thou hadft
 faid to their fathers, that they fould enter and poffeffe
 it. 24 And the children came, and poffeffed the land,
 and thou didft humble before them the inhabiters of the
 land, the Chananeites, and gaueft them into their hand,
 and their kinges, and the peoples of the land, that they
 might doe to them as it pleaſed them. 25 They therefore
 tooke the fenfed cities and fatte ground, and poffeffed
 houfes ful of al goodes: cefternes made by others, vine-
 yardes, and oliuetes, & manie trees that bare fruite: and
 they did eate, and were filled, and became fatte, and
 abounded with delicious thinges in thy great goodnes.
 26 But they prouoked thee to wrath, & departed from
 thee, and threw thy law behind their backes: & they
 killed thy prophetes, which admoniſhed them ernestly to
 returne to thee: and they did great blaſphemies. 27 And
 thou gaueft them into the handes of their enemies, and
 they afflicted them. And in the time of their tribulation
 they cried to thee, & thou from heauen didft heare, and
 according to thy manie cōpaſſions gaueft them fauiours,
 that fould faue them from the hand of their enemies.
 28 And when they had reſted, they returned to do euil in
 thy fight: & thou didft leaue them in the hand of their
 enemies, and they poffeffed them. And they returned,
 & cried to thee: & thou heardeſt from heauen, and deli-
 ueredſt thē in thy mercies, manie times. 29 And thou
 didft admoniſh them that they fould returne to thy
 law. But they did proudly, & heard not thy cōmand-
 mentes, and finned in thy iudgementes, which a man

should do, and shall live in them, and they gave the revolting shoulder, and hardened their necke, neither did they heare. ³⁰ And thou didst prolong manie yeares ouer them, and didst testifye to charge them in thy spirit by the hand of thy Prophetes: and they heard not, and thou didst deliuer them into the hand of the peoples of the nations. ³¹ But in thy very many mercies thou madest them not into consumption, neither didst thou forsake them: because a God of compassions and gracious art thou. ³² Now therefore O our God, great, strong, and terrible, keeping couenant and mercie, turne not away from thy face al the labour, which hath found vs, our Kinges, and our Princes, and our Priestes, and our Prophetes, and our fathers, and al the people from the daies of the king of Assur, vntil this day. ³³ And thou art iust in al thinges, that haue come vpon vs: because thou hast done truth, but we haue done wickedly. ³⁴ Our Kinges, our Princes, our Priestes, and our fathers haue not done thy law, and haue not attended thy commandmentes, and thy testimonies which thou hast testified among them. ³⁵ And they in their reignes, and in thy manifold goodnes, which thou gauest them, and in the land most large and fatte, which thou didst deliuer in their fight, serued not thee, nor returned from their most wicked deuises. ³⁶ Behold we our selues this day are bondmen: and the land, which thou gauest our fathers, that they should eate the bread therof, and the good thinges that are therof, and our selues are seruantes in it. ³⁷ And the fruites therof are multiplied to the kinges, whom thou hast sette ouer vs for our finnes, and they haue dominion ouer our bodies, and ouer our beastes, according to their wil, and we are in great tribulation. ³⁸ Therefore vpon al these thinges we our selues make a couenant, and write, and our Princes, our Leuites, and our Priestes signe it.