THE CONTINUANCE OF THE CHURCH AND RELIGION IN THE FOURTH AGE: From the parting of Ifrael out of Ægypt, to the fundation of the Temple. The space of 480. years.

VVe haue feen already in the three first ages, or distinct times of the world, the beginning, increase, and continuance of the Church and Religion of God, without interruption. Now in this fourth age, in which God gaue his people a written Law, it is yet more euident, that the same faith and religion, not only continued but also was more expressed, and explicated; and the Church had more varietie of Sacrifices, Sacraments, and other holie Rites, & Observances: & the two states Ecclesiastical and Temporal more distinguished, and ech of them, especially the Priestlie and Leuitical Hierarchie, more disposed in subordination: the ciuil gouernment also vnder Dukes, Iudges, and Kinges, more distributed among superiour and inferiour officers then before.

For first the principal point and ground of al religion, the beleefe in one God, and his proper divine worship, is aboue all most strictly commanded, often repeated, diligently observed by the good, and feuerely punished in transgressours. To which end and purpose, after that God had fingularly felected three more renowmed Patriarches, Abraham, Ifaac, and Iacob, preferuing them by his fpecial grace from idolatrie, and from wicked wayes of most peoples and nations, bleffed their feede, not in the whole progenie of the two former, but in Iacob onlie, whom he otherwife named *Ifrael*, multiplying his children exceedingly, yea most of al (which was most maruelous) in hotte perfecution: then bringing them forth of the fornace of Ægypt, in his ftrong hand, as is recorded in the former age, at last his Diuine Maiestie deliuered to them his perfect and eternal Law, conteyned in two tables, diffributed into tenne preceptes, teaching them their proper duties first towards himselfe their God and Lord, then towards ech other. Adding moreouer for the practife and execution therof, other particular

Articles of faith, other pointes of religion, & ftate of the Church more expreffed in this fourth age then before.

Beleefe in one God.

Diuine lawes.

Moral.

precepts of two fortes, to witte, Ceremonial prefcribing certaine determinate maners and rites, in observing the commandements of the first table pertaining to God: and Iudicial lawes directing in particular how to fulfil the commandements of the second table, concerning our duties towards our neighbours. So we see the whole law is nothing els, but to love God above al, and our neighboures as our selves. The maner of performing al, is to beleve and hope in one onlie Lord God, honour and serve him alone, who made al of nothing, conserveth al, wil judge al, and render to al men as they deserve, and therfore fully to confirme this point, he beginneth his commandements with expresse prohibition of al false and imaginarie goddes, saying: (Exod. 20. v. 3.)

Ceremonial.

Iudicial.

Thou shalt not have ftrange goddes, & after threates to the transgressours, and recital of the other nine commandementes, he concludeth (v. 23.) with repetition of the first, saying: You shal not make goddes of silver, nor goddes of gold shal you make to you. The same is repeted and explaned (Deut. 5.) And in the next chapter Moyses exhorting the people saith: Heare Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. And God himselfe speaking againe sayth: (Exod. 23.) See ye that I am onlie, and there is no other God besides me. The royal prophet Dauid (2. Reg. 22. and Pfalm. 17.) who is God but our God? and in fundrie other places the same doctrine of

one God is grounded, confirmed, and established.

Onely God to be ferued with diuine honour.

The B. Trinitie.

The Myfterie of the B. Trinitie, or of three Diuine Perfons, is no lefse true and certaine, then that there is but one God, though not fo manifeft to reafon, nor fo expressly taught in the old Testament, yet beleued then also, and often infinuated, where God is expressed by names of the plural number: as Elohim, Elim, Elohe, Saddai, Adonai, Isebaoth: which import pluralitie of Perfons in God, who is but one nature and substance. Distinction also of Persons in God is deduced (Exod. 33.) God saying: I wil cal in the name of the Lord. That is (as S. Augustin and other sathers expound it) the second Person by his grace maketh his feruants to cal vpon God. More distinctly (Pfalm. 2.) The Lord said

q. 154. in Exod.

Mat. 22.

Mat. 22.

to me: Thou art my Sonne, I this day have begotten thee. (Pfalm. 109.) The Lord faid to my Lord: that is, God the Father to God the Sonne: who according to his divinitie is the Lord of Dauid, according to his humanitie the fonne of Dauid. The fame king Dauid maketh mention also of the third Person, the Holie Ghost, praying (Pfalm. 50.) Thy holie Spirit take not from me. In the forme of blessing the people (Num. 6.) al three Persons seme to be vnderstood in the name of our Lord thrife repeted; our Lord (the Father) blesse thee and keepe thee. Our Lord (the Sonne) shew his face to thee, and have mercie vpon thee. Our Lord (the Holie Ghost) turne his countenance vnto thee, and geue thee peace.

Of the Incarnation of the Sonne of God, we have in this age manie prophecies and figures. Moyfes euidently (Deut. 18.) forsheweth that after other prophets Chrift the Sonne of God should come in flesh, and redeme mankind, as S. Peter teacheth. (Act. 3.) Likewise in his Canticle, and Blefsing of the tribes (Deut. 32. & 33.) he fpeaketh more expressly of Christ and his Church, then of the Iewes and their Synagogue. The ftarre prophecied by Balaam (Num. 24.) forshewed both to Iewes and Gentiles, that Chrift should fubdue al nations. Iofue both in name and office was a manifest figure of IESVS Chrift. Also the Iudges, and Kinges, some in one thing, fome in an other, most especially king Dauid and king Salomon, were figures of our Lord and Sauiour IESVS Chrift. The brafen ferpent (Num. 21.) fignified Chrift to be crucified, as him felfe expoundeth it. (Ioan. 3.) Briefly the whole Law was a pedagogue, or conductor to bring men to Chrift (Galat. 3.) and by him to know God and them felues: to wit, God omnipotent, al perfect, Creator of al, our Father, Redemer, and Sanctifier: and man his chief earthlie creature; though of himfelfe weake and impotent, yea through finne miferable, yet in nature of free condition, indued with vnderstanding, to conceiue, and difcourfe; and with freewil, to choofe or refuse what liketh or displeaseth him.

Incarnation of Chrift.

Freewil in Angels and men.

For God appointing all creatures their offices, ingraffed in all other thinges invariable inclination to performe the fame, fo that they could neither by vertue nor finne make their ftate better nor worfe then it was created, but ordaining Angels and men to a higher end of eternal felicitie, left their wils free to agree vnto, or to refift his precepts, and counfels. VVherupon Angels cooperating with Gods grace were confirmed in glorie. and fome reuolting were eternally damned. Man also offending fel into damnable ftate, but through penance may be faued, if he cooperate with new grace of our Redemer, which is in his choife to doe, or omitte. As when God gaue his people meate in the defert (Exod. 16.) he fo inftructed them, how to receive it and vie it, without force or compulsion, that he might prove them (as himfelf fpeaketh) whether they would walke in his law or no. And after making couenant with them (Exod. 19. Deut. 26.) required and accepted their voluntarie confent: entring into formal contract or bargaine between him felf and them: he promifing on the one partie to make them his peculiar people, a prieftlie kingdome, and a holie nation: they on the other partie promifing loyaltie, obedience, and observation of his commandements, faying: Al thinges that our Lord hath spoken we wil doe. For which caufe Gods promifes are conditional (Deut. 7.) if thou kepe his judgements, God wil keepe his couenant to thee. Again most plainly (Deut. 11.) Behold I fette before your fight this day benediction and malediction, and (Deut. 30.) I cal for witnesses this day heaven and earth, that I have proposed to you life and death, bleffing and curfing. Choose therfore life that thou mayest live. In all which it is certaine that Gods promife being firme, mans wil is variable, and fo the euent not necessarie: which made Caleb hoping of victorie to fav: (Iofue. 14.) If perhaps our Lord be with me. Neither doth Gods foreknowledge make the euent necessarie, for he seeth the effect in the caufe, as it is voluntarie or cafual: yea God knoweth al before, and fome times fortelleth thinges, vyhich conditionally vyould happen, and in deed, (the condition fayling) come not to passe, as (1. Reg. 23.)

Objection of Gods fornovvledge answered.

God answered, that the men of Ceila would betray Dauid (meaning if he ftaied there) vihich they did not; for he parted from thence.

Yet is not man able by this his freedome, nor otherwife of himfelf, to do, nor fo much as to thinke anie good thing but through Gods mere mercie, and grace, geuen him without his deferuing, fufficient to al, and effectual to those that accept it. God also geueth particular grace for special functions; as (Leuit. 8.) to Priestes (Num. 11.) to feuentie ancients, and (1. Reg. 10.) to king Saul.

2. Cor. 3.

Grace neceffarie.

By vyhich divine assistance the commandements of God are possible, as himselfe auoucheth, faying: (Deut. 30) entes possible This commandment that I command thee this day is not aboue thee. Againe: I have fette before thee life and good, death and euil, that thou mayeft loue God, walke in his waves, and keepe his commandementes.

Gods comandto be kept.

Workes done by grace and freevvil are good and commendable, Moyfes fo teftifying: (Deut. 14.) This is your wifdome and vnderftanding before peoples. Yea are meritorious: and revvardes are promifed for the fame (Leuit. 16.) and contrariwife punishments threatned to the transgreffours. And Booz knowing revvard to be due for vvel doing, prayed God to render to Ruth (ch. 2.) a ful reward for her wel deferuing. The royal prophet affirmeth (Pfalm. 18.) that in keeping Gods preceptes is much reward, and (Pfal. 118.) profeseth that he inclined his hart to keepe them for reward.

Good workes meritorious.

Amongst other feruices of God, and meanes of mens faluation, external Sacrifice is of the greatest. And therfore the maner of offering all fortes is at large prescribed in the Law, especially in the feuen first Chapters of Leuiticus. The first and principal was Holocaust, wherin al the oblation was burned and confumed in the honour of God our Soueraigne Lord. The fecond was Sacrifice for finne, according to the diversitie of offices, and perfones, wherof part was burned, the other part remained to the prieftes, except it were for the finnes of prieftes, or of the whole multitude (Leuit. 4.) for then the prieftes had no portion, but all was offered to God.

Diuers fortes of Sacrifices.

Holocauft.

For finne.

Pacifique.

The third was pacifique facrifice, either of thankfgeuing for benefites received, or to obtaine Gods fauour in al occurrent necessities, and good desires. And of both these fortes one part was confumed in Gods honour, an other part was the priestes, the third was theirs that gaue the oblation. In confirmation of these facrifices God at first miraculously sent fire to burne them (Leuit. 9.) wherof he had geuen commandment before (Leuit. 6.) that it should be conferued, and neuer extinguished, to teach vs especially of the new Testament, that haue the real Sacrifice, and verie bodie of the former shadowes and figures, to nourish and keepe the fire of charitie, not procured by our owne power, but geuen by God, that it neuer cease, nor be extinguished in our hartes.

Likewife in the fame law of Moyfes, befides Cir-

Fire fent from God fignifieth charitie.

Sacraments.

Alanus de Sacra. c. 9.

li. de vera Religion c. 17.

cumcifion inftituted before (Gen. 17.) and here confirmed and continued (Leuit. 12. Iofue. 5.) al hoftes and facrifices for finne (Leuit. 4. 5. 6. and 7.) confecration of Prieftes, (Leuit. 8.) and the facrifices adjoyned therunto, also divers other washinges and purifications of legal vncleannes (Leuit. 14. 15. 16. were al Sacraments; fignifying either first institution and remission of finne, or increase of grace, and puritie; of which fort it is also probable that the Paschal lambe, and Loaues of proposition were facramentes. (Exod. 12. 25.) VVhich multitude S. Augustin comparing with ours of the new Testament, fayth: The people bound with feare in the old law, was burdened with manie facraments. For this was profitable to fuch men (faith he) to make them defire the grace, foretold by the prophetes, which being come from the wifdome of God becoming Man, by whom we are called into freedom, a few most wholfome Sacraments are inftituted, which hold the focietie of chriftian people vnder one God of a free multitude. But as Christes Sacraments are fewer in number, fo they are more excellent in vertue. And to most of thefe new, the former do answere as figures and shadowes. So to our Baptisme answereth Circumcision, as S. Paul teacheth (Coloff. 1.) that Christians are circumcifed in the circumcifion of Chrift, buried with him

Manie more in the old Teftament then in the new.

Chrifts Sacraments more excellent.
Moft of Chrifts
Sacraments prefigured in the old law but not al.

S. Aug. in hunc Pfal. fer. de verbis Domini. li. 17. ciuit. c. 20. li. 1. cont. aduerf. leg. c. 18. S. Cyril. li. 3. in Ioan. S. Leo fer. 8. de paffione.

in Baptisme. To our holie Eucharist, as it is a Sacrament, did answere the Paschal lambe, & Loaues of proposition, as also Manna, and bloud of the Testament. It was prophecied Pfal. 18. Adore his foote ftoole: as holie Fathers expound it. And as the fame Eucharift is a Sacrifice, it was prefigured by all the old Sacrifices of the law of nature, and of Moyfes: as S. Augustin, and S. Leo do proue; and prophecied (Pfal. 19.) Be he mindful of al thy facrifice, &c. To the facrament of holie Orders answered confectation of Priests. Al the ablutions, purifications, cleanfinges, and oblations for finne, which in great part were both Sacramentes and Sacrifices, answered to our Sacrament of Penance, which was also prefigured by the second tables of the decalogue. (Exod. 34.) More plainly forshewed by example of particular confession of finnes and fatisfaction (Num. 5. 14. and 29.) Contrition also was no lesse required, as appeareth by the example of king Dauid. 2. Reg. 24. Mariage in the old Testament, though not a facrament yet fignified the Sacrament of Mariage among Chriftians. But the Sacrament of Confirmation had not anie fo answerable a figure, in the old law, which brought not to perfection. Neither Extreme vnction, because the law gaue not immediate entrance into the kingdom of heauen, which defectes were fignified by the high prieftes entring only once in the year into Sancta Sanctorum. Leuit. 16.

Likewife touching practife of holie Rites; divers vncleannes hindering participation of facrifices, and conuerfactionents in with other men. (Leuit. 14.) Degrees of confanguinitie and affinitie, hindering mariage (Leuit. 18.) and fundrie Irregularities excluding from the office of Priefts (Leuit. 21.) were figurative refemblances of finnes and centures, and of impediments to holie Orders, and to Mariage, in the new Testament.

To the peculiar feruice of God perteyned also the Tabernacle, with the Propitiatorie, Arke, Cherubims, Table for loaues of proposition, Candlesticke, Lampes, Altares for Holocauftes, & Incenfe, Veftments for Prieftes, a brafen lauer, and other vefsels defcribed Exod. 25.

Some like imvfe of holie Rites.

Tabernacle. Propitiatorie with appertinances.

et feg. Al which were kept and carried by the Leuites, refting or marching in the middes of the campe. Num. 2. 3. And when the Land of Chanaan was conquered, the fame were fixed in Silo, *Iofue. 18.* whither the people reforted at certaine fette times, and vpon fundrie occasions. From thence long after they tooke the Arke, and often vpon divers occasions removing it, made Oratories, or Chappels, wherefoeuer it refted, deuotion increafing, & religious effication of it in al Ifrael. 1. Req. 4. 7. 10. Yea the infidel Philifthims in Azotus feing and feeling the vertue therof, ouerthroving their god Dagon, and them felues for plagued found it beft for them to fend the Arke home to the Ifraelites, not vvithout coftlie and pretious oblations. (1. Reg. 5. & 6.) King Dauid most specially honoring it. (2. Reg. 6.) VVho further confidering that himfelf dvvelt in a house of cedar, and the Arke of God remained in the tabernacle couered vvith skinnes, intended to build a more excellent house for God. 2. Req. 7. But his godlie purpofe vvas differed by Gods appointment and his fonne king Salomon builded the famous Temple in Hierufalem. 3. Reg. 6.

Queft. 56. in Leuit.

VVhich fucceding in place of the Tabernacle, ech of them (one after the other) was the only ordinarie place of Sacrifice. The law commanding (Leuit. 17.) If anie man of the house of Israel, kil an oxe, or a sheepe, or a goate (to wit, for Sacrifice, as S. Augustin, and other fathers expound it) and offer it not at the dore of the tabernacle, (afterwards at the dore of the Temple) he shal be guiltie of bloud, as if he had shed bloud, and so shal he perish out of the middes of his people.

Neuertheles vpon occasions, and by special reuelation facrifice was lawfully offered in other places. For so in the time of the tabernacle, Samuel the prophet, offered Sacrifice in Masphath. 1. Reg. 7. And the prophet Elias offered Sacrifice without the Temple, vvhen he conuinced the false prophetes of Baal, 3. Reg. 18. whose fact (as S. Augustin noteth) the miracle sufficiently shewed to be donne by Gods dispensation.

ibidem.

And as peculiar places were dedicated, fo also special times were fanctified, and divers feastes, and

The Tabernacle, and afterwardes the Temple, the onlie place for Sacrifice.

Yet God fome times difpenfed therein.

Feaftes of the old law.

and Pafch Exod. 12.) were confirmed by the Law (Exod. 20. 23.) and others likevvife inftituted (Exod. 23. Leuit. 23. Num. 28. 29. and Deut. 16.) with proper facrifices for euerie fort. First and most general was the dailie facrifice of a lambe euerie day twife, at morning and euening (Exod. 29.) which was not properly a feaft, but a facred perpetual office in the tabernacle, and after in the temple. Al the reft were feftiual dayes, in which it was not lawful to do feruile worke. The first of these was the Sabbath, that is the feuenth and laft day of euerie weke, which is our faturday: Kept ftil folemnly by the Iewes, euen at this time, in al places vyhere they dvvel; but not by Chriftians, because the old Lavy is abrogated; and vve kepe the next day, which is Sunday, holie, by inftitution and tradition of the Church. The fecond, Neomenia, or new moone, in which day they alwaies beganne the moneth; and twelue fuch monethes made a yeare, by the course of the moone; for by the course of the sunne, the year conteineth eleuen dayes more, which in three yeares make aboue a moneth. And fo euerie third yeare, and fometimes the fecond (for it happened feuen times in nintene yeares) had thirtene monethes: and was called Annus embolismalis, being increased by meanes of those eleuen dayes. The third feaft was Pafch, or Phase, first instituted at the parting of the children of Ifrael out of Ægypt, in the ful moone of the first moneth in the spring, in which the Paschal lambe was eaten, as is prescribed. Exod. 12. The fourth feaft was Pentecoft, or first fruites, the fiftith day after Pafch, when Moyfes received the Lavv in mount Synai. The fifth, the feaft of Trumpets, the first day of the seuenth moneth, in gratful memorie that a ramme fticking by the hornes, vvas offered in facrifice by Abraham in place of Ifaac. The fixth vvas the feaft of Expiation, the tenth day of the feuenth moneth; vvherein folemne faft vvas also prescribed from euening of the ninth day to euening of the tenth, for remission of finnes in general, befides particular facrifices and fatisfaction for euerie

feftiuities partly ordained before (as the Sabbath Gen. 2.

Eight fortes of feaftes, befides the dailie facri-

Prescribed fast from euen to euen.

S. Beda de embolifmo. to. 1. finne, wherof anie man found himfelf guiltie. The feuenth vvas the feaft of Tabernacles, feuen dayes together, beginning the fiftenth of the feuenth moneth, in memorie of Gods fpecial protection, vvhen they remained in tabernacles, fourtie yeares in the defert. The eight feaft vvas of Affemblie and Collection, the next day after the forfaid feuen, in commemoration of vnion in the people, and peaceable poffession in the promifed land. In this day general collection vvas made for necessarie expences in the publique feruice of God.

Moreouer the feuenth years vvas a Sabbath of reft (Leuit. 25.) in vvhich no land vvas plowed, no vines pruned, nor those fruites gathered that sprong vvithout mans industrie of the earth. Against the fiftith years vvas peculiarly made holie, and called the Iubiley, or ioyful years. In it al bondmen vverse settle free; al inheritances amongst the Israelites, being for the time, sold or otherwise alienated, returned to the former ovvners.

Befides Sacrifices, Sacramentes, holie places, holie times, and manie other facred things belonging therto; there were vet more ceremonial Observances commanded by Moyfes law, as vvel perteyning to the feruice of God in that time, as fignifying christian life and maners. So certaine beaftes, birdes, and fishes were reputed vncleane (Leuit. 11.) and Gods people forbid to eate them; as also that they should not eate anie bloud at al, nor fatte. Leuit. 3. The reason of all which vvas not, as though anie creature were il in nature, but partly to auoide idolatrie, partly to exercife them in obedience, and temperance; & partly for that the fame thinges fignified vices and corruptions, from which Christians especially ought to refrain. Likewife Leuit. 19. they were commanded not to fovy their fields with two fortes of feede: nor to vveare garmentes wouen of tvvo fortes of ftuffe, that they might be more diftinguished from infidels by external fignes, and not only by circumcifion, but especially to teach christians to practife simple innocencie, & to avoid duble & deceptful dealing.

Al vvhich, and other preceptes as wel moral, as ceremonial and iudicial, vvere most ftrictly comanded;

Seuenth yeare of reft: and Iubiley yeare.

Other ceremonial observances.

Cleane and vncleane.

No bloud to be eaten, nor fatte.

Not divers feede in one field.

No cloth of divers matter.

Strict commandment to kepe al the Law.

thousand flaine for committing idolatrie. Manie swallovved vp in the earth, (Num. 16.) descending quicke into hel, & manie more burned with fire from heauen, for making and fauoring Schifme. Yea by one meanes & other, al that vvere aboue twentie years of age, coming forth of Ægypt, except two onlie (Iofue & Caleb) died in the defert, for the general murmur of the people. Num. 11. 14. 25. & 26. Al Ifrael beaten in battle til one malefactor Achan was discouered & punished. Iof. 7. Al the tribes were punished for fuffering publique idolatrie in Dan: and Beniamin almost extirpate, for not punishing certaine malefactours. *Iudic.* 20. And the vvhole people vvere often inuaded & fore afflicted for their finnes; as appeareth in the booke of Iudges. In particular also divers were advanced & prospered for their virtues, as Iofue, Caleb, Phinees, Samuel, Dauid, and others. Contrariwife Nadab and Abiu priefts were miraculoufly burnt for offering ftrange fire. Leuit. 10. One ftoned to death for gathering ftickes on the fabbath day. Num. 15. King Saul deposed, for prefuming to offer facrifice, & not deftroying Infidels (1. Reg. 13. 15.) & Oza, 2. Req. 6. fodenly flaine for touching the Arke of God, the Lavy forbidding vnder paine of death, Num. 1. v. 5. & 18. v. 7. that none should approch to holie office being not therto orderly called. Of workes also of Supererogation (called counfailes not preceptes) vve haue examples in vovves, voluntarily made of thinges not commanded; the law prescribing vvhat vovves might be made, & by vvhom. Nu. 30. And Num. 6. a particular rule was proposed to such

as of their ovvne accord, vvould embrace it, & a diffinct name geuen them, to be called *Nazarites*, that is, *Seper*-

ate or Sanctified. In which ftate they vvere to remain either for a time, limited by themfelues or their parents, or perpetually, if they fo promifed. *Iudic. 13. 1. Reg. 1.* For fo farre as their promife extended, they were ftrictly obliged to performe. *Deut. 23. When thou haft vowed* 

the observers blessed & rewarded, & transgressours feu-

erly threatned vvith great curfes (Leuit. 20. 26. Deut. 4.

27. 28.) and divers actually punished, Exod. 32. three

The observers bleffed and rewarded. Transgreffours curfed and punished.

VVorkes of fupererogation. Vowes.

Nazarites.

a vow to our Lord thy God, thou fhalt not flacke to pay it: because our Lord thy God wil require it: and if thou delay, it shal be reputed to thee for sinne. If thou wilt not promife, thou shalt be without (this) finne. Pay thy vowes vnto the Highest. Pfal. 75. Vow ye, and render (your vowes) to our Lord your God. Pfal. 49. The Rechabites aftervoardes had a like rule to the Nazarites; & the fame perpetual (Hierem. 35.) neuer to drinke wine, not to build nor dwel in houses, but in tabernacles, nor fow corne, nor plant vineyardes. VVhich rule though inftituted by a man, yet the observation therof was much commended & rewarded by God. v. 19. Such diffinct ftate of religious persons, with other states of the church of Chrift, were also prefigured (Leuit. 11.) the cleane fishes, of three diffinct vvaters, as fome holie Fathers do myftically expound that place. To vvitte, the cleane fishes of the fea are the multitude of layperfons. which are dravven out of the fea of this vvorld, and happily found good fishes in our Lords nette. Math. 13. The cleane fishes of the rivers, are the good and fruitful Clergie men, that vvatter the vvhole earth, by teaching Chriftian doctrin, and ministring holie Sacramentes, vvith other Rites, and Gouerning the whole Church. And the cleane fishes of ftanding pooles, are the Monaftica Mounkes. perfons, liuing perpetually in Cloyfters, vyhere good foules are alwayes readie for our Lordes table, as S. Bernard teacheth. Much more the more ancient fathers. S. Beda. S. Gregorie, S. Augustin, and others explicate innumerable places of holie Scripture myftically; relying therin vpon example of the new Testament so expounding the

S. Bern. Ser. 1. de S. Andrea. S. Beda to. 4. S. Greg. in li. 1. Req. et in Iob. S. Aug.cont. Fauft.

> Leauing therfore to profecute the fame further, which would require a verie great worke, it may here fuffice to geue according to the literal fenfe, a briefe view of certaine other pointes of Religion, practifed in this fourth age.

> old. Namely S. Paul teaching (as before is noted) that

the whole law was a pedagogue guiding men to Chrift, and affirming that all thinges happened to the people of

the old Testament in figure of the new.

Rechabites.

Three fortes of Chriftians prefigured.

Laitie.

Clergie.

Holie fcripture expounded myftically.

VVhere it is clere, that as Iacob the Patriarch had fortold (Gen. 48.) that Abrahams, Ifaacs, and his owne name should be inuocated, fo Moyfes prayed God for his promife made to them, and for their fake, to pardon the people, faying: Exod. 32. Remember ô Lord Abraham, Ifaac, & Ifrael. And our Lord was pacified, from doing the euil which he had fpoken againft his people. His diuine prouidence fo difpofing, that he could be hindered, by fuch prayers, from that which he threatned.

Inuocation of Patriarches.

S. Hiero. Ep. 12. ad Gauden.

And wheras Moyfes did not directly inuocate the holie Patriarches, as Chriftians now cal vpon glorified Sainctes, to pray for them, the caufe of difference is, for that now Sainctes feing God, know in him, whatfoeuer perteyneth to their glorie, which ftate none before Chrift attained vnto. Num. 35. v. 25. Deut. 4. v. 12. Againe Protestantes object, that for so much as God knoweth al our necessities, desires, dispositions, and whatsoeuer is in man, it is needles (fay they) fuperfluous & in vaine, that Sainctes should commend our causes. To this we answer, that not only glorious Sainctes, but also mortal men by Gods ordinace (by which nothing is done vainely) do fuch offices, as mediators between God and other men. for fo Moyfes told the wordes of the people to our Lord (Exod. 19.) notwithftanding Gods omnificience, or knowledge of al thinges. Also God expresly commanded lobs freinds to goe to Iob, promifing to heare his prayer for them. As for Sainctes hearing or knowing our prayers made to them, though onlie God of himfelfe, and by his owne power, feeth mens fecrete cogitations, and therfore is properly called the fearcher of hartes (1. Reg. 16.) yet God communicateth this power to prophetes, to fee the fecrete thoughtes of others; fo Samuel knew the cogitations of Saul. (1. Reg. 9. v. 20.) And Ahias faw by reuelation the coming of Ieroboams wife to him in Silo. (3. Reg. 14.) Much more God reuealeth our prefent ftate, and actes to glorified foules; vvho are as Angels in heauen (Math. 22.) and being fecure of their owne glorie, are careful (fayeth S. Cyprian) of our Saluation.

Objections answered by holie Scriptures.

Iob. 42.

How Sainctes know mens prayers.

lib. de mortalitate.

Neither is it derogation to God that Saints are honoured, and titles ascribed to them, of intercessors, mediators, and the like; for fuch titles are gener to them not as to God, but by vvay of participation only. So Iudges are called goddes and fauiours (Exod. 21. Iudic. 3.) and Prieftes called goddes. (Exod. 21.) Praife geuen to God and Gedeon. Iudic. 7. Protection and adoration of Angels is very frequent. Exod. 23. 31. Num. 22. Iofue. 5. Iudic. 2. 6. 13. The names of the twelue fonnes of Ifrael were grauen in the two chiefe ornaments of the high prieft, in the Ephod and Rationale. (Exod. 28.) Manna was not only referred as a memorie of Gods fingular benefite, but also honorably reposed as a Relique in a golden veffel, and kept in the Arke of God. (Exod. 16. Heb. 9.) Indepths bones referred and remoued. (Iofue. 24.) Images of holie Cherubims were made and fette vp together with the Arke, and Propitiatorie in the chiefe place of the Tabernacle, called Sancta Sanctorum. (Exod. 25.) An image also of a serpent was made in brafse for the health of those that were striken by ferpentes. (Num. 21.) Images also of lions and oxen were made, and fette vnder the foote of the lauer (called a fea) in the Temple. (3. Reg. 7.) The honour done to anie holie thing, namely to the Arke (2. Reg. 6.) redounded to Gods more honour, and al this fo farre from idolatrie, that quite contrarie, in prefence of the Arke the idol Dagon fel to the ground, and broke in peeces. 1. Reg. 5.

Exequies for the dead with weeping and fafting were then practifed in the Church, as appeareth by the peoples mourning for Aaron thirtie dayes. Num. 20. Alfo for Moyfes. (Deut. 34.) By the Gabaonites fafting feuen dayes for Saul and his fonnes lately flaine. 1. Reg. 31. Likewife king Dauid with al his court mourning weping and fafting for them. 2. Reg. 1. Al which were to no purpofe, if foules departed could not be releiued by fuch meanes. It moreouer appeareth that the fame royal prophet beleued divers places to be in hel, when he faid: (Pfal. 85.) Thou haft delivered my foule from the lower hel, fignifying plainly that there is a lower and a higher

Titles geuen to men in office, and to Sainctes.

Angels adored.

Reliques.

Images.

Exequies for the dead.

hel: which higher the Church calleth *Purgatorie*, where foules fuffer that paine in fatisfaction for their finnes, which remaineth not fatisfied before death, & is due after the guilt of finne is remitted, the law prefcribing that befides reftitution of damage, facrifice should also be offered. (Leuit. 5. 6. 16.) And Dauid was punished by the death of his child 2. Reg. 12. & by the plague fent amongft his people 2. Reg. 24. after his finnes were remitted. He feared also punishment in the other world, yea two fortes and therfore prayed to be deliuered from both, faying: (Pfal. 6.) Lord rebuke me not in thy furie, nor chaftice me in thy wrath. That is (faith S. Gregorie) Strike me not with the reprobate, nor afflict me with those, that are purged by the punishing flames. And most expressly fignished also a higher place called hel, faying (Pfal. 15.) in the person of Christ to his Father:

Thou shalt not leave my foule in hel. From vyhence

Chrift deliuered the holie Patriarches, Prophetes, and other perfect foules, refting vvithout fenfible paine, & brought them into heauen, vvither before him none

could enter. VVhich vvas also fignified by the cities of

refuge, whence none might depart to their proper countrie, til the death of the high prieft (Num. 35.) & by Movses dying in the desert, and not entring into the

promifed land ouer Iordan. Deut. 4. 31. & 34.

Purgatorie.

To. 2. in fept. Pfal. pænitent.

Limbus patrũ.

No entrance into heauen before Chrift.

Refurrection.

Prefuppoing the general Refurrection of al men (as a truth knovven by former traditions) king Dauid shevveth the difference of the vvicked, and godlie in that time, faying: (Pfal. 1.) The impious fhal not rife againe in iudgement: nor finners in the councel of the iuft. That is, the vvicked shal not rife to ioy & glorie, as the iuft & godlie shal doe.

Of general iudgement is more plainly prophecied, 1. Reg. 2. That our Lord fhal iudge the endes of the earth, not that Dauid, nor Salomon, but Chrift should raigne in his militant Church, euen to the endes of the earth, and in fine iudge the vvhole vvorld. The fame is confirmed Pfal. 49. God wil come manifeftly our God, and he wil not kepe filence. Fire fhal burne forth in his

Iudgement.

fight. Pfal. 95. He shal judge the round world in equitie, and the peoples in his truth. Pfal. 96. Fire shal goe before him, and fhal inflame his enemies round about. Againe the fame royal prophete (Pfalm. 48.) describeth the future and eternal ftate of the damned faying: as fheepe (creatures vnable to helpe themselues) they are put in hel, death fhal feede vpon them. Of the bleffed he addeth: And the iuft shal rule ouer them in the morning. that is, in the refurrection, and Pfal. 149. The Sainctes shal reioyfe in glorie, they shal be ioyful in their beddes (in eternal reft.) The exaltations (prayfes) of God in their throate, and two edged fwordes in their handes: to doe revenge in the nations, punishments among the peoples. To bind their kinges in fetters, and their nobles in yron manicles. That they may doe in them the judgement that is written: This glorie is to al his Sainctes. And much greater glorie belongeth to Sainctes: for this is but accidental, vttered according to vulgar capacitie. nor eare hath heard, nor hart can conceiue, confifteth

Eternal paine of the damned and glorie of the bleffed.

1. Cor. 2.

1. Cor. 15.

Cathecif. Rom. p. 1. c. 12. q. 9.

The efsential and perfect glorie, which no eye hath feene, in feeing God. Among accidental glorious giftes, the foure dowries of glorified bodies are especially prefig-Impaffibilitie by the wood Setim, wherof the ured: Arke was made. (Exod. 25.) Agilitie and Penetrabilitie in fome forte by Dauids quicknes against Goliath, and his conueying of him felf into Sauls campe and forth againe. (1. Reg. 17. and 26. But a more plaine figure of Claritie was in Moyfes face (Exod. 34.) which by his conversation with God, became more glorious then mortal eyes were able to behold, gliftering and shining as most splendent light through christal, described as if his skinne had benne a clere horne, appearing and fpreading beames like the funne, proceding from the beautie of his foule, fo that none of all the people could looke directly vpon him, except he couered his face.

Thus much concerning particular pointes of faith and religion. And it is no lefse euident, that the vniuerfal *Church* and Citie of God ftil continued: yea was more vifible, and confpicuous to the whole world then before. First by Gods maruelous protection therof in

Foure dowries of glorified bodies prefigured.

The Church more knowen to other nations then before. the defert, and famous victories and conquestes of the land of Chanaan. And by the excellent lawes geuen to this people; which all nations admired, and none had the like. Deut. 4. For in this fourth age, befides other lavves and preceptes, the fpiritual and temporal States were more diffinguished, and the Ecclefiaftical Hierarchie especially disposed in subordination of one supreme head, with inferiour gouerners, ech in their place and office, for edification of the whole bodie. For Moyfes being chief ruler and conducter of the Ifraelites out of Ægypt, recieued and deliuered to them the written Law. (Exod. 20.) And for observation and confernation thereof by Gods expresse appointment (Leuit. 8.) confecrated Aaron the ordinarie High prieft, himfelf remayning ftil extraordinarie Superiour, also aboue Aaron. And after Aaron he confecrated in like maner his fonne Eleazar high prieft, and fucceffour to his father. (Num. 20.) To whom fucceded others in this order (1. Paralip. 6.) Phinees, Abifuë, Bocci, Ozi, Zacharias, (otherwife 1. Reg. 1. called Heli) Meraioth, Amarias, (otherwife Achimelec, whom Saul flew, 1. Reg. 22.) Achitob (othervvife Abiathar, vvho vvas deposed, 3. Reg. 2.) and Sadoc, in vyhofe time the Temple vvas founded.

The Ecclefiaftical and temporal ftates more diftinguifhed.

Succeffion of High Prieftes.

To these viewer adjointed other Priestes, also confectated stinction in a præscript forme. (Leuit. 8.) and Leuites ordayned to assift in lower and distinct offices. (Num. 3. & 4.) In the first degree the Caathites, whose office was to carrie the Sanctuarie, and veffel therof vyrapped vp by the prieftes, but vvere forbid in paine of death, to touch them, or to fee them. In the fecond degree the Gerfonites; vyho carried the cortines and couers of the Tabernacle, and veffel of the Altar. In the third degree the Merarites; vvho carried the bordes, barres, and pillers, vvith their feete, pinnes, cordes, and other implements of the tabernacle; euerie one according to their office and burdens. Num. 4. v. vlt.

of offices in Prieftes & Leuites.

But in the temporal ftate and government Iofue of the tribe of Ephraim fucceeded to Moyfes. (Num. 27. Deut. 3. & 34.) And after Iofue were divers interruptions of fucceffion, with gouerners of divers tribes, and

Succeffion of temporal princes interrupted.

change of gouernment, from Dukes to Iudges, and from Iudges to Kinges. For after Iofues death the people being fore afflicted by inualions of Infidels, God raifed certaine special men, with title of *Iudges* to deliuer and faue them. First Othoniel of the tribe of Iuda; then Aod of Beniamin; after him Samgar (the Scripture not fignifying of what tribe) then Barach with Debora of Ephraim: Gedeon of Manasses: Abimelech, his base fonne, an vfurper; Thola of Iffachar; Iair, and Iephte of Manasses; Abelan of Iuda; Aialon of Zabulon; Abdon of Ephraim; Sampson of Dan; and Heli, who was also high prieft of Aarons ftocke, otherwife called Zaraias (1. Paralip. 6.) and Samuel also of the tribe of Leui a Prophet. In his time the people demanding and vrging to have a King, Saul of the tribe of Beniamin was annointed. 1. Reg. 10. But for transgressing Gods commandments, especially for exercifing spiritual function without warrant (1. Reg. 13.) and not deftroying idolaters (1. Reg. 15.) was deposed, and Dauid of the tribe of *Iuda* was annointed King; who after manie great trubles, possessed the whole kingdome, and died in peace, leaving his fonne Salomon invested and annointed king in his throne.

The Church being thus established in diffinct states and orders, albeit there were manie imperfections in al fortes of persons, and great sinnes committed, yet God fo punished offenders, and chaftifed the whole people, that he ftil conferued, the greatest, or chiefe part, in true faith and religion. For whiles they were in the defert, they murmured very often against God, and his Ministers their Superiours. (Exod. 17. Num. 11. 14. 20. 21.) Manie fel to idolatrie. (Exod. 32.) Aaron not free from cooperating in the peoples finne. Nadab and Abiu Aarons fonnes, and confectated prieftes, offered ftrange fire. (Leuit. 10.) Core, Dathan, and Abiron, with their complices made a great schiffme. (Num. 16.) Manie committed carnal fornication with Infidels; and were therby drawen to fpiritual. (Num. 25.) Of which and other like finnes the Pfalmift speaketh (Pfal. 94.) exhorting his people not to harden their hartes, as in the

Dukes.

Iudges.

Kinges.

Manie finnes & difficulties in the Church.

Murmure.

Idolatrie.

Schifme.

Carnal fornication caufe of Idolatrie.

defert their fathers had tempted God. Fourtie yeares was I offended (fayth God) with that generation, and fayd: They alwayes erre in hart. And therfore he fware in his wrath: that the fame generation should not enter into the promifed land of Chanaan: but their children entred and possessed it. Num. 14. Iofue. 3.

The Church afflicted for finnes, yet was ftil conferued.

Iudic. 3.

Againe the people falling to idolatrie and other finnes, were afflicted and fore preffed by forraine enemies, but repenting were deliuered and faued by certain capitaines called *Iudges* and *Sauiours*: as appeareth in the booke of Iudges. They had also tribulations by fome of their owne nation, for among the Iudges one (called Abimelec) was a tyrannical vfurper. (Iudic. 9.) Saul their first King falling from God vniustly persecuted Dauid. (1. Reg. 18. &c.) Ambitious Abfolom rebelled against the King his father, (2. Reg. 15.) and Seba of the tribe of Beniamin raifed an other rebellion. (2. Reg. 20.) Likewife Adonias, assisted by Abiathar the high priest, and by *Ioab* general of the armie, pretended to reigne his father Dauid yet liuing, to preuent Salomon of the kingdom. (3. Reg. 1.) So God both shewed his iuftice, in fuffering fuch afflictions to happen, for punishment of finne: and his mercie, in fauing his Church from ruine.

divers divine Ordinances provided by the law. For first al were ftrictly commanded, not to comunicate with Infidels in their idolatrie (Ex. 23.) nor with Schifmatikes in their schifme (Nu. 16.) but to destroy al Idolaters and shunne al nouelties in religion, as a (Num. 33.)fure marke of idolatrie, or false doctrine. (Deut. 13.) Further to conferue vnitie there was but one Tabernacle, and one Altar for Sacrifice, in the whole people of Ifrael. VVherupon when the two tribes and halfe, on the other fide Iordan, had made a feueral altar, al the tribes that dwelt in Chanaan, fufpecting it was for facrifice, fent prefently to admonish them, and prepared to make warre against them, except they destroyed their new altar, but being aduertifed that it was only an altar of monument, and not for facrifice, were therwith fatisfied. (Iofue. 22.) Afterwards the tribe of Dan, fetting

Moreouer for preferuatio of the Church, there were

Ordinarie meanes of conferuing the Church.
No participation with Infidels.
No noueltie to be admitted.
But one Tabernacle.
One Altar for facrifice.

S. Chrif. orat. 1. aduerf. Iudeos.

vp idolatrie, and the other tribes not correcting it, they were all punished. VVhich happened by occasion of an other enormous finne, committed and not corrected in the tribe of Beniamin. For the other eleuen tribes making warre against them for this iust cause, yea by Gods direction, and warrant, yet had the worfe, fufteyning great flaughter of men in two conflictes, and in the third Beniamin was almost destroyed. *Iudic.* 20.

Finally for decision of al controuers and ending of ftrife, the High Prieft was expresly ordayned supreme Iudge. (Deut. 17.) And all were commanded in paine of death to fubmitte their opinions, and obey his fentence: with promife of Gods assistance, wherby his definitions were certaine and infallible. For in confultation of doubtes, and difficult cases, God inspired him with doctrine of veritie. (Exod. 28. 29. Leuit. 8. Num. 3. 7. 9. 1. Reg. 23. 30. VVhich iudgement Seate Chrift admonished the Iewes to repayre vnto and folow (Math. 23.) though the Iudges themselues did not the thinges which they taught. In fo much that Caiphas, through this afsiftance of Gods fpirite, being otherwife a wicked man, yet pronounced the truth, That one must die for the people. VVhich therfore S. Iohn the Euangelift afcribeth to his Chayre and office, because he was High priest that yeare. Ioan. 11.

One fupreme Iudge of controuerfies. Al bound to obev him. His fentence infallible.

Math. 16. 28. Luc. 22. Ioan. 14. 16. Eph. 4. 1. Tim. 3.

Seing then Gods prouidence and continual assistance The Church of was fo clere, and affured in the Church of the old Teftament, Chrift preferued much more is the Church of Chrift builded vpon a fure rocke, affured of his perpetual affiftance, and always preferued from erring in Faith, or in general practife of Religion. And that by Gods like affured ordinance of one fupreme head and Iudge, S. Peter, & his Succeffour: for vyhom our Sauiour prayed, that his faith should not faile. Further commanding him, that he fhould confirme his brethren. Al vyhich vye fee is performed in the Successours of S. Peter, vyheras the fuccessours of the other Apostles, are al failed long fince. The same most assured stabilitie of the Church of Christ, is further confirmed by the whole Lavy and Prophetes. Namely, Deut. 12. and 33. vyhere Moyfes fortelleth more povver

from erring in Religion.

and grace in the Church, to be collected in the Gentiles of al natios, then euer vvas in that of the Ifraelites or Iewes. Likewife, 1. Reg. 2. The fame vvas both prefigured and prophecied by holie Anna: The hungrie (those that defire Gods grace and glorie) are filled: vntil the barren woman (the Church of the Gentiles) bare verie manie: & fhe that had manie children was weakned. Shewing that the Church of the Iewes had manie, vntil the plenitude of Gentiles much more abounded. Wherfore the Pfalmift inuiteth al nations to praife God. faving: Pfal. 116. Praife our Lord al ye Gentiles: praife him al ye peoples. Also 2. Reg. 7. God promised Dauid, faying: Thy Kingdome for euer before thy face, and thy throne fhal be firme continually. Which was not verified in Dauids temporal kingdome. For it was quickly diuided, after Salomons death, and a final part left to his fonne Roboam. And after the captiuitie in Babilon, his feede had onlie title and right without poffession of royal throne. Againe 2. Reg. 22. The fame royal prophet in his Canticle of thankefgeuing, and laft prophetical wordes (chap. 23.) much preferreth the fpiritual kingdome of Chrift, before the earthlie kingdome of the Iewes.

Not anie temporal but Chrifts kingdom is in al nations and perpetual.

S. Epiph. hæref. 29.

Act. 4.

S. Aug. li. 17.

c. 8. de ciuit.

But most specially and plainly in the Pfalmes. Pfal. 2. Why did the Gentiles rage, & peoples meditate vaine thinges? Signifying that the furie of all aduerfaries rageth in vaine, against Christ and his Church. For, I am appointed, by him (fayth Chrift of his Father) king ouer Sion, his holie hil. I wil geue thee (fayth God to his Sonne) the Gentiles for thine inheritance, and thy possession the endes of the earth. Pfal. 17. A people which I knew not, hath ferued me. Pfal. 44. The Queene (the Church) ftood on thy right hand in golden rayment, compaffed with varietie; of vertues, and diuers fortes of holie professions. Pfal. 47. Mount Sion is founded with the exultation of the whole earth. For euer and euer he (Chrift) fhal rule vs euermore. Pfal. 86. Glorious thinges are fayd of thee, ô citie of God. But omitting innumerable other fuch textes, the 88. Pfalme conteyneth a large prophecie of Chrift and his Church.

where S. Augustin geneth vs this brief admonition. Christiani

The Church of Chrift vniuerfal.

in hunc. Pfalm.

eftis, Chriftum agnofcite. You are Chriftians, agnize Chrift. I wil put (fayth God) his hand in the fea, Chrifts dominion in the Gentile, and his right hand in the riuers; al fortes shal ferue him. He fhal be high aboue the kinges of the earth. Of the Church he addeth: I wil put his feede for euer and euer, and his throne as the dayes of heaven. Neither do finnes frustrate this promife of God, therfore it followeth: But if his children fhal forfake my law: and wil not walke in my judgements. If they shal profane my instices, and not keepe my commandements; VVhat then, wil Chrift for al this abandon his Church, as he did the old Synagogue, of which God fayth: Deut. 32. They have provoked me in that which was no God: and I wil prouke them, in that which is no people? Not fo. How then? I wil vifite, fayth our Lord, their iniquities with a rodde, and their finnes with ftripes. But my mercie I wil not take away from him. This is a ftrong Firmament (fayth S. Augustin) God promifeth, yea fweareth, and vvil not lie to Dauid, that his feede fhal continew for euer. His throne as the Sunne in Gods fight, and the Moone perfected for euer. So this great Doctor sheweth by holie Scriptures against the Donatiftes, and in them against Protestantes, that the militant Church of Chrift hath benne ftil, and shal be visible, during this transitorie world.

The Iewes wil not fee Chrift: 2. Cor. 3. And Heretikes wil not fee the Church: which yet is alwayes vifible. S. Aug. in Pfal. 30. conc. 2. Collat. Carthag. et cont. Donatift.

Ibidem.