The HOLY BIBLE
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King James Version
CHAP. I.

2 Arphaxad doeth fortifie Ecbatane. 5 Nabuchodonosor maketh warre against him. 7 and craueth aide. 12 Hee threateneth those that would not aide him, 15 and killeth Arphaxad, 16 and returneth to Nineue.

In the twelfth yeere of Nabuchodonosor, who reigned in Nineue the great citie, (in the dayes of Arphaxad, which reigned ouer the Medes in Ecbatane,

2 And built in Ecbatane walles round about of stones hewen, three cubites broad, and sixe cubites long, and made the height of the wall seuenty cubites, and the breadth thereof fiftie cubites:

3 And set the towers thereof uppon the gates of it, an hundred cubites high, and the breadth thereof in the foundation threescore cubites.

4 And he made the gates thereof, euen gates that were raised to the height of seuentie cubites, & the breadth of them was fourtie cubites, for the going forth of his mightie armies, and for the setting in array of his footmen.

5 Euen in those dayes, king Nabuchodo-
Nabuchodonosor made warre with king Arphaxad in the great plaine, which is the plaine in the borders of Ragau.

6 And there came vnto him, all that they that dwelt in the hill countrey, and all that dwelt by Euphrates, and Tigris, and Hydaspes, and the plaine of Ar- 

rhoch the king of the Elimeans, and very many nations of the sonsnes of Chelod, assembled themselves to the battell.

7 Then Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, sent vnto all that dwelt in Persia, and to all that dwelt Westward, and to those that dwelt in Cilicia, and Damascus and Libanus, and Antilibanus, and to all that dwelt vpon the Sea coast,

8 And to those amongst the nations that were of Carmel, and Galaad, and the higher Galile, and the great plaine of Esdrelon,

9 And so that were in Samaria, and the cities thereof : and beyond Iordan vnto Jerusalem, and Betane, and Chellus, and Kades, and the river of Egypt, and Taphnes, and Ramesse, and all the land of Gesem,

10 Vntill you come beyond Tavis, and Memphis, and to all the inhabitants of Egypt, vntill you come to the borders of Ethiopia.

11 But all the inhabitants of the land made light of the commandement of Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, neither went they with him to the battell : for they were not afraid of him: yea he was before them as one man, and they sent away his Ambassador from them without effect, and with disgrace.

12 Therefore Nabuchodonosor was very angry with all this countrey, and sware by his throne and kynsdome, that hee would surely be avenged vpon all those coasts of Cilicia, and Damascus, and Syria, and that he would slay with the sword all the inhabitants of the land of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and all Iudeas, and all that were in Egypt, till you come to the borders of the two Seas.

13 Then he marched in battell aray with his power against king Arphaxad in the seuenteenth yeere, and he prevailed in his battell : for he overthrew all the power of Arphaxad, and all his horsemen and all his chariotes,

14 And became Lord of his cities, and came vnto Ecbatane, and tooke the towers, and spoiled the streetes thereof, and turned the beauty thereof into shame.

15 Hee tooke also Arphaxad in the mountains of Ragau, and smote him through with his darts, and destroyed him utterly that day.

16 So he returned afterward to Nineue, both he and all his company of sundry nations : being a very great multitude of men of warre, and there he tooke his ease and banketted, both he and his armie an hundred and twenty dayes.

C H A P. II.

1 And Olofernes is appointed generally, 11 and charged to spare none, that will not yield. 12 His armie and provision, 23 the places which hee wonne and wasted, as he went.

And in the eighteenth yeere, the two and twentieth day of the first month, there was talk in the house of Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, that he should as he said auenge himselfe on all the earth.

2 So he called vnto him all his officers, and all his nobles, and communicated with them his secret counsell, and concluded the afflicting of the whole earth out of his owne mouth.

3 Then they decreed to destroy all flesh that did not obey the commandement of his mouth.

4 And when he had ended his counsell, Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians called Olofernes the chiefe captaine of his armie, which was next vnto him, and said vnto him,

5 Thus saith the great king, the Lord of the whole earth : behold, thou shalt goo forth from my presence, and take with thee men that trust in their owne strength, of footemen an hundred and twenty thousand, and the number of horses with their riders twelve thousand.

6 And thou shalt goo against all the West countreys, because they disobeyd my commandement.

7 And thou shalt declare, vnto them that they prepare for me earth and water : for I will goo forth in my wrath against them, and will couer the whole face of the earth with the feete of mine armie, and I will giue them for a spoile vnto them.

8 So, after the manner of the kings of Persia, to whom earth and water was giuen to be giuen to acknowledge that they were Lords of land and sea. Herodotus.
8 So that their slaine shall fill their
vallies, and brookes, and the ruer shall
be filled with their dead, til it overflow.
9 And I will lead them captiues to
the utmost parts of all the earth.
10 Thou therefore shalt goe forth,
and take before hand for me all their
coasts, and if they will yeeld themselves
unto thee, thou shalt reserve them for
me till the day of their punishment.
11 But concerning them that rebell,
let not thine eye spare them: but put
them to the slaughter, and spoile them
wheresoever thou goest.
12 For as I live, and by the power
of my kingdome, whatsoever I have
spoken, that will I doe by mine hand.
13 And take thou heede that thou
transgresse none of the Commande-
ments of thy Lord, but accomplish
them fully, as I have commanded thee,
and deferre not to doe them.
14 Then Olofemes went foorth
from the presence of his Lord, and called
all the governours and Captaines,
and the officers of the army of Assur.
15 And he mustered the chosen men
for the battell, as his Lord had com-
manded him, vnto an hundred and
twenty thousand, & twelue thousand
archers on Horsebacke.
16 And he ranged them as a great
army is ordered for the warre.
17 And he tooke Camels, and Asses
for their carriages a very great number,
and sheepe, and Oxen, & Goates with-
out number, for their provision.
18 And plenty of victaile for every
man of the army, and very much gold,
and siluer, out of the Kings house.
19 Then he went foorth and all his
power to go before King Nabuchodo-
nosor in the voyage, and to couer al the
face of the earth Westward with their
charrets, and horsemen, and their chosen
footmen.
20 A great multitude also of sundry
countries came with them, like locusts,
and like the sand of the earth: for the
multitude was without number.
21 And they went foorth of Nineue,
three dayes journey toward the plaine
of Beclileth, and pitched from Beclileth
near the mountaines, which is at the
left hand of the upper Cilicia.
22 Then he tooke all his armie, his
footmen, and horsemen and chariots,
and went from thence into the hill
countrey
23 And destroyed Phud, and Lud:
and spoiled all the children of Rasses,
and the children of Ismael, which were
toward the wilderness at the South
of the land of the Chelians.
24 Then he went over Euphrates,
and went through Mesopotamia, and
destroyed all the high cities that were
vnder the ruer Arbonai, till you come
to the sea.
25 And hee tooke the borders of Ci-
licia, and killed all that resisted him,
and came to the borders of Iapheth, which
were toward the South, over against
Arabia.
26 He compassed also all the children
of Madian, and burnt vp their taber-
nacles, and spoiled their sheepposts.
27 Then hee went downe into the
plaine of Damascus in the time of
wheat-haruest, and burnt vp all their
fields, and destroyed their flockes, and
heards, also he spoiled their cities, and
viterly wasted their countrys, and
smote all their yong men with the edge
of the sword.
28 Therefore the feare and dread of
him, fell vpon all the inhabitants of the
sea coastes, which were in Sidon
and Tyrus, and them that dwelt in
Sur, and Ocina, and all that dwelt in
Iemanaan, and they that dwelt in Az-
tus, and Aschalon feared him greatly.

C H A P. III.
1 They of the Sea-coasts entreat for peace. 7 Olofemes is receiued there: 8 Yet he de-
stroyeth their gods, that they might wor-
ship onely Nabuchodonosor. 9 He com-
meth vs to Iudea.
23 And destroyed Phud, and Lud:
and spoiled all the children of Rasses,
and the children of Ismael, which were
toward the wilderness at the South
of the land of the Chellians.
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Iemanaan, and they that dwelt in Az-
tus, and Aschalon feared him greatly.

O they sent Embassa-
doure vnto him, to treat of
peace, saying,
2 Behold, we the ser-
nants of Nabuchodo-
nor the great king lie before thee: vs vs
as shall be good in thy sight.
3 Behold, our houses, and all our
places, and all our fieldes of wheat, and
flockes, and heards, and all the lodges
of our tents, lie before thy face: vs them as it pleaseth thee.
4 Behold, even our cities and the
inhabitants thereof are thy servants,
come and deal with them, as seemeth
good vnto thee.
5 So the men came to Holofernes,
& declared vnto him after this maner.
6 Then came hee downe toward
the
the Sea coast, both hee and his armie, and set garrisons in the high cities; and tooke out of them chosen men for side.

7 So they all and the countrey round about, received them with garlands, with dances, and with timbrels.

8 Yet hee did cast downe their frontiers, and cut downe their groves: for hee had decreed to destroy all the gods of the land; that all nations should worship Nabuchodonosor eleyly, and that all tongues and tribes should call vpn him as God.

9 Also he came ouer against Edraelon neere vnto Judea, ouer against the great strait of Iudea.

10 And hee pitched betweene Geba, and Scythopolis, and there hee tarried a whole moneth, that he might gather together all the carriages of his armie.

CHAP. III.

4 The Jews are afraid of Holofernes, 5 and fortifie the hilles. 6 They of Bethulia take charge of the passages. 7 All Israel fall to fasting and prayer.

Now the children of Israel that dwelt in Judea, heard all that Holofernes the chiefe captain of Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians had done to the nations, and after what manner hee had spoiled all their Temples, and brought them to nought.

2 Therefore they were exceedingly afraid of him, and were troubled for Jerusalem, and for the Temple of the Lord their God.

3 For they were newly returned from the captiuities, and all the people of Judea were lately gathered together: and the vessels, and the Altar, and the house, were sanctifiied after the profanation.

4 Therefore they sent into all the coasts of Samar, and the villages, and to Bethoron, and Belmen, and Jericho, and to Choba, and Esora, and to the valley of Salem.

5 And possessed themselves beforehand of all the tops of the high mountains, and fortified the villages that were in them; and laid vp victuals for the provision of warre: for their fields were of late reaped.

6 Also Ioaicim the hie Priest which was in those daies in Jerusalem, wrote to them that dwelt in Bethulia, and Bethwesham which is ouer against Edraelon toward the open countrey neere to Dothaim,

7 Charging them to keepe the passages of the hill countrey: for by them there was an entrance into Judea, and it was easy to stoppe them: that would come vp, because the passage was strait for two men at the most.

8 And the children of Israel did as Ioaicim the hie Priest had commanded them, with the ancients of all the people of Israel, which dwelt at Jerusalem.

9 Then euery man of Israel cried to God with great feruenctie, and with great vehementie did they humble their soules:

10 Both they and their wives, and their children, and their cattell, and euery stranger and hireling, and their servants bought with money, put sackcloth vpon their luynes.

11 Thus euery man and woman, and the little children, & the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the temple, and cast ashes vpon their heads, and spread out their sackcloth before the face of the Lord: also they put sackcloth about the Altar,

12 And cried to the God of Israel all with one consent earnestly, that hee would not glue their children for a pray, and their wives for a spoile, and the cities of their inheritance to destruction, and the Sanctuary to profanation and reproch, & for the nations to reioyce at.

13 So God heard their prayers, and looked vpon their afflictions: for the people fasted many daies in all Judea, and Jerusalem, before the Sanctuary of the Lord Almightie.

14 And Ioaicim the high Priest, and all the Priests that stood before the Lord, and they which ministred vnto the Lord, had their luynes girt with sackcloth, and offered the daily burnt offerings, with the vowes and free gifts of the people.

15 And had ashes on their mitres, and cried vnto the Lord with all their power, that he would looke vpon all the house of Israel graciously.

CHAP. V.

5 Achior telleth Holofernes what the Jews are, 6 and what their God had done for them: 21 and adjurse not to meddle with them. 29 All that heard him, were offended at him.
Then was it declared to Holofernes the chief captain of the armie of Assur that the children of Israel had shewed warre, and had shut vp the passages of the hill country, and had fortified all the tops of the high hilles, and had laide impediments in the champion countreys.

2 Wherewith he was very angry, and called all the princes of Moab, and the captains of Ammon, and all the governors of the Sea coast.

3 And he said vnto them, Tell mee now, ye sones of Canaan, who this people is that dwelleth in the hill country? and what are the cities that they inhabit? and what is the multitude of their armie? and wherein is their power and strength, and what king is set over them, or captain of their armie?.

4 And why have they determined not to come and meet me, more then all the inhabitants of the West?

5 Then said Achior, the captain of all the sones of Ammon: Let my lord now heare a word from the mouth of thy servant, and I will declare vnto thee the truth, concerning this people which dwelleth neere thee, and inhabiteth the hill countreys: and there shall no lie come out of the mouth of thy servant.

6 This people are descended of the Caldeans.

7 And they soiourned heretofore in Mesopotamia, because they would not follow the gods of their fathers, which were in the land of Caldea.

8 For they left the way of their ancestors, and worshipped the God of heaven, the God whom they knew: so they cast them out from the face of their gods, and they fled into Mesopotamia, and soiourned there many daies.

9 Then their God commanded them to depart from the place where they soiourned, and to go into the land of Chanaan, where they dwelt, and were increased with gold and silver, and with very much cattell.

10 But when a famine covered all the land of Chanaan, they went downe into Egypt, and soiourned there, while they were nourished, and became there a great multitude, so that one could not number their nation.

11 Therefore the king of Egypt rose vp against them, and dealt subtly with them, and brought them low, with labouring in bricke, & made them slaves.

12 Then they cried vnto their God, and he smote all the land of Egypt with incurable plagues, so the Egyptians cast them out of their sight.

13 And God dried the red Sea before them.

14 And brought them to mount Sinai, and Cades Barne, and cast forth all that dwelt in the wilderness.

15 So they dwelt in the land of the Amorites, and they destroyed by their strength all them of Esebon, and passing over Jordan they possessed all the hill country.

16 And they cast forth before them, the Chanaanite, the Pherezite, the Jebusite, and the Sychemite, and all the Gergesites, and they dwelt in that country many daies.

17 And whilst they sinned not before their God, they prospered, because the God that hateth iniquitie, was with them.

18 But when they departed from the way which he appointed them, they were destroyed in many battells very sore, and were led captives into a land that was not theirs, and the Temple of their God was cast to the ground, and their cities were taken by the enemies.

19 But nowe are they returned to their God, and are come vp from the places, where they were scattered, and have possessed Ierusalam, where their Sanctuary is, and are seated in the hill country, for it was desolate.

20 Now therefore, my lord and governor, if there be any error in this people, & they sinne against their God, let vs consider that this shall be their ruine, and let vs goe vp, and we shall overcome them.

21 But if there be no iniquitie in their nation, let my lord now passe by, lest their Lord defend them, and their God be for them, and wee become a reproch before all the world.

22 And when Achior had finisht these sayings, all the people standing round about: the tent, murmured, and the chief men of Holofernes, and all that dwelt by the Sea side, and in Moab, spake that he should kill him.

23 For, say they, we will not be afraid of the face of the children of Israel, for lee, it is a people that have no strength, nor
nor power for a strong battell.
24 Now therefore, Lord Holofernes, we will goe vp, and they shall be a pray, to be deounced of all thine armie.

CHAP. VI.
3 Holofernes despieth God. 7 He threatneth Achior and sendeth him away. 14 The Be- Amilians receive and heare him. 18 They fall to prayer, and comfort Achior.

And when the tumult of men that were about the counsell was ceased, Holofernes the chiefe captaine of the armie of Assur, said vnto Achior and all the Moabites, before all the company of other nations,

2 And who art thou Achior and the hirelings of Ephraim, that thou hast prophesied amongst vs as to day; and hast said, that we should not make ware with the people of Israel, because their God will defend them? and who is God but Nabuchodonosor?

3 He will send his power, and will destroy them from the face of the earth, and their God shall not deluere them: but we his servants will destroy them as one man, for they are not able to sustaine the power of our horses.

4 For with them we will tread them vnder foote, and their mountains shall be drunken with their blood, and their fields shall be filled with their dead bodys, and their footsteps shall not be able to stand before vs, for they shall vterly perish, saith king Nabuchodonosor Lord of all the earth; for hee said, none of my words shall be in vaine.

5 And thou Achior, an hireling of Ammon, which hast spoken these words in the day of thine inquity, shalt see my face no more, from this day vntill I take vengeance of this nation that came out of Egypt.

6 And then shall the sword of mine armie, and the multitude of them that serue me, passe through thy sides, and thou shalt fall among their slaine, when I returne.

7 Now therefore my servants shall bring thes backe into the hill country, and shall set thee in one of the cities of the passages.

8 And thou shalt not perish till thou be destroyed with them.

9 And if thou perswade thy selfe in thy minde, that they shall not be taken,
feast to the Elders, & they called on the God of Israel all that night for help.

CHAP. VII.

1 Holofernes besiegeth Bethulia, & stoppeth the water from them. 22 They faint and murmur against the governors, & who promise to yield within five days.

He next day Holofernes commanded all his army, and all his people which were come to take his part, that they should remoue their campe against Bethulia, to take aforesaid the ascents of the hill country, and to make warre against the children of Israel.

2 Then their strong men remoued their campe in that day, and the arrnie of the men of warre was, an hundred and seventy thousand footmen, and twelve thousand horsemen, beside the baggage, & other men that were afoot amongst them, a very great multitude.

3 And they camped in the valley neere vnto Bethulia, by the fountain, and they spred themselves in breadth ouer || Dothan, even to Belmaim, and in length from Bethulia vnto t-Cyamon which is ouer against Edraeon.

4 Now the children of Israel, when they saw the multitude of them, were greatly troubled, and said every one to his neighbour: Now will these men licke vp the face of the earth; for neither the high mountes, nor the valleys, nor the hils, are able to beare their weight.

5 Then every man tooke vp his weapons of warre, and when they had kindled fires vp on their towers, they remained and watched all that night.

6 But in the second day Holofernes brought forth all his horsemen, in the sight of the children of Israel which were in Bethulia.

7 And viewed the passages vp to the city, and came to the fountain of their waters, and tooke them, and set garrisons of men of warre ouer them, and he himselfe remoued towards his people.

8 Then came vnto him all the chiefe of the children of Esau, and all the governors of the people of Moab, and the captains of the sea coast, and said,

9 Let our lord now heare a word, that there be not an ouerthrow in thine armie.

10 For this people of the children of Israel do not trust in their speares, but in the height of the mountes where-in they dwell, because it is not easie to come vp to the tops of their mountes.

11 Now therefore my lord, fight not against them in battall array, and there shall not so much as one man of thy people perish.

12 Remaine in thy campe, and kepe all the men of thine armie, and let thy servants get into their handes the fountain of water which issueth forth from the foot of the mountaine.

13 For all the inhabitants of Bethulia haue their water thence: so shall thirst kill them, & they shall gie vp their citie, and we and our people shal goe vp to the tops of the mountaines that are neere, and will campe vp on them, to watch that none goe out of the city.

14 So they and their wifes, and their children shalbe consumed with famine, and before the sword come against them, they shall be ouerthrown in the streets where they dwell.

15 Thus shalt thou render them an euil reward: because they rebelled and met not thy person peaceably.

16 And these words pleased Holofernes, and al his servants, and he appointed to doe as they had spoken.

17 So the campe of the children of Ammon departed, and with them five thousand of the Assyrians, and they pitched in the valley, and tooke the waters, and the fountains of the waters of the children of Israel.

18 Then the children of Esau went vp, with the children of Ammon, and camped in the hill country ouer against Dotha-em: and they sent some of them toward the South, & toward the East ouer against Ekrebels, which is neere vnto Chusi, that is vpon the brooke Mochemur, and the rest of the armie of the Assyrians camped in the plaine, and covered the face of the whole land, and their tents and carriages were pitched to a very great multitude.

19 Then the children of Israel cried vnto the Lord their God, because their heart failed, for all their enemies had compassed them round about, & there was no way to escape out from among them.

20 Thus all the company of Assur remained about them, both their footmen, charets and horsemen, four and thirtie
thirte dayes, so that all their vessels of water failed all the inhabitants of Bethulia.

21 And the cisternes were emptied, and they had not water to drink their fill, for one day; for they gaued them drinke by measure.

22 Therefore their young children were out of heart, and their women and young men fainted for thrist, and fell downe in the streets of the city, and by the passages of the gates, and there was no longer any strength in them.

23 Then all the people assembled to Oziyas, and to the chiefe of the city, both young men, and women, and children, and cryed with a loude voice, and saide before all the Elders;  

24 God be judge betweene vs and you: for you haue done vs great inuury in that you haue not required peace of the children of Assur.

25 For now we haue no helper: but God hath sold vs into their hands, that wee should be thrown downe before them with thrust, and great destruction.

26 Now therefore call them vnto you, and deliuer the whole city for a spoile to the people of Olofernes, and to all his armie.

27 For it is better for vs to be made a spoile vnto them, then to die for thrist: for wee will be his servante, that our soules may liue, and not see the death of our infants before our eyes, nor our wives nor our children to die.

28 We take to witnessse against you, the heauen and the earth, and our God, and Lord of our fathers, which puniteth vs according to our sinnes, and the sinnes of our fathers, that hee doeth not according as we haue said this day.

29 Then there was great weeping with one consent in the midst of the assembly, and they cryed vnto the Lord God with a loude voice.

30 Then said Oziyas to them, Brethren, be of good courage, let vs yet endure five dayes, in the which space the Lord our God may turne his mercy toward vs, for he will not forsake vs utterly.

31 And if these dayes passe, and there come no helpe vnto vs, I will doe according to your word.

32 And he dispersed the people euery one to their owne charge, and they went vnto the walles and towres of their citie, and sent the women and children into their houses, and they were very low brought in the city.

C H A P. VII.

1 The state and behaviour of Iudeth a widow.

19 She blamest the governours for their promise to yeeld: 17 and aduised them to trust in God. 28 They excused their promise. 32 She promised to doe something for them.

N

Ow at that time Iudeth heard thereof, which was the daughter of Merari, the sonne of Ox, the sonne of Ioseph, the sonne of Oziel, the sonne of Elcia, the sonne of Anaia, the sonne of Gedeon, the sonne of Raphaim, the son of Acitho, the sonne of Eliu, the sonne of Eliab, the sonne of Nathanael, the sonne of Samael, the sonne of Salasada, the son of Israel.

2 And Manasses was her husband of her tribe and kynred, who died in the barley harvest.

3 For as shee stood overseeing them that bound sheues in the field, the heat came vpon his head, and hee fell on his bed, and died in the city of Bethulia, and they buried him with his fathers, in the field betwene Dothaim and Balamo.

4 So Iudeth was a widow in her house three yeeres, and foure moneths.

5 And she made her a tent vpon the top of her house, and put on sacketchoth on her lonyes, and ware her widows apparel.

6 And she fasted all the dayes of her widowhood, saue the eues of the Sabbath, and the Sabbathes, and the eues of the newe Moones, and the newe Moones, and the Feasts, and solemn dayes of the house of Israel.

7 Shee was also of a goodly countenance, and very beautifull to behold: and her husband Manasses had left her golde and siluer, and men seruants and maide seruants, and cattell, and lands, and she remained vpon them.

8 And there was none that gaued her an ill word; for shee feared God greatly.

9 Now when shee heard the euill wordes of the people against the governor, that they fainted for lacke of water (for Iudeth had heard all the wordes that Oziyas had spoken vnto them; and that he had sweorne to deliuer the citie vnto the Assyrians after five dayes).

10 Then shee sent her waiting woman that had the government of all her house hold, to most of the things.
things that she had, to call Ozias, and Chabris, and Charmis, the ancients of the citie.

13 And they came vnto her, and she said vnto them, Heare me now, O ye governors of the inhabitants of Bethulia: for your words that you have spoken before the people this day are not right, touching this othe which ye made, and pronounced betwenee God and you, and haue promised to deliver the citie to our enemies, vntlesse within these daies the Lord turne to helpe you.

14 And now who are you, that haue tempted God this day, & stand in stead of God amongst the children of men?

15 And now trie the Lord Almighty, but you shall never know any thing.

16 For you cannot find the depth of the heart of man, neither can ye perceive the things that he thinketh: then how can you search out God, that hath made all these things, and knowe his mindes, or comprehend his purpose? Nay my brethren, prouoke not the Lord our God to anger.

17 For if he will not helpe vs within these few daies, he hath power to defend vs when he will, euен every day, or to destroy vs before our enemies.

18 Doe not bind the counsels of the Lord our God, for God is not as man, that he may be threatened, neither is he as the sonne of man that he should bee overruled.

19 Therefore let vs waite for salvation of him, and call vpon him to helpe vs, and he will hearre our voyce if it please him.

20 For there arose none in our age, neither is there any now in these daies, neither tribe, nor familie, nor people, nor city amongs vs, which worship gods made with hands, as hath bene aforetime.

21 For the which cause our fathers were givien to the sword, & for a spoile, and had a great fall before our enemies.

22 But we know none other god; therefore we trust that he will not despise vs, nor any of our nation.

23 For if we be taken so, all Iudea shall be waste, and our Sanctuarie shall be spoiled, and he will require the proclamation thereof, at our mouth.

24 And the slaughter of our brethren, and the captiuitie of the countrey, and the desolation of our inheritance, will he turne vpon our heads among the Gentiles, wheresoever we shall bee in bondage, and we shall be an offence and a reproch to all them that possesse vs.

25 For our seruitude shall not be directed to favour: but the Lord our God shall turne it to dishonour.

26 Now therefore, O brethren, let vs shew an example to our brethren, because their hearts depend vpon vs, and the Sanctuary, and the house, and the Altar rest vpon vs.

27 Moreover, let vs giue thanks to the Lord our God, which trieth vs, even as he did our fathers.

28 Remember what things he did to Abrahaam, and how he tried Isaac, and what happened to Iacob in Mesopotamia of Syria, when he kept the sheepe of Laban his mothers brother.

29 For, hee hath not tried vs in the fire as he did them, for the examination of their hearts, neither hath hee taken vengeance on vs: but the Lord doeth scourge them that come neere vnto him to admonish them.

30 Then said Ozias to her, All that thou hast spoken, hast thou spoken with a good heart, and there is none that may gainesay thy words.

31 For this is not the first day wherein thy wisdom is manifested, but from the beginning of thy daies all thy people have known thy understanding, because the disposition of thine heart is good.

32 But the people were very thirsty, and compelled vs to doe vnto them as we have spoken, and to bring an other vpon our selues, which wee will not breake.

33 Therefore now pray thou for vs, because thou art a godly woman, and the Lord will send vs raine to fill our cisternes, and we shall faint no more.

34 Then said Iudeth vnto them, Heare me, and I will doe a thing, which shall goe throughout all generations, to the children of our nation.

35 You shall stand this night in the gate, and I will goe forth with my waiting woman: and within the daies that you haue promised to deliver the citie to our enemies, the Lord will visit Israel by mine hand.

36 But inquire not you of mine act: for I will not declare it vnto you, till the things be finished that I doe.

37 Then said Ozias and the princes vnto her, Goe in peace, and the Lord God
God be before thee, to take vengeance on our enemies.

36 So they returned from the tent, and went to their wards.

CHAP. IX.

1. Judeth humbled herself, and prayed God to prosper her purpose against the enemies of his sanctuary.

2. Then Judeth fell upon her face, and put ashes upon her head, and uncouered the sackcloth wherein she was clothed, and about the time, that the incense of that evening was offered in Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, Judeth cried with a loud voice, and said,

3. O Lord God of my father Simeon, to whom thou gavest a sword to take vengeance of the strangers, who loosened the girdle of a maide to defile her, and discovered the thigh to her shame, and polluted her virginity to her reproach, (for thou saidst it shall not be so, and yet they did so.)

4. Wherefore thou gavest their rulers to be slain, so that they died their bed in blood, being deceived, and smote the servants with their Lords, and the Lords upon their thrones:

5. And hast given their wives for a prey, and their daughters to bee captives, and all their spoiles to be divided amongst thy deere children: which were mowed with thy zeale, and abhorred the pollution of their blood, and called upon thee for aide: O God, O my God, hear me also a widow.

6. For thou hast wrought not only those things, but also the things which fell out before, and which enseed after, thou hast thought upon the things which are now, and which are to come.

7. Yea what things thou didst determine were redy at hand, and said, loe we are heere: for all thy wises are prepared, and thy judgements are in thy foreknowledge.

8. For behold, the Assyrians are multiplied in their power: they are exalted with horse and man: they glory in the strength of their footemen: they trust in shield and speare, and bow, and sling, and know not that thou art the Lord that brakest the battes: the Lord is thy name.

9. Force in thy wrath; for they have purposed to defile thy Sanctuary, and to pollute the Tabernacle, where thy glorious name resteth, and to cast downe with sword the horne of thy altar.

10. Behold their pride, and send thy wrath vpon their heads: give into mine hand which am a widow, the power that I have conceived.

11. *Smite by the deceit of my lips the servant with the prince, and the prince with the servant: breake downe their stalinesse by the hand of a woman.

12. *For thy power standeth not in multitude, nor thy might in strong men, for thou art a God of the afflicted, an helper of the oppressed, an upholder of the weake, a protector of the forelone, a sauour of them that are without hope.

13. I pray thee, I pray thee, O God of my father, and God of the inheritance of Israel, Lord of the heavens, and earth, creator of the waters, king of everie creature: heare thou my prayer:

14. And make my speech and deceit to be their wound & stripe, who have purposed cruell things against thy couenant, and thy hallowed house, and against the top of Sion, and against the house of the possession of thy children:

15. And make every nation and tribe to acknowledge that thou art the God of all power and might, and that there is none other that protecteth the people of Israel but thou.

CHAP. X.

3. Judeth doth set forth herself. 10 She and her maide goe forth into the campe. 17 The watch take and conduct her to Oholernes.

4. Ow after that she had ceased to cry vnto the God of Israel, and had made an end of all these words,

5. She rose where she had fallen downe, and called her maide, and went downe into the house, in the which she abode in the Sabbath dayes and in her feast dayes,

6. And pulled off the sackcloth which she had on, and put off the garments of her widowhood, and washed her body all ouer with water, and annointed herselfe with precious ointment, and baided the hairie of her head, and put on a tire vpon it, and put on her garments of gladnesse, wherewith she was clad during the life of Manasses her husband.

7. And she tooke sandals vpon her feete,
feet, and put about her, her bracelets and her chains, and her rings, and her earrings, and all her ornaments, and decked her selfe brauely to allure the eyes of all men that should see her.

5 Then she gave her maid a bottle of wine, and a curse of oyle; and filled a bagge with parched corne, and lumpes of figges, and with fine bread, so she told all these things together, and laid them upon her.

6 Thus they went forth to the gate of the city of Bethulia, and found standing there Ozias, and the ancients of the city Chabris, and Charmis.

7 And when they saw her, that her countenance was altered, and her apparel was changed, they wondered at her beautie very greatly, and said vnto her,

8 The God, the God of our fathers giue thee favour, and accomplish thine enterprises to the glory of the children of Israel, and to the exaltation of Jerusalem: then they worshipped God.

9 And she said vnto them, Command the gates of the city to be opened vnto me, that I may goe forth to accomplish the things, whereof you have spoken with me; so they commanded the young men to open vnto her, as she had spoken.

10 And when they had done so, Judeth went out, she and her maid with her, and the men of the citie looked after her, vntill she was gone downe the mountaine, and till she had passed the valley, and could see her no more.

11 Thus they went straighte forth in the valley: and the first watch of the Assyrians met her;

12 And tooke her, and asked her, Of what people art thou? and whence comest thou? and whither goest thou? And she said, I am a woman of the Hebrews, and am fled from them: for they shalbe giuen you to be consumed:

13 And I am comming before Olofernes the chiefe captaine of your army, to declare words of truth, and I will shew him a way, whereby he shall goe, and winne all the hil country, without losinge the body or life of any one of his men.

14 Now, when the men heard her wordes, and beheld her countenance, they wondered greatly at her beautie, and said vnto her:

15 Thou hast saued thy life; in that thou hast hasted to come downe to the presence of our lord: now therefore come to his tent, and some of us shall conduct thee, vntill they have deliuered thee to his hands.

16 And when thou standest before him, bee not afraid in thine heart: but shew vnto him, according to thy word, and he will intreat thee well.

17 Then they chose out of them an hundred men, to accompany her and her maid, and they brought her to the tent of Olofernes.

18 Then was there a concourse throughout all the camp: for her comming was noised among the tents, and they came about her, as she stood without the tent of Olofernes, till they told him of her.

19 And they wondered at her beautie, and admired the children of Israel because of her, and every one said to his neighbour: Who would despise this people, that haue among them such women, surely it is not good that one man of them be left, who being let goe, might deceiue the whole earth.

20 And they that lay neere Olofernes, went out, and all his servants, and they brought her into the tent.

21 Now Olofernes rested vpon his bed vnder a canopy which was woven with purple, and gold, and emeraudes, and precious stones.

22 So they shewed him of her, and he came out before his tent, with siluer lampes going before him.

23 And when Judeth was come before him and his servants, they all maruell'd at the beautie of her countenance; and she fell downe vpon her face, and did reverence vnto him; and his servants tooke her vp.

**Chap. XI.**

3 Olofernes saiketh Judeth the cause of her comming. 6 She telleth him how, and when she may preuaile. 20 Hee is much pleased with her wisdom and beautie.

Hen said Olofernes vnto her, Woman, bee of good comfort, feare not in thine heart: for I neuer hurt any, that was willing to serue Nabuchodonosor the king of all the earth.

2 Now therefore if thy people that dwelleth in the mountaine, had not set light by me, I would not haue lifted vp my
my speare against them: but they have done these things to themselves.

3 But now tell me wherfore thou art fled from them, and art come vnto vs: for thou art come for safeguarde, be of good comfort, thou shalt liue this night, and hereafter.

4 For none shall hurt thee, but in treat thee well, as they doe the servantes of king Nabuchodonosor my lord.

5 Then Iudeth said vnto him, Receiue the words of thy servante, and suffer thine handmaid to speake in thy presence, and I will declare no lie to my lord this night.

6 And if thou wilt follow the words of thine handmaid, God will bring the thing perfectly to passe by thee, and my lord shall not fail of his purposes.

7 As Nabuchodonosor king of all the earth liueth, and as his power liueth, who hast sent thee for the vpholding of every living thing: for not only men shall serve him by thee, but also the beasts of the field, and the cattell, and the foules of the aire shall liue by thy power, vnder Nabuchodonosor and all his house.

8 For we haue heard of thy wisdom, and thy policies, and it is reported in all the earth, that thou onely art excellent in all the kingdome, and mightie in knowledge, and wonderfull in feates of warre.

9 Now as concerning the matter which Achiour did speake in thy counsell, we haue heard his words: for the men of Bethulia jsued him, and hee declared vnto them all that hee had spoken vnto thee.

10 Therefore, O lord and governor, reject not his word, but lay it vp in thine heart, for it is true, for our nation shall not be punished, neither can the sword preuaile against them, except they sinne against their God.

11 And now, that my lord be not defeated, and frustrate of his purpose, euen death is now fallen vpon them, and their sinne hath overtaken them, wherewith they will prouoke their God to anger, whoseoeuer they shall doe that is not fit to be done.

12 For their victuals faile them, and all their water is scant, and they have determined to lay hands vpon their cattell, and purposed to consume all those things, that God hath forbidden them to eate by his Lawes;

13 And are resolved to spend the first fruits of the corn, & the tenth of wine and oyle, which they had sanctified, and reserved for the Priests that serue in Jerusalem, before the face of our God, the which things it is not lawfull for any of the people so much as to touch with their hands.

14 For they have sent some to Jerusalem, because they also that dwel there haue done the like, to bring them a liscence from the Senate.

15 Now when they shall bring them word, they will forthwith doe it, and they shall be givne thee to be destroyed the same day.

16 Wherefore I thine handmaide knowing all this, am fledde from their presence, & God hath sent me to worke things with thee, whereas all the earth shalbe astonished, and whoseoeuer shall hear it.

17 For thy servante is religious, and serueth the God of heaven day & night: now therefore, my lord, I will remaine with thee, and thy servante will goe out by night into the valley, and I will pray vnto God, and he will tel me when they haue committed their sinnes.

18 And I will come, and shew it vnto thee: then thou shalt goe forth with all thine army, and there shall be none of them that shall resist thee.

19 And I will lead thee through the midst of Iudah, vntill thou come before Jerusalem, and I will set thy throne in the midst thereof, and thou shalt druee them as sheepe that have no shepheard, and a dogge shall not so much as open his mouth at thee: for these things were tolde mee, according to my foreknowledge, and they were declared vnto me, and I am sent to tell thee.

20 Then her wordes pleased Olofernes, and all his servantes, and they maruellled at her wisdom, and said,

21 There is not such a woman from one end of the earth to the other, both for beautie of face, and wisdom of wordes.

22 Likewise Olofernes said vnto her, God hath done well to send thee before the people, that strength might be in our hands, and destruction vpon them that lightly regard my lord.

23 And now thou art, both beautiuefull in thy countenance, and wittie in thy wordes: surely if thou doe as thou hast spoken, thy God shall be my God, and
And so soon as the morning shall appear, and the Sunne shall come forth upon the earth, take every one his weapons, and goe forth every valiant man out of the city, & set you a captaine over them, as though you would goe downe into the field toward the watch of the Assyrians, but goe not downe.

3 Then they shall take their armour, and shall goe into their campe, and raise vp the captaines of the armie of Assur, and they shall runne to the tent of Olofernes, but shall not finde him, then feare shall fall vpon them, and they shall flee before your face.

4 So you, and all that inhabit the coast of Israel, shall pursue them, and overthrow them as they goe.

5 But before you doe these things, call me Achior the Ammonite, that hee may see and know him that despised the house of Israel, and that sent him to vs as it were to his death.

6 Then they called Achior out of the house of Ozias, and when hee was come, and saw the head of Olofernes in a mans hand, in the assembly of the people, he fell downe on his face, and his spirit failed.

7 But when they had recovered him, hee fell at Iudeths feete, and reuerenced her, and said: Blessed art thou in all the tabernacle of Iuda, and in all nations, which hearing thy name shall be astonished.

8 Now therefore tell mee all the things that thou hast done in these dayes: Then Iudeth declared vnto him in the midst of the people, all that shee had done from the day that shee went forth, vntill that houre she spake vnto them.

9 And when shee had left off speaking, the people shouted with a loud voice, & made a joyful noise in their citie.

10 And when Achior had seene all that the God of Israel had done, hee beleeved in God greatly, and circumcised the foreskinne of his flesh, and was ioyned vnto the house of Israel vnto this day.

11 And assone as the morning arose, they hanged the head of Olofernes vpon the wall, and every man took his weapons, and they went forth by bands, vnto the straights of the mountaine.

12 But when the Assyrians saw them, they sent to their leaders, which came to their Captaines, and tribunes, and to every one of their rulers.

13 So they came to Olofernes tent, and said to him that had the charge of all his things, Waken now our lord: for the saules have bene bold to come downe against vs to battell, that they may be vterely destroyed.

14 Then went in Bagos, and knocked at the doore of the tent: for he thought that he had slept with Iudeth. 15 But because none answered, he opened it, and went into the bedchamber, and found him cast vpon the floore dead, & his head was taken from him.

16 Therefore he cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and sighing, and a mighty cry, and rent his garments.

17 After, hee went into the tent, where Iudeth lodged, and when hee found her not, he leaped out to the people, and cried:

18 These saules have dealt treacherously, one woman of the Hebrewes hath brought shame vpon the house of king Nabuchodonosor: for behold, Olofernes lieth vpon the ground without a head.

19 When the captaines of the Assyrians armie heard these words, they rent their coats, and their minds were wonderfull troubled, and there was a cry, and a very great noise throughout the camp.

CHAP. XV.

1 The Assyrians are chased and slaine. 6 The high Priest commeth to see Iudeth. 11 The stuffe of Olofernes is given to Iudeth. 13 The women crowne her with a garland.

And when they that were in the tents heard, they were astonished at the thing that was done. 2 And feare and trembling fell vpon them, so that there was no man that durst abide in the sight of his neighbour, but rushing out altogether, they fled into every way of the plaine, and of the hill countrey.

3 They also that had camped in the mountaines, round about Bethulia, fled away. Then the children of Israel every one that was a warrior among them, rushed out vpon them.

4 Then sent Ozias to Bethonesia, and to Bebail, and Chobai, and Cola, and to all the coasts of Israel, such as should tell the things that were done.
done, and that all should rise forth with
on their enemies to destroy them.

5 Now, when the children of Israel heard it, they all fell upon them with one
consent also, they that came from Jerusalem, and from all the hill coun-
try, for men had told them what things
were done in the camp of their en-
emies, and they that were in Galaad and
in Galile, chased them with a great
slaughter, until they were past Da-
mascus, and the borders thereof.

6 And the residue that dwelt at Be-
thulia, fell upon the camp of Assur, and
spoiled them, & were greatly enriched.

7 And the children of Israel that
returned from the slaughter, had that
which remained, and the villages, and
the cities that were in the mountains,
and in the plain, gate many spoiles: for
the multitude was very great.

8 Then Ioaam the high Priest,
and the Ancients of the children of Is-
rael that dwelt in Jerusalem, came to
behold the good things that God had
shewed to Israel, and to see Judeth,
and to salute her.

9 And when they came vnto her,
they blessed her with one accord,
and said vnto her, Thou art the exaltat-
ion of Jerusalem: thou art the great glory
of Israel: thou art the great reioyce-
ing of our nation.

10 Thou hast done all these things
by thine hand: thou hast done much
good to Israel, and God is pleased therewith: blessed bee thou of the Al-
mightie Lord for evermore: and all the
people said, So be it.

11 And the people spoiled the campe,
the space of thirty days, and they gave
unto Judeth Olofernus his tent, and
all his plate, and beds, and vessels, and
all his stuffe: and she took it, and laide
it on her mule, and made ready her
carts, and laid them thereon.

12 Then all the women of Israel ran
together to see her, and blessed her, and
made a dance among them for her: and
shee tooke branches in her hand, & gaue
also to the women that were with her.

13 And they put a garland of olive
vpon her, and her maid that was with
her, and she went before the people in
the dance, leading all the women: and
all the men of Israel followed in their
armor with garlands, and with songs
in their mouths.
13 I will sing vnto the Lord a new song, O Lord thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength & invincile.
14 Let all creatures serue thee: for thou spakest, and they were made, thou didst send forth thy spirit, and it created them, and there is none that can resist thy voyce.
15 For the mountaines shall be mooed from their foundations with the waters, the rockes shall melt as waxe at thy presence: yet thou art mercifull to them that feare thee.
16 For all sacrifice is too little for a sweete sauour vnto thee, and all the fat is not sufficient, for thy burnt offering: but he that feareth the Lord is great at all times.
17 Woe to the nations that rise vp against my kinred: the Lord almighty will take vengeance of them in the day of judgement in putting fire & wormes in their flesh, and they shall feel them and weep for euer.
18 Now asoone as they entred into Jerusalem, they worshipped the Lord, and asoone as the people were purifie, they offered their burnt offerings, and their free offerings, and their gifts.
19 Iudeth also dedicated all the stuffe of Olofernes, which the people had giuen her, and gaue the canopy which she had taken out of his bed chamber, for a gift vnto the Lord.
20 So the people continued feasting in Jerusalem before the Sanctuarie, for the space of three moneths, and Iudeth remained with them.
21 After this time, every one returned to his owne inheritance, and Iudeth went to Bethulia, and remained in her owne possession, and was in her time honourable in all the countrey.
22 And many desired her, but none knew her all the dayes of her life, after that Manasses her husband was dead, and was gathered to his people.
23 But she encreased more and more in honour, and waxed olde in her husbands house, being an hundred and five yeeres olde, and made her maide free, so shee died in Bethulia: and they buried her in the caue of her husband Manasses.
24 And the house of Israel lamented her seauen dayes, and before shee dyed, she did distribute her goods to all them that are neerest of kinred to Manasses her husband: and to them that were the neerest of her kinred.
25 And there was none that made the children of Israel any more asaide, in the dayes of Iudeth, nor a long time after her death.