

That is, Ierusalem.

and they shal praise him, saying, Blessed be God which hath extolled it for euer.

CHAP. XIII.

4 *Lessons of Tobit to his sonne. 5 He prophesieth the destruction of Nineue. 7 And the restoring of Ierusalem and the Temple. 13 The death of Tobit, and his wife. 16 Tobias age and death.*

1 SO Tobit made an end of praising God.

2 And he was eight and fiftie yere olde, when he lost his sight, which was restored to him after eight yere, and he gaue almes, and he continued to feare the Lord God, and to praise him.

3 And when he was verie aged, he called his sonne, and six of his sonnes sonnes, and said to him, My sonne, take thy children (for beholde, I am aged, and am ready to departe out of this life)

4 Go into Media, my sonne; for I beleue that those things which Ionasthe Prophet spake of Nineue, that it shal be destroyed, & for a time peace shal rather be in Media, and that our brethren shal be scattred in the earth from that good land, & Ierusalé shal be desolate, and the House of God in it shal be burned, and shal be desolate for a time.

Ezra. 3. 8. & 6. 14.

5 Yet againe God wil haue pitie on them and bring them againe into the lād where they shal buylde a Temple, but not like to the first, vntil the times of that age be fulfilled, & being finished, they shal returne frō euery place out of captiuitie, & buylde vp Ierusalem gloriously, and the House of God shal be buylt in it for euer with a glorious buylding, as the Prophetes haue spoken thereof.

6 And all nations shal turne, and feare the Lord God truly, & shal burye their idoles.

7 So shal all nations praise the Lord, & his people shal confesse God, and the Lord

shal exalte his people, and all those which loue the Lord in trueth and iustice, shal reioyce, & those also which shewe mercie to our brethren.

8 And now, my sonne, departe out of Nineue, because that those things which the Prophet Ionas spake, shal surely come to passe.

9 But kepe thou the Law, & the commandements, & shewe thy self merciful & iust that it may go wel with thee.

10 And burye me honestly, and thy mother with me: but tarie no lōger at Nineue. Remember, my sonne, how a man handled Achiacharus that broght him vp, how out of light he broght him into darkenes, and how he rewarded him againe: yet Achiacharus was saued, but the other had his rewarde: for he went downe into darknes. Manassés gaue almes, & escaped the snare of death, which they had fet for him, but Aman fell into the snare and perished.

11 Wherefore now, my sonne, cōsider what almes doeth, and how righteousnes doeth deliuer. Whē he had said these things, he gaue vp the gost in the bed, being an hundred and eight and fiftie yere olde, and he buryed him honorably.

Or, his soule failed him in the bed.

12 And when Anna was dead, he buryed her with his father: but Tobias went with his wife and children to Ecbatane to Raguel his father in lawe.

13 Where he became olde with honour, and he buryed his father and mother in lawe honorably, & he inherited their substance and Tobits his father.

14 And he dyed at Ecbatane in Media, being an hundred and seuē & twentie yere olde.

15 But before he dyed, he heard of the destruction of Nineue, which was taken by Nabuchodonosor and Assuerus, and before his death, he reioyced for Nineue.

IV DETH.

CHAP. I.

1 *The buylding of Ecbatane. 5 Nabuchodonosor made warre against Arphaxad and ouercame him. 12 He threateneth them that wolde not helpe him.*

1 **I**N the twelfth yere of the reigne of Nabuchodonosor, who reigned in Nineue the great citie (in the daies of Arphaxad, which reigned ouer the Medes in Ecbatane,

2 And buylt in Ecbatane the walles rounde about, of hewen stone, thre cubites broad, and six cubites long, and made the height of the wall seuētie cubites, & the breadth

thereof fiftie cubites,

3 And made the towres thereof in the gates of it of an hundred cubites, & the breadth thereof in the fundaciō threscore cubites,

4 And made the gates thereof, euen gates that were lifted vp on hie, seuentie cubites, & the breadth of them fortie cubites, for y going forthe of his mightie armies, and for the setting in aray of his fotemen)

5 Euen in those daies, King Nabuchodonosor made warre with Kig Arphaxad in the great field, which is the field in the coastes of Ragau.

6 Then came vnto him all they that dwelt in the mountaines, & all that dwelt by Euphrates, and Tygris and Hydaspes, & the

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country of Arioch the King of the Elymeans, and verie manie nations assembled them selues to the battel of the sonnes of Chelod.

7 And Nabuchodonosor King of the Assyrians sent vnto all that dwelt in Persia, & to all that dwelt in the West, & to those that dwelt in Cilicia, and Damascus, and Libanus and Antilibanus, and to all that dwelt vpon the sea coast,

8 And to the people, that are in Carmel, & Galaad, and the hier Galile, and the great field of Esdrelam,

9 And to all that were in Samaria, & the cities thereof, & beyonde Iorden vnto Ierusalem, & Betane, & Chellus, & Cades, & the riuer of Egypt, and Taphnes, and Rameffe and all the land of Gesem,

10 Vnto one come to Tanis, & Memphis, & to all the inhabitants of Egypt, & to one come to the mountaines of Ethiopia.

11 But all the inhabitants of this country did not passe for the commandement of Nabuchodonosor King of the Assyrians, nether wolde they come with him to the battel: for they did not feare him: yea, he was before them as one mā: therefore they sent away his ambassadours from them without effect, and with dishonour.

12 Therefore Nabuchodonosor was very angrie with all this country, and sware by his throne and kingdome that he wolde surely be auenged vpon all those coastes of Cilicia and Damascus, and Syria, and that he wolde slay with the sworde all the inhabitants of the land of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and all Iudea, and all that were in Egypt, til one come to the borders of the two seas.

13 Then he marched in battel aray with his power against King Arphaxad in the seuententh yere, and he preuailed in his battel: for he ouerthrewe all the power of Arphaxad, and all his horse men, and all his chariots.

14 And he wanne his cities, and came vnto Ecbatane, and toke the towres, and spoiled the stretes thereof, and turned the beautie thereof into shame.

15 He toke also Arphaxad in the mountaines of Ragau, & smote him through with his dartes and destroyed him vtterly that daye.

16 So he returned afterwarde to Nineue, bothe he and all his companie with a verie great multitude of men of warre, and there he passed the time, and banketed, bothe he, and his armie an hundreth and twentie dayes.

CHAP. II.

3 Nabuchodonosor commanded presumptuously that all people shoulde be brought in subiection. 6 And to destroy those that disobeyed him. 15 The preparation of Olofernes armie. 23 The conquest of his enemies.

1 And in the eightenth yere, the twentieth day of the first month, there was taik in the house of Nabuchodonosor King of the Assyrians, that he shoulde aduenge him selfe on all the earth, as he had spoken.

2 So he called vnto him all his officers and all his nobles, and comunicated with the his secret counsell, and set before them with his owne mouth all the malice of the earth.

3 Then they decreed to destroe all flesh, that had not obied the commandement of his mouth.

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

5 Thus saith the great King, the lord of the whole earth, Beholde, thou shalt go forthe from my presence, and take with thee men that trust in their owne strength, of footemen, an hundreth and twentie thousand, & the number of horses with their riders, twelue thousand,

6 And thou shalt go against all the West country, because they desobeied my commandement.

7 And thou shalt declare vnto them, that they prepare for me the land and the water: for I wil go forthe in my wrath against them, and wil couer the whole face of the earth with the feele of mine armie, and I wil giue them as a spoyle vnto them,

8 So that their wounded shal fill their valleys, & their riuers, & the flood shal ouerflowe, being filled with their dead.

9 And I wil bring their captiuitie to the vmoost partes of all the earth.

10 Thou therefore shalt departe hence, and take vp for me all their country: and if they yelde vnto thee, thou shalt reserue the for me vntil the day that I rebuke the.

11 But concerning them that rebell, let not thine eye spare the, but put the to death, & spoyle them wherefoeuer thou goest.

12 For as I liue, and the power of my kingdome, whatfoeuer I haue spoken, that wil I do by mine hand.

13 And take thou hede that thou transgresse not any of the comandements of thy Lord, but accomplishe them fully, as I haue commanded thee, and differre not to do them.

14 ¶ Then Olofernes went forthe from the presence of his lord, and called all the gouernours, and captaines, and officers of the armie of Assur,

15 And he mustred the chosen men for the battel, as his lord had commanded him, vnto an hundreth & twentie thousand, and twelue thousand archers on horsebacke.

16 And he set them in aray according to the maner of setting a great armie in aray.

17 And he toke camels & asses for their burdens,

- deys, a very great number, and shepe, and oxen, & goates without number for their prouision,
- 18 And vitaille for euerie man of the armie, and very muche golde & siluer out of the Kings house.
- 19 Then he went forth and all his power, to go before in the viage of King Nabuchodonosor, & to couer all the face of the earth Westwarde, with their charets, and horsemen, and chof. n fotemen.
- 20 A great multitude also of sundrie sortes came with them like grasshoppers, and like the graucl of the earth: for the multitude was without number.
- 21 And they went forth of Nineue thre daies iornay towarde the countrey of Be-tileth, and pitched from Be-tileth nere the mountaine which is at the left hand of the vpper Cilicia.
- 22 Then he toke all his armie, his fotemen and horsemen, and charets, and went from thence into the mountaines,
- 23 And he destroyed Phud and Lud, and spoyled all the children of Rasses, and the children of Ismael, which were towarde the wildernes at the South of the Chelians.
- 24 Then he went ouer Euphrates, and went through Mesopotamia, & destroyed all the hie cities that were vpo the riuer of Arbounai, vntill one come to the sea.
- 25 And he toke the borders of Cilicia, and destroyed all that resisted him, and came to y borders of Iapheth, which were towarde the South and ouer against Arabia.
- 26 He copassed also all the children of Madian, and burnt vp their tabernacles, and spoyled their lodges.
- 27 Then he went downe into the countrey of Damascus, in the time of wheat haruest and burnt vp all their fields, and destroyed their flockes and the herds: he robbed their cities, and spoyled their countrey, and smote all their yong men with the edge of the sworde.
- 28 Therefore feare and trembling fel vpon all the inhabitants of the sea coast, which were in Sidon and Tyrus, and them that dwelt in Sur & Ocina, & all that dwelt in Iemnaan: & they that dwelt in Azotus, & Ascalon feared him greatly.

CHAP. III.

The people subiect to Olofernes. 1 He destroyed their gods that Nabuchodonosor might onely be worshipped.

- 1 So they sent ambassadours to him with messages of peace, saying,
- 2 Beholde, we are the seruantes of Nabuchodonosor the great King: we lie downe before thee: vse vs as shal be good in thy sight.
- 3 Beholde, our houses and all our places, and all our fields of wheat, and our floc-

kes, and our herdes, and all our lodges and tabernacles lie before thy face: vse them as it pleaseth thee.

4 Beholde, euen our cities and the inhabitants thereof are thy seruants: come, and take them, as semeth good to thee.

5 So the men came to Olofernes, and declared vnto them after this maner.

6 Then came he downe towarde the sea coast, bothe he and his armie, and set garisons in the hie cities, and toke out of the chosen men for the warre.

7 So they and all the countrey rounde about receiued the, with crowns, with dances, and with timbrels.

8 Yet he brake downe all their borders, and cut downe their woods: for it was inioyned him to destroy all the gods of the lad, that all nacions shulde worshippe Nabuchodonosor onely, and that all tongues and tribes shulde call vpon him as God.

9 Also he came against Esdraelon, nere vnto Iudea, ouer against the great strait of Iudea,

10 And he pitched betwene Geba, and a citie of the Scythians, and there he taried a moneth, that he might assemble all y baggage of his armie.

CHAP. IIII.

The Israelites were afraied and defended their countrey. 6 Ioachim the Priest writeth to Bethulia, that they shulde fortifie them selues. 9 They cryed to the Lord, and humbled them selues before him.

1 Now the childre of Israel that dwelt in Iudea, heard all that Olofernes the chief captaine of Nabuchodonosor King of the Assyrians had done to the nacions, and how he had spoiled all their temples, and broght them to noght.

2 Therefore they feared greatly his presence, and were troubled for Ierusalem, and for the Temple of the Lord their God.

3 For they were newly returned from the captiuitie, and of late all the people was assembled in Iudea, and the vessels and the altar of the House had bene sanctified because of the pollution.

4 Therefore they sent into all the coastes of Samaria, and the villages, and to Bethoro, and Belmen, and Iericho, and to Choba, and Esora, and to the valley of Salem,

5 And toke all the toppes of the hie mountaines, and walled the villages that were in them, and put in vitailles for the prouision of warre: for their fields were of late reaped.

6 Also Ioachim the hie Priest which was in those daies in Ierusalem, wrote to the that dwelt in Bethulia & Betomeflham, which is ouer against Esdraelon towarde the open countrey nere to Dothaim,

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7 Exhorting them to kepe the passages of the mountaines: for by them there was an entrie into Iudea, & it was easie to let the that wolde come vp, because the passage was streit for two men at the moste.

8 And the children of Israel did as Ioacim the hie Priest had commanded them with the Ancients of all the people of Israel, which dwelt at Ierusalem.

9 Then cryed euerie man of Israel to God with great seruencie, and their soules with great affection.

10 Bothe they, and their wiues, & their children, and their cattel, and euerie stranger, and hirling, and their boght seruants put sackcloth vpon their loynes.

11 Thus euerie man & woman, and the children, and the inhabitants of Ierusalem fell before the Temple, & sprinkled ashes vpon their heades, and spred out their sackcloth before the face of the Lord: also they put sackcloth about the altar,

12 And cryed to the God of Israel, all with one consent moste earnestly, that he wolde not giue their children for a pray, and their wiues for a spoyle, and the cities of their inheritance to destruction, & the Sanctuarie to pollution and reproche, and vnto derision to the heathen.

13 So God heard their prayers, and looked vpon their affliction: for the people fasted many daies in all Iudea and Ierusalem before the Sanctuarie of the Lord almightie.

14 And Ioacim the hie Priest, and all the Priests that stode before the Lord, & ministred vnto the Lord, had their loynes girt with sackcloth, and offered the continual burnt offering, with praiers and the fre giftes of the people,

15 And had ashes on their mytres, & cryed vnto the Lord with all their power for grace, and that he wolde loke vpon all the house of Israel.

CHAP. V.

Achior, the Ammonite doeth declare to Olofernes of the manner of the Israelites.

1 **T**HEN was it declared to Olofernes the chief captaine of the armie of Assur, that the children of Israel had prepared for warre, and had shut the passages of the mountaines, and had walled all the topes of the hie Iulles, and had laied impediments in the champion countrey.

2 Wherewith he was very angrie, and called all the princes of Moab, and the captaines of Ammon, and all the gouernours of the sea coast.

3 And he said vnto the, Shewe me, o ye sonnes of Chanaan, who is this people that dwelleth in the mountaines? and what are the cities that they inhabite? and what is the multitude of their armie? and wherein is their strength and their power? and what

King or captaine is raised among them ouer their armie?

4 And why haue they determined not to come to mete me, more then all the inhabitants of the West?

5 ¶ Then said Achior the captaine of all the sonnes of Ammon, Let my lord heare the worde of the mouth of his seruant, and I wil declare vnto thee the trueth concerning this people, that dwell in these mountaines, nere where thou remainest: & there shal no lie come out of the mouth of thy seruant. *Chap. 11, 7.*

6 This people come of the stocke of the Chaldeans.

7 And they dwelt before in Mesopotamia, because they wolde not follow the gods of their fathers, which were in the land of Chaldea. *Gen. 11, 2.*

8 But they went out of the way of their ancestres and worshipped the God of heauen, the God whome they knewe: so they cast them out from the face of their gods, and they fled into Mesopotamia, & sojourned there many daies.

9 Then their God commanded them to departe fro the place where they sojourned, and to go into the land of Chanaan, where they dwelt, and were increased with golde and siluer, and with very much cattel. *Gen. 12, 1.*

10 But when a famine couered all the land of Chanaan, they went downe into Egypt, and dwelt there til they returned, and became there a great multitude, so that one colde not number their linage.

11 ¶ Therefore the King of Egypt rose vp against them, and vsed deceit against them, and broght them lowe with laboring in bricke, and made them slaues. *Exod. 1, 8.*

12 Then they cryed vnto their God, and he smote all the land of Egypt with incurable plagues: so the Egyptians cast them out of their sight. *Exod. 12, 3.*

13 And God dried the red Sea in their presence, *Exod. 14, 21.*

14 And brought them into mount Sina and Cades barne, and cast forthe all that dwelt in the wilderness. *Exod. 19, 1.*

15 So they dwelt in the land of the Amorites, and they destroyed by their strength all them of Eslebon, and passing ouer Iordan, they inherited all the mountaines.

16 And they cast forthe before them the Chanaanites & the Phereites, and the Iebusites, and them of Sichem, and all the Gergesites, and they dwelt in that countrey many daies. *Ios. 12, 23.*

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

18 But when they departed from the way which he appointed them, they were destroyed in many battels after a wonderful sorte. *Iudg. 2, 12. & 3, 8.*

6 King. 25. 1. sorte,* & were led captiues into a lād that was not theirs: & the Tēple of their God was cast to the ground & their cities were taken by the enemies.

6 27. 24. 19 But * now they are turned to their God, & are come vp frō the scattering wherein thei were scattered, and haue possessed Ierusalem, where their Temple is, and dwell in the mountaines which were desolate.

20 Now therefore, my lord & gouernour, if there be anie faute in this people, so that they haue sinned against their God, let vs consider that this shalbe their ruine, and let vs go vp, and we shal ouercome them.

21 But if there be none iniquitie in this people, let my lord passe by, lest their Lord defend them, and their God be for them, and we become a reproche before all the worlde.

22 ¶ And when Achior had finished these sayings, all the people, standing rounde about the tent, murmured: & the chief men of Olofernes, and all that dwelt by the sea side and in Moab, spake that he shulde kill him.

23 For, say they, we feare not to mete y children of Israel: for lo, it is a people that haue no strength nor power against a mightie armie.

24 Let vs therefore go vp, o lord Olofernes, and they shal be meat for thy whole armie.

CHAP. VI.

Olofernes blasphemeth God whome Achior confessed.

14 Achior is deliuered into the hands of them of Bethulia. 15 The Bethulians crye vnto the Lord.

1 **A**ND when the tumulte of the men that were about the counsel, was ceased, Olofernes, the chief captaine of the armie of Assur, said vnto Achior before all the people of the strangers, and before all the children of Moab, & of them that were hired of Ephraim,

2 Because thou hast prophesied among vs to day, and hast said that the people of Ierusalem is able to fight, * because their God wil defend them: and who is god but Nabuchodonosor?

3 He wil send his power, and wil destroye them from the face of the earth, and their God shal not deliuer them: but we his seruants wil destroye them as one man: for they are not able to susteine the power of our horses.

4 For we wil tread them vnder fete with them, and their mountaines shalbe drunken with their blood, and their fields shal be filled with their dead bodies, and their forstepes shal not be able to stand before vs: but they shal vtterly perish.

5 The King Nabuchodonosor, lord of all the earth, hath said, euen he hath said,

None of my wordes shalbe in vaine.

6 And thou Achior an hireling of Ammon, because thou hast spoken these wordes in the day of thine iniquitie, thou shalt see my face no more from this day vntil I take vengeance of that people that is come out of Egypt.

7 And then shal the yron of mine armie, and the multitude of them that serue me, passe through thy sides, and thou shalt fall among their slayne, when I shal put them to flight.

8 And my seruants shal cary thee into the mountaines, and they shal leaue thee at one of the hie cities: but thou shalt not perish, til thou be destroyed with them.

9 And if thou persuaide thy self in thy minde, that they shal not be taken, let not thy countenance fall: I haue spoken it, and none of my wordes shalbe in vaine.

10 Then commanded Olofernes them concerning Achior, that they shulde bring him to Bethulia, and deliuer him into the hands of the children of Israel.

11 So his seruants toke him, and broght him out of the campe into the plaine: and thei went out from the middes of the plaine into the mountaines, and came vnto the fountaines that were vnder Bethulia.

12 And when the men of the citie sawe the from the toppes of the mountaine, they toke their armour, and went forthe of the citie vnto the toppes of the mountaine, euen all the throwers with slings, and kept them from comming vp, by casting stones against them.

13 But they went priuely vnder the hill, & bounde Achior, and left him lying at the foote of the hill, & returned to their lord.

14 Then the Israelites came downe from their citie, and stode about him, and losed him & broght him into Bethulia, & presented him to the gouernours of their citie,

15 Which were in those daies, Ozias the sonne of Micha, of the tribe of Simeon, and Chabris the sonne of Gothoniell, & Charmis the sonne of Melchiell.

16 And they called together all the Ancients of the citie, and all their youth ranne together, and their women to the assemblie: and they set Achior in the middes of all their people. Then Ozias asked him of that which was done.

17 And he answered & declared vnto them the wordes of the counsel of Olofernes, and all the wordes that he had spoken in the middes of the princes of Assur, and whatsoeuer Olofernes had spoken proudly against the house of Israel.

18 Then the people fel downe and worshipped God, and cryed vnto God, saying,

19 O Lord God of heauen, behold their pride, and haue mercie on the basenes of

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our people, and beholde this day the face of those that are sanctified vnto thee.

20 Then they comforted Achior, & praised him greatly.

21 And Ozias toke out of the assemblie into his house, & made a feast to the Elders, and they called on the God of Israel all that night for helpe.

CHAP. VII.

1 Olofernes doeth bessege Bethulia. 2 The counsel of the Idumeans and other against the Israelites. 23 The Bethulians murmure against their gouernours for lacke of water.

THe next day, Olofernes commanded all his armie and all his people, which were come to take his parte, that they shulde remoue their campes against Bethulia, and that they shulde take all the streites of the hill, and to make warre against the children of Israel.

2 Then their strong men remoued their camps in that daye, and the armie of the men of warre was an hundreth thousand and seuentie fotemen, & twelue thousand horsémé, beside the baggage & other men that were afote among them, a very great multitude.

3 And they camped in the plaine nere vnto Bethulia, by the fountaine, and thei spred abroad toward Dothaim vnto Belbaim, and in length from Bethulia vnto Ciamô, which is ouer against Eldraelom.

4 Now the children of Israel, when they sawe y multitude, were greatly troubled, & said euerie one to his neighbour, Now wil they shut vp all the whole earth: for nether the hie mountaines nor the valleis, nor y hilles are able to abide thir burden.

5 Then euerie one toke his weapôs of warre, and burning fyres in their towres, they remained and watched all that night.

6 But in the secôde day, Olofernes broght forth the all his horsemen in the sight of the childré of Israel, which were in Bethulia,

7 And vewed the passages vp to their citie, and came to the fountaines of their waters, & toke thé & set garisons of men of warre ouer thé, and remoued toward his people.

8 Then came vnto him all the chief of the children of Esau, and all the gouernours of the people of Moab, & all the captaines of the sea coast, and said,

9 Let our captaine now heare a worde, lest an inconuenience come in thine armie.

10 For this people of the children of Israel do not trust in their speares, but in the height of the mountaines, wherein they dwell, because it is not easy to come vp to the toppes of their mountaines.

11 Now therefore, my lord, fight not against them in battel aray, and there shal not so muche as one man of thy people perish.

12 Remaine in thy campe, and kepe all the men of thine armie, and let thy men kepe stil the water of the countrey, that cometh forth at the fore of the mountaine.

13 For all the inhabitants of Bethulia haue their water thereof: so shal thirst kill thé, and they shal giue vp their citie: and we and our people wil go vp to the toppes of the mountaines that are nere, & wil campe vpon them, & watche that none go out of the citie.

14 So thei & their wiues, & their children shalbe consumed with famine, & before the sworde come against thé, thei shalbe ouerthrowen in y stretes where thei dwell.

15 Thus shalt thou rêder them an euil reward, because thei rebelléd & obeyed not thy persone peaceably.

16 And these wordes pleased Olofernes & all his soldiars, and he appointed to do as they had spoken.

17 So the campe of the children of Ammon departed, & with them siue thousand of the Assyrians, and they pitched in the valley, & toke the waters, and the fountaines of the waters of the childré of Israel.

18 Then the children of Esau went vp with the children of Ammon, & camped in the mountaines ouer against Dothaim, & thei sent some of thé selues toward the South, and toward the East, ouer against Rebel, which is nere vnto Chusi, that is vpon the riuier Mochmur: and the rest of the armie of the Assyrians camped in the field, and couered the whole land: for their tents & their baggage were pitched in a wonderful great place.

19 Then the children of Israel cryed vnto the Lord their God, because their heart failed: for all their enemies had cōpassed them about, and there was no way to escape out from among them.

20 Thus all the companie of Assur remained about them, bothe their fotemen, chariots and horsemen, foure and thirtie dayes: so that euē all the places of their waters failed all the inhabitants of Bethulia.

21 And the cisternes were emptie, and they had not water ynough to drinke for one day: for they gaue them to drinke by measure.

22 Therefore their children swoned, and their wiues & yong men failed for thirst, and fel downe in the stretes of the citie, & by the passages of the gates, and there was no strength in them.

23 Then all the people assembled to Ozias, and to the chief of the citie, bothe yong men and women, and children, and cryed with a loude voyce, and said before all the Elders,

24 The Lord iudge betwene vs & you: for you haue done vs great iniurie, in that ye haue

Exod 1.11.

haue not required peace of the children of Assur.

25 For now we haue no helper: but God hath the folde vs into their hands, that we shulde be throwen downe before them with thirst and great destruction.

26 Now therefore call them together, & deliuer the whole citie for a spoile to y^e people of Olofernes, and to all his armie.

27 For it is better for vs to be made a spoile vnto the, then to dye for thirst: for we wil be his seruants that we may liue, & not fe y^e death of our infants before our eyes, nor our wiues, nor our children to dye.

28 We take to witnes against you the heauē and the earth, & our God and Lord of our fathers, which punisheth vs, according to our sinnes & the sinnes of our fathers, that he lay not these things to our charge.

29 Then there was a great crye of all w^h one cōsent in y^e middes of the Assemblie, & thei cryed vnto y^e Lord God w^h a loude voyce.

30 Then said Ozias to the, Brethren, be of good courage: let vs waite yet fūe daies, in the which space the Lord our God may turne his mercie toward vs: for he wil not forsake vs in the end.

31 And if these daies passe, and there come not helpe vnto vs, I wil do according to your worde.

32 So he separated the people, euerie one vn to their charge, & thei wēt vnto the walles and towres of their citie, & sent their wiues & their children into their houses, and they were very lowe broght in the citie.

CHAP. VIII.

The parentage, life & conuersation of Iudeth. 11 She rebuketh the faintenes of the gouernours. 12 She sheweth that they shulde not tempt God, but wait vpon him for succour. 33 Her enterprise against the enemies.

1 **N**OW at that time, Iudeth heard the reos, 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 Anzias, the sonne of Gedeō, the sonne of Raphaim, the sonne of Acito, the sonne of Eliu, the sonne of Eliab, the sonne of Nathanael, the sonne of Samael, y^e sonne of Salafadai, the sonne of Israel.

2 And Manasses was her housband, of her stocke and kinred, who dyed in the barely harvest.

3 For as he was diligēt ouer the that boude sheaues in y^e field, the heat came vpon his head, & he fel vpon his bed, & dyed in the citie of Bethulia, & thei buried him with his fathers in the field betwene Dorhaim and Balamo.

4 So Iudeth was in her house a widowe threyes and foure moneths.

5 And she made her a tente vpon her house, and put on sackcloth on her loynes, and ware her widowes apparel.

6 And she fasted all y^e daies of her widow-

hede, saue the day before the Sabbath and the Sabbaths, and the day before the newe moones, & in the feastes & solemne daies of the house of Israel.

7 She was also of a goodlie countenance & very beautiful to beholde: & her housband Manasses had left her golde & siluer, and men seruantes, and maide seruantes, and catel, and possessions, where she remained.

8 And there was none y^e colde bring an euil reporte of her: for she feared God greatly.

9 Now when she heard y^e euil wordes of the people against the gouernour, because thei fainted for lacke of waters (for Iudeth had heard all the wordes y^e Ozias had spoken vnto them, and that he had *sworne vnto the to deliuer the citie vnto the Assyrians within fūe daies) Chap. 7. 25.

10 Then she sent her maide y^e had the gouernement of all things that he had, to call Ozias and Chabris and Charmis the Ancients of the Citie.

11 And they came vnto her, and she said vnto them, Heare me, o ye gouernours of the inhabitants of Bethulia: for your wordes y^e haue spokē before the people this day, are not right, touching this othe which ye made & pronounced betwene God & you, & haue promised to deliuer y^e citie to the enemies, vnles within these daies the Lord turne to helpe you.

12 And now who are you that haue tempted God this day, & set your selues in the place of God among the children of men?

13 So now you see the Lord almighty, but you shal neuer knowe any thing.

14 For you can not finde out y^e depth of the heart of mā, nether cā ye perceiue y^e things y^e he thinketh: the how can you searchout God, that hath made all these things, and knowe his minde, or comprehend his purpose? Nay my brethren, prouoke not the Lord our God to anger.

15 For if he wil not helpe vs within these fūe daies, he hath power to defend vs when he wil, euen euerie day, or to destroy vs before our enemies.

16 Do not you therefore binde y^e counsels of the Lord our God: for God is not as man that he may be threatned, nether as y^e sonne of man to be broght to iudgement.

17 Therefore let vs waite for saluacion of him & call vpon him to helpe vs, & he wil heare our voyce if it please him.

18 For there appeareth none in our age, nether is there any now in these daies, nether tribe, nor familie, nor people, nor citie among vs, which worship y^e gods made with hands, as hath bene afore time.

19 For y^e which cause our fathers were giue *Iud. 2. 11. &* to the sworde, & for a spoile, & had a great *4. 11. & 6. 3.* fall before our enemies.

20 But we knowe none other God: therefore

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re we trust that he wil not despise vs, nor any of our linage.

21 Nether when we shalbe taken, shal Iudea be so famous: for our Sanctuarie shalbe spoiled, and he wil require the prophanation thereof at our mouth,

22 And the feare of our brethren, and the captiuitie of the countrey, & the desolatiō of our inheritance wil he turne vpon our heads amōg the Gentiles, where soeuer we shalbe in bondage, & we shalbe an offence & a reproche to all thē that possesse vs.

23 For our seruitude shal not be directed by fauour, but the Lord our God shal turne it to dishonour.

24 Now therefore, o brethren, let vs shewe an example to our brethren, because their hearts depend vpon vs, & the Sanctuarie, & the House, and the altar rest vpon vs.

25 Moreover, let vs giue thākes to the Lord our God, which tryeth vs euen as he did our fathers.

Gen. 22, 9.

Gen. 22, 7.

26 Remember what things he did to *Abraham, and how he tryed Isaac, and all that he did to *Iacob in Mesopotamia of Syria when he kept the shepe of Laban his mothers brother.

27 For he hath not tryed vs as he did them to the examination of their hearts, nether doeth he take vengeance on vs, but the Lord punisheth for instruction them that come nere to him.

28 ¶ Then said Ozias to her, All that thou hast spoken, hast thou spoken with a good heart, and there is none that is able to resist thy wordes.

29 For it is not to day that thy wisdom is known, but from the beginning of thy life all the people haue knowen thy wisdom: for the deuice of thine heart is good.

30 But the people were very thirstie, and compelled vs to do vnto them, as we haue spoken, & haue broght vs to an othe which we may not transgresse.

31 Therefore now pray for vs, because thou art an holy womā, that the Lord may send vs rayne to fill our cisternes, and that we may faint no more.

32 Then said Iudeth vnto them, Heare me, and I wil do a thing, which shalbe declared in all generations, to the children of our nation.

33 You shal stand this night in the gate, and I wil go forth with mine handmaid: and within the daies that ye haue promised to deliuer the citie to our enemies, the Lord wil visit Israel by mine hand.

34 But inquire not you of mine acte: for I wil not declare it vnto you, til the things be finished that I do.

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

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

CHAP. IX.

1 Iudeth humbled her self before the Lord, and made her prayers for the deliuerance of her people. 7 Against the pride of the Assyrians. 11 God is the helpe of the humble.

1 Then Iudeth fel vpon her face, and put ashes vpon her head, and put of the sackcloth wherewith she was clothed. And about the time that the incense of that euening was offred in Ierusalē in the House of the Lord, Iudeth cryed with a loude voyce, and said,

2 O Lord God of my father* Simeon, to whom thou gauest a sword to take vengeance of the strangers which opened the wombe of the maide, and defiled her, and discouered the thigh with shame, and polluted the wombe to reproche (for thou hadst commanded that it shulde not so be,

3 Yet thei did things for the which thou gauest their princes to the slaughter, for they were deceiued & washed their beds with blood) and hast stricken the seruants with the gouernours, and the gouernours vpon their thrones,

4 And hast giuen their wiues for a pray and their daughters to be captiues, & all their spoiles for a bootie to y children that thou louedst: which were moued with thy zeale, and abhorred the pollution of their blood, & called vpon thee for aide, o God, o my God, heare me also a widdowe.

5 For thou hast wrought the things afore, & these, and the things that shalbe after, and thou cōsiderest the things that are present, and the things that are to come.

6 For the things which y doest purpose, are present, & say, Beholde, we are here: for all thy waies are ready, & thy iudgements are foreknown.

7 Beholde, the Assyrians are multiplied by their power: they haue exalted the selues with horses & horsemen: they glorie in the strength of their sotemen: they trust in shield, speare and bowe, and sling, and do not knowe that thou art y Lord that breakest the battels: the Lord is thy Name.

8 Breake thou their strength by thy power, and breake their force by thy wrath: for they haue purposed to defile thy Sanctuarie, & to pollute the tabernacle where thy glorious Name resteth, and to cast downe with weapons the hornes of the altar.

9 Beholde their pride, and send thy wrath vpon their heads: giue into mine hād which am a widow, y strength y I haue cōceiued.

10 Smite by the deceit of my lippes the seruant with the prince, and the prince with the seruant: abbate their height by the hād of a woman.

11 *For thy power standeth not in the multitude, nor thy might in strōg men: but thou,

Iud. 4, 21.
Ex. 17, 26.

Iud. 7, 2.
2. Chr. 14, 11.
Ex. 6, 8.
Ex. 20, 6.

Lord, art the helpe of the humble and litle ones, the defender of the weake, & the protector of them that are forsaken, & the Saviour of them that are without hope.

9 Surely, surely thou art the God of my father, & the God of thy inheritance of Israel, the Lord of heauen and earth, the creator of the waters, the King of all creatures: heare thou my prayer,

10 And grant me wordes & craft, & a wounde, and a stroke against the that entreprife cruel things against thy couenant, and against thine holy House, & against the toppe of Sion, and against the house of the possession of thy children.

11 Shewe euidently among all thy people, & all the tribes, that they may knowe that thou art the God of all power & strength, & that there is none other that defendeth the people of Israel, but thou.

CHAP. X.

1 Iudeth decketh her self & goeth forth to the citie. 11 She is taken of the watch of the Assyrians and brought to Olofernes.

1 Now after she had ceased to crye vnto the God of Israel, and had made an end of all these wordes,

2 She rose where she had fallen downe, and called her maide, & went downe into the house, in the which she abode in the Sabbath daies and in the feast daies,

3 And putting away the sackcloth wherewith she was clad, & putting of the garments of her widowhode, she washed her body with water, & anointed it with muche ointement, & dressed the heere of her head, and put attire vpon it, and put on her garments of gladnes, wherewith she was clad during the life of Manasses her housbād.

4 And she put slippers on her fete, & put on bracelets, & sleeves, and rings, & earrings, & all her ornaments, and she decked her selfe brauely to allure the eyes of all men that shulde see her.

5 Then she gaue her maide a bottel of wine, and a pot of oyle, and filled a scrippe with floure, & with drye figges, & with fine bread: so she lapped vp all these things together and laid them vpon her.

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

7 And whē they sawe her that her face was changed, & that her garment was chāged, they marueiled greatly at her wonderful beautie, and said vnto her,

8 The God, thy God of our fathers giue thee fauour, and accomplish thine enterprises to the glorie of the children of Israel, and to the exaltation of Ierusalem. Then they worshipped God.

9 And she said vnto them, Cōmande the ga-

tes of the citie to be opened vnto me, that I may go forth to accomplish the things which you haue spoken to me. So they cōmanded the yong men to open vnto her, as she had spoken.

10 And when they had done so, Iudeth wēt out, she and her maide with her, and the men of the citie looked after her, vntil she was gone downe the mountaine, and til she had passed the valley, and colde see her no more.

11 Thus they went streight forth in the valley, and the first watch of the Assyrians met her,

12 And toke her, & asked her, Of what people art thou? and whence comest thou? and whether goest thou? And she said, I am a womā of the Hebrewes, and am fled from them: for they shalbe giuen you to be consumed.

13 And I come before Olofernes, the chief captaine of your armie, to declare him true things, and I wil shewe before him the way whereby he shal go and winne all the mountaines, without losing the bodie or life of anie of his men.

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

15 Thou hast saued thy life, in that thou hast hastened to come downe to the presence of our lord: now therefore come to his tente, and some of vs shal cōduct thee vntil thei haue deliured thee into his hāds.

16 And when they standest before him, be not afraid in thine heart, but shewe vnto him according as thou hast to say, and he wil intreat thee wel.

17 Then they chose out of the an hundredth men, and prepared a charet for her and her maide, and brought her to the tent of Olofernes.

18 Then there was a running to and fro, throughout the campe: for her comming was bruted among the tentes: & thei came and stode rounde about her: for she stode without the tent of Olofernes vntil they had declared vnto him concerning her.

19 And they marueiled at her beautie, and wondered at the children of Israel because of her, & cuerie one said vnto his neighbour, Who wolde despise this people, that haue among the suche women? surely it is not good that one mā of them be left: for if thei shulde remaine, they might deceiue the whole earth.

20 Then Olofernes garde went out, and all his seruantes, and they brought her into the tente.

21 Now Olofernes rested vpon his bed vnder a canopic, which was wouen with purple and golde and emeraudes, and precious stones.

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- 22 So they shewed him of her, and he came forth vnto the entrie of his tent, and they caried lampes of siluer before him.
- 23 And when Iudeth was come before him and his seruants, they all marueiled at the beautie of her countenance, and she fel downe vpon her face, & did reuerence vnto him, & his seruants toke her vp.

CHAP. XI.

Olofernes comforteth Iudeth, 3 And asketh the cause of her coming. 5 She deceiueth him by her faire wordes.

1 **T**hen said Olofernes vnto her, Womā, be of good comfort: feare not in thine heart: for I neuer hurt any that wolde serue Nabuchodonosor ꝑ King of all the earth.

2 Now therefore if thy people that dwel- leth in the mountaines, had not despised me, I wolde not haue lifted vp my speare against them: but they haue procured these things to them selues.

3 But now tel me wherefore thou art fled from them, and art come vnto vs: for thou art come for safegard: be of good cōfort, thou shalt liue frō this night, & hereafter.

4 For none shal hurt thee, but intreat thee wel, as they do the seruants of King Nabuchodonosor my lord.

5 Then Iudeth said vnto him, Receiue the wordes of thy seruāt, & suffer thine handmaide to speake in thy presence, and I wil declare no lie to my lord this night.

6 And if thou wilt follow the wordes of thine handmaide, God wil bring the thing perfectly to passe by thee, & my lord shal not faile of his purpose.

7 As Nabuchodonosor King of all ꝑ earth liueth, and as his power is of force, who hath sent thee to reforme all persones, not onely men shal be made subiect to him by thee, but also the beastes of the fields, & the cattel, & the foules of the heauen shal liue by thy power vnder Nabuchodonosor & all his house.

8 For we haue heard of thy wisdom and of thy prudēt spirit, & it is declared through the whole earth, that thou onely art excellent in all the kingdome, and of a wonderful knowledge, and in feates of warre marueilous.

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9 Now as concerning the matter which Achior did speake in thy counsel, we haue heard his wordes: for the men of Bethulia did take him, & he declared vnto them all that he had spoken vnto thee.

10 Therefore, o lord & gouernour, reiect not his wordes, but set it in thine heart, for it is true: for there is no punishment against our people, nether can the sworde preuaile against them, except they sinne against their God.

11 Now therefore lest my lord shulde be

frustrate, and voide of his purpose, & that death may fall vpon them, and that they may be taken in their sinne: whiles they prouoke their God to angre, *which is so oft times as they do that which is not be- seining,*

12 (For because their vittailles faile, and all their water is wasted, thei haue deter- mined to take their cattel, and haue purposed to consume all things that God had for- bidden them to eat by his Lawes:

13 Yea, they haue purposed to consume the first frutes of the wheat, and the tithes of the wine, and of the oile which they had reserued and sanctified for the Priests that serue in Ierusalem before the face of our God: the which things it is not lawful for anie of the people to touche wth their hāds.

14 Moreouer they haue sent to Ierusalem, because they also that dwel there, haue done the like, suche as shulde bring them li- cence from the Senate)

15 Now when they shal bring them worde, they wil do it, and they shalbe giuen thee to be destroyed the same day.

16 Wherefore I thine handmaide, knowing all this, am fled from their presence, and God hath sent me to worke a thing with thee, whereof all the earth shal wonder, & whosoever shal heare it.

17 For thy seruāt feareth God, and wor- shipeth the God of heauē day and night, and now let me remaine with thee, my lord, and let thy seruāt go out in the night into the valley, and I wil pray vnto God, that he may reuile vnto me when they shal commit their sinnes,

18 And I wil come and shewe it vnto thee: then thou shalt go forth with all thine ar- mie, & there shalbe none of them that shal resist thee.

19 And I wil lead thee through the middes of Iudea, vntill thou come before Ierusa- lem, and I wil set thy throne in the middes thereof, and thou shalt driue them as shepe that haue no shepherd, and a dogge shal not barcke with his mouthe against thee: for these things haue bene spokē vnto me, & declared vnto me accordig to my fore- knowledge, and I am sent to shewe thee.

20 ¶ Then her wordes pleased Olof. rnes, and all his seruants, and they marueiled at her wisdom, and said,

21 There is not suche a woman in all the worlde, bothe for beautie of face, and wis- dome of wordes.

22 Likewise Olofernes said vnto her, God hath done this, to send thee before ꝑ peo- ple, that strēgth might be in our hāds, and destruction vpō the that despise my lord.

23 And now thou art bothe beautiful in thy cōutenāce, & wittie in thy wordes: surely if thou do as ꝑ hast spoken, thy God shalbe

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Or, baste dunt wel.

my God, and thou shalt dwell in the house of Nabuchodonosor, & shalt be renowned throughout the whole earth.

CHAP. XII.

1 Iudeth wolde not pollute her self with the meat of the Gentiles. 5 She maketh her request that she might go out by night to pray. 11 Olofernes causeth her to come to the banquet.

Then he commanded to bring her in where his treasures were layed, and bade that they shulde prepare for her of his owne meates, and that she shulde drinke of his owne wine.

*Gen. 43, 52.
dan. 1, 8.
Job. 1, 12.*

But Iudeth said, *I may not eat of them, lest there shulde be an offence, but I can suffice my selfe with the things that I haue broght.

Then Olofernes said vnto her, If the things that thou hast, shulde faile, how shulde we giue thee the like? for there is none with vs of thy nation.

Then said Iudeth vnto him, As thy soule liueth, my lord, thine handmaide shal not spend those things that I haue, before the Lord worke by mine hand the things that he hath determined.

Then the seruants of Olofernes broght her into the tent, and she slept vntil midnight, and rose at the morning watche,

And sent to Olofernes, saying, Let my lord commade that thine hadmaide may go forthe vnto prayer.

Then Olofernes commanded his garde that thei shuld not stay her: thus she abode in the campe thre dayes, and went out in the night into the valley of Bethulia, and washed her self in a fountaine, euen in the water by the campe.

And when she came out, she prayed vnto the Lord God of Israel, that he wolde direct her way to the exaltation of the children of her people.

So she returned, & remained pure in the tent, vntil she ate her meat at euening.

And in the fourth day, Olofernes made a feast to his owne seruants onely, and called none of them to the baket, that had the affaires in hand.

The said he to Bagoas the eunuche who had charge ouer all that he had, Go and persuaide this Hebrew woman, which is with thee, that she come vnto vs and eat, & drinke with vs.

For it were a shame for vs, if we shulde let suche a womā alone, & not talk wth her, & if we do not allure her, she wil mocke vs.

Then wēt Bagoas fro the presence of Olofernes, & came to her, & said, Let not this faire maide make difficultie to go into my lord, & to be honored in his presence, and to drinke wine with vs ioyfully, & to be intreated as one of the daughters of the children of Assur, which remaine in the house

of Nabuchodonosor.

Then said Iudeth vnto him, Who am I now, that I shulde gaine say my lord? Surely whatsoeuer pleaseh him, I wil do speedely, and it shalbe my ioye vnto the day of my death.

So she arose & trimmed her wth garments, and with all y ornaments of women, & her maide wēt, & spred for her skinned on the groude ouer against Olofernes, which she had receiued of Bagoas for her daily vse, that she might sit and eat vpon them.

Now when Iudeth came & sate downe, Olofernes heart was rauished with her, and his spirit was moued, and he desired greatly her companie: for he had waited for the time to deceiue her from the day that he had sene her.

Then said Olofernes vnto her, Drinke now, and be mery with vs.

So Iudeth said, I drinke now, my lord, because my state is exalted this day more then euer it was since I was borne.

The she toke, & ate & drake before him the things, that her maide had prepared.

And Olofernes reioyced because of her & drake muche more wine the he had drukē at anie time in one day since he was borne.

CHAP. XIII.

1 Iudeth praieeth for strength. 8 She smiteth of Olofernes necke. 10 She returneth to Bethulia & reioyceth her people.

Now whē the euening was come, his seruants made haste to departe, and Bagoas shut his tent without, & dismissed those that were present, from the presence of his lord, & they went to their beddes: *for they were all wearie, because the feast had bene long.

Ecc. 3, 12.

And Iudeth was left alone in the tent, & Olofernes was stretched along vpon his bed: for he was filled with wine.

Now Iudeth had cōmanded her maide to stād without her chāber, & to waite for her cōming forthe as she did daily: for she said, she wolde go forthe to her prayers, & she spake to Bagoas according to the same purpose.

So all went forthe of her presence, & none was left in the chāber, nether litle nor great: the Iudeth standing by his bed, said in her heart, O Lord God of all power, behold at this present the workes of mine hands for the exaltation of Ierusalem.

For now is y time to helpe thine inheritance, & to execute mine enterprises, to y destruction of y enemies w^{ch} are risen against vs.

Then she came to the post of y bed which was at Olofernes head, & toke downe his fauchin from thence,

And approached to the bed, & toke holde of the hēre of his head, and said, Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel this day.

And she smote twise vpon his necke with

Kkkk.iiii.

Iudeth.

all her might, and she toke away his head from him,

9 And roled his bodie downe from the bed, and pulled downe the canopie from the pillars, and anone after she went forth, & gaue Olofernes head to her maid,

10 And she put it in her scrippe of meat: so they twaine went together according to their custome vnto prayer, and preising through the tentes, went about by that valley, and went vp the mountaine of Bethulia, and came to the gates therof.

11 ¶ The said Iudeth asfarre of to the watchmen at the gates, Open now the gate: God, euen our God is with vs to shewe his power yet in Ierusalem, and his force against his enemies, as he hathe euen done this day.

12 Now whē the men of her citie heard her voyce, thei made haste to go downe to the gate of their citie, and they called the Elders of the citie.

13 And thei ranne all together bothe smale and great: for it was about their expectation, that she shulde come. So they opened the gate & receiued her, & made a fyre for a light, & stode rounde about the twaine.

14 Then she said to the with a loude voyce, Praise God, praise God: for he hathe not taken away his mercie from the house of Israel, but hathe destroyed our enemies by mine hands this night.

15 So she toke the head out of the scrippe & shewed it, and said vnto them, Beholde the head of Olofernes, the chief captaine of y^e armie of Assur, and beholde the canopie, wherein he did lie in his drunkenes, & the Lord hathe smitten him by the hand of a woman.

16 As the Lord liueth, who hathe kept me in my way that I went, my countenance hathe deceived him to his destruction, & he hathe not comitted sinne with me by anie pollution or vilenie.

17 Then all the people were wonderfully astonished, and bowed them selues, and worshiped God, and said with one accorde, Blessed be thou, o our God, which hast this day broght to nought the enemies of thy people.

18 Then said Ozias vnto her, O daughter, blessed art thou of the moste hie God aboue all the women of the earth, and blessed be the Lord God, which hathe created the heauens and the earth, which hathe directed thee to the cutting of of the head of the chief of our enemies.

19 Surely this thine hope shal neuer departe out of the heartes of men: for they shal remember the power of God for euer.

20 And God turne these things to thee for a perpetual praise, and visite thee with good things, because thou hast not spared

thy life, because of the affliction of our nation, but thou hast holpen our ruine, walking a streight way before our God. And all the people said, So be it, so be it.

CHAP. XIII.

1 Iudeth causeth to hang vp the head of Olofernes.

2 Achior ioyeth him selfe to the people of God.

3 The Israelites go out ag ainst the Assyrians.

1 ¶ Then said Iudeth vnto them, Heare me also, my brethren, and * take this ^{2 Mac. 15. 11} head, and hang it vpon the hiest place of your walles.

2 And so sone as the morning shal appeare and the sonne shal come forth vpon the earth, take you euerie one his weapons, and go forth euerie valiant man out of the citie, and set you a captaine ouer them, as thogh you wolde go downe into the field, towarde the watche of the Assyrians, but go not downe.

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

4 So you and all that inhabite the coastes of Israel, shal pursue them, & ouerthrowe them as they go.

5 But before you do these things, call me Achior the Ammonite, that he may se, and knowe him that despised the house of Israel, and that sent him to vs as to death.

6 Then they called Achior out of the house of Ozias, and when he was come and sawe the head of Olofernes in a certeine mans hand in the assemblie of the people, he fel downe on his face, and his spirit failed.

7 But when they had taken him vp, he fel at Iudeths fete, & reuerenced her, and said, Blessed art thou in all the tabernacle of Iuda, and in all nacions, which, hearing thy name, shalbe astonished.

8 Now therefore tel me all the things, that thou hast done in these dayes. The Iudeth declared vnto him in the middes of the people all that she had done from the day that she went forth, vntil that houre she spake vnto them.

9 And whē she had lest of speaking, the people reioyced with a great voyce, and made a noyce of gladnes through their citie.

10 And Achior, seing all things that God had done for Israel, beleued in God vnfainedly, and circumcised the foreskine of his flesh, and was ioyned vnto the house of Israel vnto this day.

11 ¶ As sone as the morning arose, thei haggd the head of Olofernes out at the wall, & euerie man toke his weapons, and they went forth by bandes vnto the straites of the mountaine.

12 But when the Assyrians sawe them, they sent

- sent to their captaines, which went to the
gouernours and chief captaines, and to
all their rulers.
- 13 So they came to Olofernes tent and said
to him y had the charge of all his things,
Wake our lord: for the slaues haue bene
bolde to come downe against vs to battel,
that they may be destroyed for euer.
- 14 Then went in Bagoas, & knocked at the
dore of the tent: for he thought that he had
slept with Iudeth.
- 15 But because none answered, he opened
it, and went into the chamber, and founde
him cast vpon the floore, and his head was
taken from him.
- 16 Therefore he cryed with a loude voyce,
with weping and mourning, & a mightie
crye, and rent his garments.
- 17 After, he went into the tent of Iudeth
where she vsed to remaine, and founde her
not: then he leaped out to the people and
cryed,
- 18 These slaues haue committed wicked-
nes: one woman of the Hebrewes hathe
brought shame vpon the house of King
Nabuchodonosor: for beholde, Olofernes
lieth vpon the ground without an head.
- 19 When the captaines of the Assyrians
armie heard these wordes, they rent their
coates, and their heart was wonderfully
troubled, and there was a crye and a verie
great noyce throughout the campe.

CHAP. XV.

*1 The Assyrians are afraied and flee. 3 The Israelites
pursue them. 8 Ioachim the hie Priest cometh to Be-
thulia to se Iudeth and to praise God for her.*

- 1 **A**ND whē thei that were in the tents,
heard, they were astonished at the
thing that was done.
- 2 And feare and trembling fel vpon them,
so that there was no man that durst abide
in the sight of his neighbour: but altoge-
ther amased, thei fled by euerie way of the
plaine and of the mountaines.
- 3 They also that had camped in the moun-
taines rounde about Bethulia, were put to
flight: the children of Israel, eueryone
that was a warriour among them, rushed
out vpon them.
- 4 Then sent Ozias to Bethomasthem, and
to Bebai, and Chobai, and Chola and to
all the coastes of Israel, suche as shulde
declare vnto them the things that were
done, and that all shulde rushe forth for the
vpon their enemies to destroy them.
- 5 Now when the children of Israel heard
it, they all fell vpon them together vnto
Choba: likewise also thei that came from
Ierusalem & from all the mountaines: for
men had tolde the what things were done
in the campe of their enemies, and they
that were in Galaad and in Galile chased

them with a great slaughter vntil they
came to Damascus and to the coastes the-
reof.

6 And the residue that dwelt at Bethulia,
fel vpon the campe of Assur and spoiled
them, and were greatly enriched.

7 And the children of Israel that returned
from the slaughter, had the rest: & the vil-
lages & the cities that were in the moun-
taines & in the plaine, had a great bootie:
for the abundance was verie great.

8 Then Ioachim the hie Priest, and the An-
cients of the children of Israel that dwelt
in Ierusalem, came to confirme the bene-
fites that God had shewed to Israel, and
to se Iudeth, and to salute her.

9 And when they came vnto her, thei blef-
sed her with one accorde, & said vnto her,
Thou art the exaltacion of Ierusalem:
thou art the great glorie of Israel: thou
art the great reioycing of our nacion.

10 Thou hast done all these things by thi-
ne hand: thou hast done muche good to Is-
rael, & God is pleased therewith: blessed
be thou of the almightie Lord for euer-
more: and all the people said, So be it.

11 And the people spoyled the campe the
space of thirtie daies, and thei gaue vnto
Iudeth Olofernes tent, and all his siluer &
beddes, and basins, and all his stuffe, & she
toke it and laied it on her mules, & made
readie her charets, & laied them thereon.

12 Then all the women of Israel came to-
gether to se her, and blessed her, and made
a dance among them for her, and she toke
branches in her hand, and gaue also to the
women that were with her.

13 They also crowned her with oliues, and
her 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 armour, with crownes and with
songs in their mouthes.

CHAP. XVI.

*Iudeth praise. h God with a song. 19 She offereth to the
Lord Olofernes stuffe. 23 Her continence, life and death,
25 All Israel lamenteth her.*

1 **T**HEN Iudeth began this confession in
all Israel, and all the people sang this
song with a loude voyce.

2 And Iudeth said, Beginne vnto my God
with tymbrels: sing to my Lord with cym-
bales: tune vnto him a psalme: exalt his
praise, and call vpon his Name.

3 For God breaketh the battels, and pitched
his campe in the middes of the people, &
deliuered me out of the hand of the per-
secuters.

4 Assur came from the mountaines forthe
of the North: he came with thousands in
his armie, * whose multitude hathe shut
vp the riuers and their horsemen haue co-
Bill. i.

Chap. 2, 11.

Iudeth.

uered the valles.

5 He said that he wolde burne vp my borders & kill my yong men with the sworde, and dash the sucking children against the ground, & make mine infants as a pray, and my virgines a spoile.

6 But the almightie Lord hath brought them to naught by the hand of a woman.

7 For the mightie did not fall by the yong men, nether did the sonnes of Titan smite him, nor the hie gyants inuade him, but Iudeth the daughter of Merari did discomfite him by the beautie of her countenance.

8 For she put of the garment of her widowhode, for the exaltacion of those that were oppressed in Israel, and anointed her face with ointment, and bounde vp her heere in a coife, and toke a linen garment to deceiue him.

9 Her slippers rauished his eyes: her beautie toke his minde prisoner, and the fauchin passed through his necke.

10 The Persians were astonished at her boldenes, and the Medes were troubled with her hardines.

11 But mine afflicted reioyced, & my feble ones shewted: then they feared, they lifted vp their voyce and turned backe.

12 The children of maidens perced them, and wounded them as they fled away like children: they perished by the battel of the Lord.

13 I wil sing vnto the Lord a song and praise, O Lord, thou art great and glorious, maruelous and inuincible in power.

*Gen. 1. 24.
psal. 33. 9.*

14 Let all thy creatures serue thee: * for thou hast spoken and they were made: thou hast sent thy Spirit, and he made them vp: & there is none that can resist thy voyce.

15 For the mountaines leape vp from their fundacions with the waters: the rockes melt at thy presence like waxe: yet thou art merciful to them that feare thee.

16 For all sacrifice is to litle for a swete sa-

uour, and all the fat is to litle for thy burnt offering: but he that feareth the Lord, is great at all times.

17 Wo to the nations that rise vp against my kinred: the Lord almightie wil take vengeance of them in the day of iudgement, in sending fyre and wormes vpon their flesh, and they shal fele them & wepe for euer.

18 ¶ After, when they went vnto Ierusalem, they worshipped the Lord, and assone as the people were purified, they offered their burnt offerings, and their fre offerings, and their giftes.

19 Iudeth also offered all the stufte of Olofernes, which the people had giuen her, and gaue the canopie which she had taken of his bed, for an oblation to the Lord.

20 So the people reioyced in Ierusalem by the Sanctuarie, for the space of thre moneths, and Iudeth remained with them.

21 After this time, euerie one returned to his owne inheritance, and Iudeth went to Bethulia, and remained in her owne possession, and was for her time honorable in all the country.

22 And manie desired her, but none had her companie all the dayes of her life after that Manasses her housband was dead, & was gathered to his people.

** Or, her people.*

23 But she increased more and more in honour, and waxed olde in her housbands house, being an hundreth and fve yere olde, & made her maid fre: so she dyed in Bethulia, and they buried her in the graue of her housband Manasses.

24 And * the house of Israel lamented her seuen daies, & before she dyed, she did distribute her goods to all them that were norest of kinred to Manasses her housband, and to them that were the norest of her kinred.

Gen. 50. 10.

25 And there was none that made the children of Israel anie more afraid in the daies of Iudeth, nor a long time after her death.

Esther.