

Holofernes, that I may tell him their secrets, and shew him by what way he may take them, without the loss of one man of his army.

**14** And when the men had heard her words, they beheld her face, and their eyes were amazed, for they wondered exceedingly at her beauty.

**15** And they said to her: Thou hast saved thy life by taking this resolution, to come down to our lord.

**16** And be assured of this, that when thou shalt stand before him, he will treat thee well, and thou wilt be most acceptable to his heart. And they brought her to the tent of Holofernes, telling him of her.

**17** And when she was come into his presence, forthwith Holofernes was caught by his eyes.

**18** And his officers said to him: Who can despise the people of the Hebrews, who have such beautiful women, that we should not think it worth our while for their sakes to fight against them?

**19** And Judith seeing Holofernes sitting under a canopy, which was woven of purple and gold, with emeralds and precious stones:

**20** After she had looked on his face, bowed down to him, prostrating herself to the ground. And the servants of Holofernes lifted her up, by the command of their master.

## Chapter 11

Then Holofernes said to her: Be of good comfort, and fear not in thy heart: for I have never hurt a man that was willing to serve Nabuchodonosor the king.

**2** And if thy people had not despised me, I would never have lifted up my spear against them.

**3** But now tell me, for what cause hast thou

left them, and why it hath pleased thee to come to us?

**4** And Judith said to him: Receive the words of thy handmaid, for if thou wilt follow the words of thy handmaid, the Lord will do with thee a perfect thing.

**5** For as Nabuchodonosor the king of the earth liveth, and his power liveth which is in thee for chastising of all straying souls: not only men serve him through thee, but also the beasts of the field obey him.

**6** For the industry of thy mind is spoken of among all nations, and it is told through the whole world, that thou only art excellent, and mighty in all his kingdom, and thy discipline is cried up in all provinces.

**7** It is known also what Achior said, nor are we ignorant of what thou hast commanded to be done to him.

**8** For it is certain that our God is so offended with sins, that he hath sent word by his prophets to the people, that he will deliver them up for their sins.

**9** And because the children of Israel know they have offended their God, thy dread is upon them.

**10** Moreover also a famine hath come upon them, and for drought of water they are already to be counted among the dead.

**11** And they have a design even to kill their cattle, and to drink the blood of them.

**12** And the consecrated things of the Lord their God which God forbade them to touch, in corn, wine, and oil, these have they purposed to make use of, and they design to consume the things which they ought not to touch with their hands: therefore because they do these things, it is certain they will be given up to destruction.

**13** And I thy handmaid knowing this, am fled from them, and the Lord hath sent me to tell thee these very things.

**14** For I thy handmaid worship God even now that I am with thee, and thy handmaid will go out, and I will pray to God,

**15** And he will tell me when he will repay them for their sins, and I will come and tell thee, so that I may bring thee through the midst of Jerusalem, and thou shalt have all the people of Israel, as sheep that have no shepherd, and there shall not so much as one dog bark against thee:

**16** Because these things are told me by the providence of God.

**17** And because God is angry with them, I am sent to tell these very things to thee.

**18** And all these words pleased Holofernes, and his servants, and they admired her wisdom, and they said one to another:

**19** There is not such another woman upon earth in look, in beauty, and in sense of words.

**20** And Holofernes said to her: God hath done well who sent thee before the people, that thou mightest give them into our hands:

**21** And because thy promise is good, if thy God shall do this for me, he shall also be my God, and thou shalt be great in the house of Nabuchodonosor, and thy name shall be renowned through all the earth.

## Chapter 12

Then he ordered that she should go in where his treasures were laid up, and bade her tarry there, and he appointed what should be given her from his own table.

**2** And Judith answered him and said: Now I cannot eat of these things which thou commandest to be given me, lest sin come upon me: but I will eat of the things which I have brought.

**3** And Holofernes said to her: If these things which thou hast brought with thee fail thee,

what shall we do for thee?

**4** And Judith said: As thy soul liveth, my lord, thy handmaid shall not spend all these things till God do by my hand that which I have purposed. And his servants brought her into the tent which he had commanded.

**5** And when she was going in, she desired that she might have liberty to go out at night and before day to prayer, and to beseech the Lord.

**6** And he commanded his chamberlains, that she might go out and in, to adore her God as she pleased, for three days.

**7** And she went out in the nights into the valley of Bethulia, and washed herself in a fountain of water.

**8** And as she came up, she prayed to the Lord the God of Israel, that he would direct her way to the deliverance of his people.

**9** And going in, she remained pure in the tent, until she took her own meat in the evening.

**10** And it came to pass on the fourth day, that Holofernes made a supper for his servants, and said to Vagao his eunuch: Go, and persuade that Hebrew woman, to consent of her own accord to dwell with me.

**11** For it is looked upon as shameful among the Assyrians, if a woman mock a man, by doing so as to pass free from him.

**12** Then Vagao went in to Judith, and said: Let not my good maid be afraid to go in to my lord, that she may be honoured before his face, that she may eat with him and drink wine and be merry.

**13** And Judith answered him: Who am I, that I should gainsay my lord?

**14** All that shall be good and best before his eyes, I will do. And whatsoever shall please him, that shall be best to me all the days of my life.

**15** And she arose and dressed herself out with her garments, and going in she stood before his

face.

**16** And the heart of Holofernes was smitten, for he was burning with the desire of her.

**17** And Holofernes said to her: Drink now, and sit down and be merry; for thou hast found favour before me.

**18** And Judith said: I will drink my lord, because my life is magnified this day above all my days.

**19** And she took and ate and drank before him what her maid had prepared for her.

**20** And Holofernes was made merry on her occasion, and drank exceeding much wine, so much as he had never drunk in his life.

## Chapter 13

And when it was grown late, his servants made haste to their lodgings, and Vagao shut the chamber doors, and went his way.

**2** And they were all overcharged with wine.

**3** And Judith was alone in the chamber.

**4** But Holofernes lay on his bed, fast asleep, being exceedingly drunk.

**5** And Judith spoke to her maid to stand without before the chamber, and to watch:

**6** And Judith stood before the bed praying with tears, and the motion of her lips in silence,

**7** Saying: Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel, and in this hour look on the works of my hands, that as thou hast promised, thou mayst raise up Jerusalem thy city: and that I may bring to pass that which I have purposed, having a belief that it might be done by thee.

**8** And when she had said this, she went to the pillar that was at his bed's head, and loosed his sword that hung tied upon it.

**9** And when she had drawn it out, she took him by the hair of his head, and said: Strengthen

me, O Lord God, at this hour.

**10** And she struck twice upon his neck, and cut off his head, and took off his canopy from the pillars, and rolled away his headless body.

**11** And after a while she went out, and delivered the head of Holofernes to her maid, and bade her put it into her wallet.

**12** And they two went out according to their custom, as it were to prayer, and they passed the camp, and having compassed the valley, they came to the gate of the city.

**13** And Judith from afar off cried to the watchmen upon the walls: Open the gates for God is with us, who hath shewn his power in Israel.

**14** And it came to pass, when the men had heard her voice, that they called the ancients of the city.

**15** And all ran to meet her from the least to the greatest: for they now had no hopes that she would come.

**16** And lighting up lights they all gathered round about her: and she went up to a higher place, and commanded silence to be made. And when all had held their peace,

**17** Judith said: Praise ye the Lord our God, who hath not forsaken them that hope in him.

**18** And by me his handmaid he hath fulfilled his mercy, which he promised to the house of Israel: and he hath killed the enemy of his people by my hand this night.

**19** Then she brought forth the head of Holofernes out of the wallet, and shewed it them, saying: Behold the head of Holofernes the general of the army of the Assyrians, and behold his canopy, wherein he lay in his drunkenness, where the Lord our God slew him by the hand of a woman.

**20** But as the same Lord liveth, his angel hath been my keeper both going hence, and abiding there, and returning from thence hither: and the