

renowned through the whole earth.

{12:1} Then he commanded to bring her in where his plate was set; and bade that they should prepare for her of his own meats, and that she should drink of his own wine.

{12:2} And Judith said, I will not eat thereof, lest there be an offence: but provision shall be made for me of the things that I have brought.

{12:3} Then Holofernes said unto her, If thy provision should fail, how should we give thee the like? for there be none with us of thy nation.

{12:4} Then said Judith unto him As thy soul liveth, my lord, thine handmaid shall not spend those things that I have, before the Lord work by mine hand the things that he hath determined.

{12:5} Then the servants of Holofernes brought her into the tent, and she slept till midnight, and she arose when it was toward the morning watch,

{12:6} And sent to Holofernes, saving, Let my lord now command that thine handmaid may go forth unto prayer.

{12:7} Then Holofernes commanded his guard that they should not stay her: thus she abode in the camp three days, and went out in the night into the valley of Bethulia, and washed herself in a fountain of water by the camp.

{12:8} And when she came out, she besought the Lord God of Israel to direct her way to the raising up of the children of her people.

{12:9} So she came in clean, and remained in the tent, until she did eat her meat at evening.

{12:10} And in the fourth day Holofernes made a feast to his own servants only, and called none of the officers to the banquet.

{12:11} Then said he to Bagoas the eunuch, who had charge over all that he had, Go now, and persuade this Hebrew woman which is with thee, that she come unto us, and eat and drink with us.

{12:12} For, lo, it will be a shame for our person, if we shall let such a woman go, not having had her company; for if we draw her not unto us, she will laugh us to scorn.

{12:13} Then went Bagoas from the presence of Holofernes, and came to her, and he said, Let not this fair damsel fear to come to my lord, and to be honoured in his presence, and drink wine, and be merry with us and be made this day as one of the daughters of the Assyrians, which serve in the house of Nabuchodonosor.

{12:14} Then said Judith unto him, Who am I now, that I should gainsay my lord? surely whatsoever pleaseth him I will do speedily, and it shall be my joy unto the day of my death.

{12:15} So she arose, and decked herself with her apparel and all her woman's attire, and her maid went and laid soft skins on the ground for her over against Holofernes, which she had received of Bagoas for her daily use, that she might sit and eat upon them.

{12:16} Now when Judith came in and sat down, Holofernes his heart was ravished with her, and his mind was moved, and he desired greatly her company; for he waited a time to deceive her, from the day that he had seen her.

{12:17} Then said Holofernes unto her, Drink now, and be merry with us.

{12:18} So Judith said, I will drink now, my lord, because my life is magnified in me this day more than all the days since I was born.

{12:19} Then she took and ate and drank before him what her maid had prepared.

{12:20} And Holofernes took great delight in her, and drank more wine than he had drunk at any time in one day since he was born.

{13:1} Now when the evening was come, his servants made haste to depart, and Bagoas shut his tent without, and dismissed the waiters from the presence of his lord; and they went to their beds: for they were all weary, because the feast had been long.

{13:2} And Judith was left along in the tent, and Holofernes lying along upon his bed: for he was filled with wine.

{13:3} Now Judith had commanded her maid to stand without her bedchamber, and to wait for her. coming forth, as she did daily: for she said she would go forth to her prayers, and she spake to Bagoas according to the same purpose.

{13:4} So all went forth and none was left in the bedchamber, neither little nor great. Then Judith, standing by his bed, said in her heart, O Lord God of all power, look at this present upon the works of mine hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem.

{13:5} For now is the time to help thine inheritance, and to execute thine enterprizes to the destruction of the enemies which are risen against us.

{13:6} Then she came to the pillar of the bed, which was at Holofernes' head, and took down his fauchion from thence,

{13:7} And approached to his bed, and took hold of the hair of his head, and said, Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel, this day.

{13:8} And she smote twice upon his neck with all her might, and she took away his head from him.

{13:9} And tumbled his body down from the bed, and pulled down the canopy from the pillars; and anon after she went forth, and gave Holofernes his head to her maid;

{13:10} And she put it in her bag of meat: so they twain went together according to their custom unto prayer: and when they passed the camp, they compassed the valley, and went up the mountain of Bethulia, and came to the gates thereof.

{13:11} Then said Judith afar off, to the watchmen at the gate, Open, open now the gate: God, even our God, is with

us, to shew his power yet in Jerusalem, and his forces against the enemy, as he hath even done this day.

{13:12} Now when the men of her city heard her voice, they made haste to go down to the gate of their city, and they called the elders of the city.

{13:13} And then they ran all together, both small and great, for it was strange unto them that she was come: so they opened the gate, and received them, and made a fire for a light, and stood round about them.

{13:14} Then she said to them with a loud voice, Praise, praise God, praise God, I say, for he hath not taken away his mercy from the house of Israel, but hath destroyed our enemies by mine hands this night.

{13:15} So she took the head out of the bag, and shewed it, and said unto them, behold the head of Holofernes, the chief captain of the army of Assur, and behold the canopy, wherein he did lie in his drunkenness; and the Lord hath smitten him by the hand of a woman.

{13:16} As the Lord liveth, who hath kept me in my way that I went, my countenance hath deceived him to his destruction, and yet hath he not committed sin with me, to defile and shame me.

{13:17} Then all the people were wonderfully astonished, and bowed themselves and worshipped God, and said with one accord, Blessed be thou, O our God, which hast this day brought to nought the enemies of thy people.

{13:18} Then said Ozias unto her, O daughter, blessed art thou of the most high God above all the women upon the earth; and blessed be the Lord God, which hath created the heavens and the earth, which hath directed thee to the cutting off of the head of the chief of our enemies.

{13:19} For this thy confidence shall not depart from the heart of men, which remember the power of God for ever.

{13:20} And God turn these things to thee for a perpetual praise, to visit thee in good things because thou hast not spared thy life for the affliction of our nation, but hast revenged our ruin, walking a straight way before our God. And all the people said; So be it, so be it.

{14:1} Then said Judith unto them, Hear me now, my brethren, and take this head, and hang it upon the highest place of your walls.

{14:2} And so soon as the morning shall appear, and the sun shall come forth upon the earth, take ye every one his weapons, and go forth every valiant man out of the city, and set ye a captain over them, as though ye would go down into the field toward the watch of the Assyrians; but go not down.

{14:3} Then they shall take their armour, and shall go into their camp, and raise up the captains of the army of Assur, and shall run to the tent of Holofernes, but shall not find him: then fear shall fall upon them, and they shall flee before your face.

{14:4} So ye, and all that inhabit the coast of Israel, shall pursue them, and overthrow them as they go.

{14:5} But before ye do these things, call me Achior the

Ammonite, that he may see and know him that despised the house of Israel, and that sent him to us as it were to his death.

{14:6} Then they called Achior out of the house of Ozias; and when he was come, and saw the head of Holofernes in a man's hand in the assembly of the people, he fell down on his face, and his spirit failed.

{14:7} But when they had recovered him, he fell at Judith's feet, and revered her, and said, Blessed art thou in all the tabernacles of Juda, and in all nations, which hearing thy name shall be astonished.

{14:8} Now therefore tell me all the things that thou hast done in these days. Then Judith declared unto him in the midst of the people all that she had done, from the day that she went forth until that hour she spake unto them.

{14:9} And when she had left off speaking, the people shouted with a loud voice, and made a joyful noise in their city.

{14:10} And when Achior had seen all that the God of Israel had done, he believed in God greatly, and circumcised the flesh of his foreskin, and was joined unto the house of Israel unto this day.

{14:11} And as soon as the morning arose, they hanged the head of Holofernes upon the wall, and every man took his weapons, and they went forth by bands unto the straits of the mountain.

{14:12} But when the Assyrians saw them, they sent to their leaders, which came to their captains and tribunes, and to every one of their rulers.

{14:13} So they came to Holofernes' tent, and said to him that had the charge of all his things, Waken now our lord: for the slaves have been bold to come down against us to battle, that they may be utterly destroyed.

{14:14} Then went in Bagoas, and knocked at the door of the tent; for he thought that he had slept with Judith.

{14:15} But because none answered, he opened it, and went into the bedchamber, and found him cast upon the floor dead, and his head was taken from him.

{14:16} Therefore he cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and sighing, and a mighty cry, and rent his garments.

{14:17} After he went into the tent where Judith lodged: and when he found her not, he leaped out to the people, and cried,

{14:18} These slaves have dealt treacherously; one woman of the Hebrews hath brought shame upon the house of king Nabuchodonosor: for, behold, Holofernes lieth upon the ground without a head.

{14:19} When the captains of the Assyrians' army heard these words, they rent their coats and their minds were wonderfully troubled, and there was a cry and a very great noise throughout the camp.

{15:1} And when they that were in the tents heard, they were astonished at the thing that was done.

{15:2} And fear and trembling fell upon them, so that there was no man that durst abide in the sight of his neighbour, but rushing out all together, they fled into every way of the plain, and of the hill country.

{15:3} They also that had camped in the mountains round about Bethulia fled away. Then the children of Israel, every one that was a warrior among them, rushed out upon them.

{15:4} Then sent Ozias to Betomasthem, and to Bebai, and Chobai, and Cola and to all the coasts of Israel, such as should tell the things that were done, and that all should rush forth upon their enemies to destroy them.

{15:5} Now when the children of Israel heard it, they all fell upon them with one consent, and slew them unto Chobai: likewise also they that came from Jerusalem, and from all the hill country, (for men had told them what things were done in the camp of their enemies) and they that were in Galaad, and in Galilee, chased them with a great slaughter, until they were past Damascus and the borders thereof.

{15:6} And the residue that dwelt at Bethulia, fell upon the camp of Assur, and spoiled them, and were greatly enriched.

{15:7} 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, gat many spoils: for the multitude was very great.

{15:8} Then Joacim the high priest, and the ancients of the children of Israel that dwelt in Jerusalem, came to behold the good things that God had shewed to Israel, and to see Judith, and to salute her.

{15:9} And when they came unto her, they blessed her with one accord, and said unto her, Thou art the exaltation of Jerusalem, thou art the great glory of Israel, thou art the great rejoicing of our nation:

{15:10} Thou hast done all these things by thine hand: thou hast done much good to Israel, and God is pleased therewith: blessed be thou of the Almighty Lord for evermore. And all the people said, So be it.

{15:11} And the people spoiled the camp the space of thirty days: and they gave unto Judith Holofernes his tent, and all his plate, and beds, and vessels, and all his stuff: and she took it and laid it on her mule; and made ready her carts, and laid them thereon.

{15:12} Then all the women of Israel ran together to see her, and blessed her, and made a dance among them for her: and she took branches in her hand, and gave also to the women that were with her.

{15:13} And they put a garland of olive upon her and her maid that was with her, and she went before all the people in the dance, leading all the women: and all the men of Israel followed in their armour with garlands, and with songs in their mouths.

{16:1} Then Judith began to sing this thanksgiving in all Israel, and all the people sang after her this song of praise.

{16:2} And Judith said, Begin unto my God with timbrels, sing unto my Lord with cymbals: tune unto him a

new psalm: exalt him, and call upon his name.

{16:3} For God breaketh the battles: for among the camps in the midst of the people he hath delivered me out of the hands of them that persecuted me.

{16:4} Assur came out of the mountains from the north, he came with ten thousands of his army, the multitude whereof stopped the torrents, and their horsemen have covered the hills.

{16:5} He bragged that he would burn up my borders, and kill my young men with the sword, and dash the sucking children against the ground, and make mine infants as a prey, and my virgins as a spoil.

{16:6} But the Almighty Lord hath disappointed them by the hand of a woman.

{16:7} For the mighty one did not fall by the young men, neither did the sons of the Titans smite him, nor high giants set upon him: but Judith the daughter of Merari weakened him with the beauty of her countenance.

{16:8} For she put off the garment of her widowhood for the exaltation of those that were oppressed in Israel, and anointed her face with ointment, and bound her hair in a tire, and took a linen garment to deceive him.

{16:9} Her sandals ravished his eyes, her beauty took his mind prisoner, and the fauchion passed through his neck.

{16:10} The Persians quaked at her boldness, and the Medes were daunted at her hardiness.

{16:11} Then my afflicted shouted for joy, and my weak ones cried aloud; but they were astonished: these lifted up their voices, but they were overthrown.

{16:12} The sons of the damsels have pierced them through, and wounded them as fugitives' children: they perished by the battle of the Lord.

{16:13} I will sing unto the Lord a new song: O Lord, thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength, and invincible.

{16:14} Let all creatures serve 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 voice.

{16:15} For the mountains shall be moved from their foundations with the waters, the rocks shall melt as wax at thy presence: yet thou art merciful to them that fear thee.

{16:16} For all sacrifice is too little for a sweet savour unto thee, and all the fat is not sufficient for thy burnt offering: but he that feareth the Lord is great at all times.

{16:17} Woe to the nations that rise up against my kindred! the Lord Almighty will take vengeance of them in the day of judgment, in putting fire and worms in their flesh; and they shall feel them, and weep for ever.

{16:18} Now as soon as they entered into Jerusalem, they worshipped the Lord; and as soon as the people were purified, they offered their burnt offerings, and their free offerings, and their gifts.

{16:19} Judith also dedicated all the stuff of Holofernes, which the people had given her, and gave the canopy, which she had taken out of his bedchamber, for a gift unto the Lord.

{16:20} So the people continued feasting in Jerusalem before the sanctuary for the space of three months and Judith remained with them.

{16:21} After this time every one returned to his own inheritance, and Judith went to Bethulia, and remained in her own possession, and was in her time honourable in all the country.

{16:22} And many desired her, but none knew her all the days of her life, after that Manasses her husband was dead, and was gathered to his people.

{16:23} But she increased more and more in honour, and waxed old in her husband's house, being an hundred and five years old, and made her maid free; so she died in Bethulia: and they buried her in the cave of her husband Manasses.

{16:24} And the house of Israel lamented her seven days: and before she died, she did distribute her goods to all them that were nearest of kindred to Manasses her husband, and to them that were the nearest of her kindred.

{16:25} And there was none that made the children of Israel any more

The Rest of the Chapters of the Book of Esther

{10:4} Then Mardocheus said, God hath done these things.

{10:5} For I remember a dream which I saw concerning these matters, and nothing thereof hath failed.

{10:6} A little fountain became a river, and there was light, and the sun, and much water: this river is Esther, whom the king married, and made queen:

{10:7} And the two dragons are I and Aman.

{10:8} And the nations were those that were assembled to destroy the name of the Jews:

{10:9} And my nation is this Israel, which cried to God, and were saved: for the Lord hath saved his people, and the Lord hath delivered us from all those evils, and God hath wrought signs and great wonders, which have not been done among the Gentiles.

{10:10} Therefore hath he made two lots, one for the people of God, and another for all the Gentiles.

{10:11} And these two lots came at the hour, and time, and day of judgment, before God among all nations.

{10:12} So God remembered his people, and justified his inheritance.

{10:13} Therefore those days shall be unto them in the month Adar, the fourteenth and fifteenth day of the same month, with an assembly, and joy, and with gladness before God, according to the generations for ever among his people.

{11:1} In the fourth year of the reign of Ptolemeus and Cleopatra, Dositheus, who said he was a priest and Levite, and Ptolemeus his son, brought this epistle of Phurim, which they said was the same, and that Lysimachus the son of Ptolemeus, that was in Jerusalem, had interpreted it.

{11:2} In the second year of the reign of Artexerxes the great, in the first day of the month Nisan, Mardocheus the son of Jairus, the son of Semei, the son of Cisai, of the tribe of Benjamin, had a dream;

{11:3} Who was a Jew, and dwelt in the city of Susa, a great man, being a servitor in the king's court.

{11:4} He was also one of the captives, which Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon carried from Jerusalem with Jechonias king of Judea; and this was his dream:

{11:5} Behold a noise of a tumult, with thunder, and earthquakes, and uproar in the land:

{11:6} And, behold, two great dragons came forth ready to fight, and their cry was great.

{11:7} And at their cry all nations were prepared to battle, that they might fight against the righteous people.

{11:8} And lo a day of darkness and obscurity, tribulation and anguish, affliction and great uproar, upon earth.

{11:9} And the whole righteous nation was troubled, fearing their own evils, and were ready to perish.

{11:10} Then they cried unto God, and upon their cry, as it were from a little fountain, was made a great flood, even much water.

{11:11} The light and the sun rose up, and the lowly were exalted, and devoured the glorious.

{11:12} Now when Mardocheus, who had seen this dream, and what God had determined to do, was awake, he bare this dream in mind, and until night by all means was desirous to know it.

{12:1} And Mardocheus took his rest in the court with Gabatha and Tharra, the two eunuchs of the king, and keepers of the palace.

{12:2} And he heard their devices, and searched out their purposes, and learned that they were about to lay hands upon Artexerxes the king; and so he certified the king of them.

{12:3} Then the king examined the two eunuchs, and after that they had confessed it, they were strangled.

{12:4} And the king made a record of these things, and Mardocheus also wrote thereof.

{12:5} So the king commanded, Mardocheus to serve in the court, and for this he rewarded him.

{12:6} Howbeit Aman the son of Amadathus the Agagite, who was in great honour with the king, sought to molest Mardocheus and his people because of the two eunuchs of the king.

{13:1} The copy of the letters was this: The great king Artexerxes writeth these things to the princes and governours that are under him from India unto Ethiopia in an hundred and seven and twenty provinces.

{13:2} After that I became lord over many nations and had dominion over the whole world, not lifted up with presumption of my authority, but carrying myself always with equity and mildness, I purposed to settle my subjects continually in a quiet life, and making my kingdom peaceable, and open for passage to the utmost coasts, to renew peace, which is desired of all men.

{13:3} Now when I asked my counsellors how this might be brought to pass, Aman, that excelled in wisdom among us, and was approved for his constant good will and steadfast fidelity, and had the honour of the second place in the kingdom,

{13:4} Declared unto us, that in all nations throughout the world there was scattered a certain malicious people, that had laws contrary to ail nations, and continually despised the commandments of kings, so as the uniting of our kingdoms, honourably intended by us cannot go forward.

{13:5} Seeing then we understand that this people alone is continually in opposition unto all men, differing in the strange manner of their laws, and evil affected to our state, working all the mischief they can that our kingdom may not be firmly established:

{13:6} Therefore have we commanded, that all they that are signified in writing unto you by Aman, who is ordained over the affairs, and is next unto us, shall all, with their wives and children, be utterly destroyed by the sword of their enemies, without all mercy and pity, the fourteenth day of the twelfth month Adar of this present year:

{13:7} That they, who of old and now also are malicious, may in one day with violence go into the grave, and so ever hereafter cause our affairs to be well settled, and without trouble.

{13:8} Then Mardocheus thought upon all the works of the Lord, and made his prayer unto him,

{13:9} Saying, O Lord, Lord, the King Almighty: for the whole world is in thy power, and if thou hast appointed to save Israel, there is no man that can gainsay thee:

{13:10} For thou hast made heaven and earth, and all the wondrous things under the heaven.

{13:11} Thou art Lord of all things, and there is no man that can resist thee, which art the Lord.

{13:12} Thou knowest all things, and thou knowest, Lord, that it was neither in contempt nor pride, nor for any desire of glory, that I did not bow down to proud Aman.

{13:13} For I could have been content with good will for the salvation of Israel to kiss the soles of his feet.

{13:14} But I did this, that I might not prefer the glory of man above the glory of God: neither will I worship any but thee, O God, neither will I do it in pride.

{13:15} And now, O Lord God and King, spare thy people: for their eyes are upon us to bring us to nought; yea, they desire to destroy the inheritance, that hath been thine from the beginning.

{13:16} Despise not the portion, which thou hast delivered out of Egypt for thine own self.

{13:17} Hear my prayer, and be merciful unto thine inheritance: turn our sorrow into joy, that we may live, O Lord, and praise thy name: and destroy not the mouths of them that praise thee, O Lord.

{13:18} All Israel in like manner cried most earnestly unto the Lord, because their death was before their eyes.

{14:1} Queen Esther also, being in fear of death, resorted unto the Lord:

{14:2} And laid away her glorious apparel, and put on the garments of anguish and mourning: and instead of precious ointments, she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she humbled her body greatly, and all the places of her joy she filled with her torn hair.

{14:3} And she prayed unto the Lord God of Israel, saying, O my Lord, thou only art our King: help me, desolate woman, which have no helper but thee:

{14:4} For my danger is in mine hand.

{14:5} From my youth up I have heard in the tribe of my family that thou, O Lord, tookest Israel from among all

people, and our fathers from all their predecessors, for a perpetual inheritance, and thou hast performed whatsoever thou didst promise them.

{14:6} And now we have sinned before thee: therefore hast thou given us into the hands of our enemies,

{14:7} Because we worshipped their gods: O Lord, thou art righteous.

{14:8} Nevertheless it satisfieth them not, that we are in bitter captivity: but they have stricken hands with their idols,

{14:9} That they will abolish the thing that thou with thy mouth hast ordained, and destroy thine inheritance, and stop the mouth of them that praise thee, and quench the glory of thy house, and of thine altar,

{14:10} And open the mouths of the heathen to set forth the praises of the idols, and to magnify a fleshly king for ever.

{14:11} O Lord, give not thy sceptre unto them that be nothing, and let them not laugh at our fall; but turn their device upon themselves, and make him an example, that hath begun this against us.

{14:12} Remember, O Lord, make thyself known in time of our affliction, and give me boldness, O King of the nations, and Lord of all power.

{14:13} Give me eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion: turn his heart to hate him that fighteth against us, that there may be an end of him, and of all that are likeminded to him:

{14:14} But deliver us with thine hand, and help me that am desolate, and which have no other help but thee.

{14:15} Thou knowest all things, O Lord; thou knowest that I hate the glory of the unrighteous, and abhor the bed of the uncircumcised, and of all the heathen.

{14:16} Thou knowest my necessity: for I abhor the sign of my high estate, which is upon mine head in the days wherein I shew myself, and that I abhor it as a menstruous rag, and that I wear it not when I am private by myself.

{14:17} And that thine handmaid hath not eaten at Aman's table, and that I have not greatly esteemed the king's feast, nor drunk the wine of the drink offerings.

{14:18} Neither had thine handmaid any joy since the day that I was brought hither to this present, but in thee, O Lord God of Abraham.

{14:19} O thou mighty God above all, hear the voice of the forlorn and deliver us out of the hands of the mischievous, and deliver me out of my fear.

{15:1} And upon the third day, when she had ended her prayers, she laid away her mourning garments, and put on her glorious apparel.

{15:2} And being gloriously adorned, after she had called upon God, who is the beholder and saviour of all things, she took two maids with her:

{15:3} And upon the one she leaned, as carrying herself