

JUDITH

CHAPTER 1

In the twelfth year of the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar, who reigned in Nineveh, the great city; in the days of Arphaxad, which reigned over the Medes in Ecbatana, ²and built in Ecbatana walls round about of stones hewn three cubits broad and six cubits long, and made the height of the wall seventy cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits: ³and set the towers thereof upon the gates of it, an hundred cubits high, and the breadth thereof in the foundation threescore cubits: ⁴and he made the gates thereof, even gates that were raised to the height of seventy cubits, and the breadth of them was forty cubits, for the going forth of his mighty armies, and for the setting in array of his footmen. ⁵Even in those days king Nebuchadnezzar made war with king Arphaxad in the great plain, which is the plain in the borders of Ragau. ⁶And there came unto him all they that dwelt in the hill country, and all that dwelt by Euphrates, and Tigris, and Hydaspes, and the plain of Arioch the king of the Elamites, and very many nations of the sons of Chaldea assembled themselves to the battle. ⁷Then Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians sent unto all that dwelt in Persia, and to all that dwelt westward, and to those that dwelt in Cilicia, and Damascus, and Lebanon, and Antilebanon, and to all that dwelt upon the sea coast, ⁸and to those among the nations that were of Carmel, and Gilead, and the higher Galilee, and the great plain of Esdraelon, ⁹and to all that were in Samaria and the cities thereof, and beyond Jordan unto Jerusalem and Bethany, and Chelous, and Kadesh, and the river of Egypt, and Taphanhes, and Rameses, and all of the land of Goshen, ¹⁰until ye come beyond Tanis and Memphis, and to all the inhabitants of Egypt, until ye come to the borders of Ethiopia. ¹¹But all the inhabitants of the land made light of the commandment of Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians, neither went they with him to the battle; for they were not afraid of him: yea, he was before them as one man, and they sent away his ambassadors from them without effect, and with disgrace. ¹²Therefore Nebuchadnezzar was very angry with all this country, and sware by his throne and kingdom, that he would surely be avenged upon all those coasts of Cilicia, and Damascus, and Syria, and that he would slay with the sword all the inhabitants of the land of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and all Judea, and all that were in Egypt, till ye come to the borders of the two seas. ¹³Then he marched in battle array with his power against king Arphaxad in the seventeenth year, and he prevailed in his battle: for he overthrew all the power of Arphaxad, and all his horsemen, and all his chariots, ¹⁴and became lord of his cities, and came unto Ecbatana, and took the towers, and spoiled the streets thereof, and turned the beauty thereof into shame. ¹⁵He took also Arphaxad in the mountains of Ragau, and smote him through with his darts, and destroyed him utterly that day. ¹⁶So he returned, both he and all his company of sundry nations, being a very great multitude of men of war, and

there he took his ease, and banqueted, both he and his army, an hundred and twenty days.

CHAPTER 2

And in the eighteenth year, the two and twentieth day of the first month, there was talk in the house of Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians, that he should, as he said, avenge himself on all the earth. ²So he called unto him all his officers, and all his nobles, and communicated with them his secret counsel, and concluded the afflicting of the whole earth out of his own mouth. ³Then they decreed to destroy all flesh, that did not obey the commandment of his mouth. ⁴And when he had ended his counsel, Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians called Holofernes the chief captain of his army, which was next unto him, and said unto him, ⁵Thus saith the great king, the lord of the whole earth, Behold, thou shalt go forth from my presence, and take with thee the men that trust in their own strength, of footmen an hundred and twenty thousand; and the number of horses with their riders twelve thousand. ⁶And thou shalt go against all the west country, because they disobeyed my commandment: ⁷and thou shalt declare unto them, that they prepare for me earth and water: for I will go forth in my wrath against them, and will cover the whole face of the earth with the feet of mine army, and I will give them for a spoil unto them: ⁸so that their slain shall fill their valleys and brooks, and the river shall be filled with their dead, till it overflow: ⁹and I will lead them captives to the utmost parts of all the earth. ¹⁰Thou therefore shalt go forth, and take beforehand for me all their coasts: and if they will yield themselves unto thee, thou shalt reserve them for me till the day of their punishment. ¹¹But concerning them that rebel, let not thine eye spare them; but put them to the slaughter, and spoil them wheresoever thou goest. ¹²For as I live, and by the power of my kingdom, whatsoever I have spoken, that will I do by mine hand. ¹³And take thou heed that thou transgress none of the commandments of thy lord, but accomplish them fully, as I have commanded thee, and defer not to do them. ¹⁴Then Holofernes went forth from the presence of his lord, and called all the governors and captains, and the officers of the army of Assyria; ¹⁵and he mustered the chosen men for the battle, as his lord had commanded him, unto an hundred and twenty thousand, and twelve thousand archers on horseback; ¹⁶and he ranged them, as a great army is ordered for the war. ¹⁷And he took camels and asses for their carriages, a very great number; and sheep and oxen and goats without number for their provision: ¹⁸and plenty of victual for every man of the army, and very much gold and silver out of the king's house. ¹⁹Then he went forth and all his power to go before king Nebuchadnezzar in the voyage, and to cover all the face of the earth westward with their chariots, and horsemen, and their chosen footmen. ²⁰A great number also of sundry countries came with them like locusts, and like the sand of the earth: for the multitude was without number. ²¹And they went forth of Nineveh three day's journey toward

the plain of Bectileth, and pitched from Bectileth near the mountain which is at the left hand of the upper Cilicia. ²²Then he took all his army, his footmen, and horsemen, and chariots, and went from thence into the hill country; ²³and destroyed Put and Lud, and spoiled all the sons of Rassis, and the sons of Ishmael, which were toward the wilderness at the south of the land of the Chelleans. ²⁴Then he went over Euphrates, and went through Mesopotamia, and destroyed all the high cities that were upon the river Abron, till ye come to the sea. ²⁵And he took the borders of Cilicia, and killed all that resisted him, and came to the borders of Japheth, which were toward the south, over against Arabia. ²⁶He compassed also all the sons of Midian, and burned up their tabernacles, and spoiled their sheepecotes. ²⁷Then he went down into the plain of Damascus in the time of wheat harvest, and burnt up all their fields, and destroyed their flocks and their herds; also he despoiled their cities, and utterly wasted their countries, and smote all their young men with the edge of the sword. ²⁸Therefore the fear and dread of him fell upon all the inhabitants of the sea coasts, which were in Sidon and Tyre, and them that dwelt in Sur and Ocina, and all that dwelt in Jamnia; and they that dwelt in Azotus and Ashkelon feared him greatly.

CHAPTER 3

So they sent ambassadors unto him to treat of peace, saying, ²Behold, we the servants of Nebuchadnezzar the great king lie before thee; use us as shall be good in thy sight. ³Behold, our houses, and all our places, and all our fields of wheat, and flocks, and herds, and all the lodges of our tents, lie before thy face; use them as it pleaseth thee. ⁴Behold, even our cities and the inhabitants thereof are thy servants; come and deal with them as seemeth good unto thee. ⁵So the men came to Holofernes, and declared unto him after this manner. ⁶Then came he down toward the sea coast, both he and his army, and set garrisons in the high cities, and took out of them chosen men for aid. ⁷So they and all the country round about received them with garlands, with dances, and with timbrels. ⁸Yet did he cast down their frontiers, and cut down their groves: for he had decreed to destroy all the gods of the land, that all nations should worship Nebuchadnezzar only, and that all tongues and tribes should call upon him as god. ⁹Also he came over against Esdraelon near unto Dothan, over against the great strait of Judea: ¹⁰and he pitched between Geba and Scythopolis, and there he tarried a whole month, that he might gather together all the carriages of his army.

CHAPTER 4

Now the sons of Israel, that dwelt in Judah, heard all that Holofernes the chief captain of Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians had done to the nations, and after what manner he had spoiled all their temples, and brought

them to nought. ²Therefore they were exceedingly afraid of him, and were troubled for Jerusalem, and for the temple of the Lord their God: ³for they were newly returned from the captivity, and all the people of Judah were lately gathered together: and the vessels, and the altar, and the house, were sanctified after the profanation. ⁴Therefore they sent into all the coasts of Samaria, and the villages, and to Beth-horon, and Belmen, and Jericho, and to Choba, and Aesora, and to the valley of Salem: ⁵and possessed themselves beforehand of all the tops of the high mountains, and fortified the villages that were in them, and laid up victuals for the provision of war: for their fields were of late reaped. ⁶Also Joakim the high priest, which was in those days in Jerusalem, wrote to them that dwelt in Bethulia, and Betomestham, which is over against Esdraelon toward the open country, near to Dothan, ⁷charging them to keep the passages of the hill country: for by them there was an entrance into Judah, and it was easy to stop them that would come up, because the passage was strait, for two men at the most. ⁸And the sons of Israel did as Joakim the high priest had commanded them, with the ancients of all the people of Israel, which dwelt at Jerusalem. ⁹Then every man of Israel cried to God with great fervency, and with great vehemency did they humble their souls: ¹⁰both they, and their wives, and their children, and their cattle, and every stranger and hireling, and their servants bought with money, put sackcloth upon their loins. ¹¹Thus every man and woman, and the little children, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, fell before the temple, and cast ashes upon their heads, and spread out their sackcloth before the face of the Lord: also they put sackcloth about the altar, ¹²and cried to the God of Israel all with one consent earnestly, that he would not give their children for a prey, and their wives for a spoil, and the cities of their inheritance to destruction, and the sanctuary to profanation and reproach, and for the nations to rejoice at. ¹³So God heard their prayers, and looked upon their afflictions: for the people fasted many days in all Judah and Jerusalem before the sanctuary of the Lord Almighty. ¹⁴And Joakim the high priest, and all the priests that stood before the Lord, and they which ministered unto the Lord, had their loins girt with sackcloth, and offered the daily burnt offerings, with the vows and free gifts of the people, ¹⁵and had ashes on their mitres, and cried unto the Lord with all their power, that he would look upon all the house of Israel graciously.

CHAPTER 5

Then was it declared to Holofernes, the chief captain of the army of Assyria, that the sons of Israel had prepared for war, and had shut up the passages of the hill country, and had fortified the tops of the high hills, and had laid impediments in the champaign countries: ²wherewith he was very angry, and called all the princes of Moab, and the captains of Ammon, and all the governors of the sea coast, ³and he said unto them, Tell me now, ye sons of Canaan, who this people is, that dwelleth in the hill country, and what are

the cities that they inhabit, and what is the multitude of their army, and wherein is their power and strength, and what king is set over them, or captain of their army; ⁴and why have they determined not to come and meet me, more than all the inhabitants of the west? ⁵Then said Achior, the captain of all the sons of Ammon, Let my lord now hear a word from the mouth of thy servant, and I will declare unto thee the truth concerning this people which dwelleth near thee, and inhabiteth the hill countries: and there shall no lie come out of the mouth of thy servant. ⁶This people are descended of the Chaldeans: ⁷and they sojourned heretofore in Mesopotamia, because they would not follow the gods of their fathers, which were in the land of Chaldea. ⁸For they left the way of their ancestors, and worshipped the God of heaven, the God Whom they knew: so they cast them out from the face of their gods, and they fled into Mesopotamia, and sojourned there many days. ⁹Then their God commanded them to depart from the place where they sojourned, and to go into the land of Canaan: where they dwelt, and were increased with gold and silver, and very much cattle. ¹⁰But when a famine covered all the land of Canaan, they went down into Egypt, and sojourned there, while they were nourished, and became there a great multitude, so that one could not number their nation. ¹¹Therefore the king of Egypt rose up against them, and dealt subtilly with them, and brought them low with labouring in brick, and made them slaves. ¹²Then they cried unto their God, and He smote all the land of Egypt with incurable plagues: so that the Egyptians cast them out of their sight. ¹³And the Lord dried the Red Sea before them, ¹⁴and brought them forth to mount Sinai, and Kadesh-barnea, and cast forth all that dwelt in the wilderness. ¹⁵So they dwelt in the land of the Amorites, and they destroyed by their strength all them of Heshbon, and passing over Jordan they possessed all the hill country. ¹⁶And they cast forth before them the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Shechemite, and all the Gergezites, and they dwelt in that country many days. ¹⁷And whilst they sinned not before their God, they prospered, because the God that hateth iniquity was with them. ¹⁸But when they departed from the way which He appointed them, they were destroyed in many battles very sore, and were led captive into a land that was not theirs, and the temple of their God was cast to the ground, and their cities were taken by the enemies. ¹⁹But now they are returned to their God, and are come up from the places where they were scattered, and have possessed Jerusalem, where their sanctuary is, and are seated in the hill country: for it was desolate. ²⁰Now therefore, my lord and governor, if there be any error in this people, and if they sin against their God, let us consider that this shall be their ruin, and let us go up, and we shall overcome them. ²¹But if there be no iniquity in their nation, let my lord now pass by, lest their Lord defend them, and their God be for them, and we become a reproach before all the world. ²²And when Achior had finished these sayings, all the people standing round about the tent murmured, and the chief men of Holofernes, and all that dwelt by the sea side, and in Moab, spake that he should kill him. ²³For, say they, we will not be afraid of the face of the sons of Israel: for, lo, it is a people that have no strength nor power for a strong battle. ²⁴Now therefore, Lord

Holofernes, we will go up, and they shall be a prey to be devoured of all thine army.

CHAPTER 6

And when the tumult of men that were about the council was ceased, Holofernes the chief captain of the army of Assyria said unto Achior and all the Moabites before all the company of other nations, ²And who art thou, Achior, and the hirelings of Ephraim, that thou hast prophesied among us as to day, and hast said, that we should not make war with the people of Israel, because their God will defend them; and who is God but Nebuchadnezzar? ³He will send his power, and will destroy them from the face of the earth, and their God shall not deliver them: but we his servants will destroy them as one man; for they are not able to sustain the power of our horses. ⁴For with them we will tread them under foot, and their mountain shall be drunken with their blood, and their fields shall be filled with their dead bodies, and their footsteps shall not be able to stand before us, for they shall utterly perish, saith king Nebuchadnezzar, lord of all the earth: for he said, None of my words shall be in vain. ⁵And thou, Achior, an hireling of Ammon, which hast spoken these words in the day of thine iniquity, shall see my face no more from this day, until I take vengeance of this nation that came out of Egypt. ⁶And then shall the sword of mine army, and the multitude of them that serve me, pass through thy sides, and thou shalt fall among their slain, when I return. ⁷Now therefore my servants shall bring thee back into the hill country, and shall set thee in one of the cities of the passages: ⁸and thou shalt not perish, till thou be destroyed with them. ⁹And if thou persuade thyself in thy mind that they shall not be taken, let not thy countenance fall: I have spoken it, and none of my words shall be in vain. ¹⁰Then Holofernes commanded his servants, that waited in his tent, to take Achior, and bring him to Bethulia, and deliver him into the hands of the sons of Israel. ¹¹So his servants took him, and brought him out of the camp into the plain, and they went from the midst of the plain into the hill country, and came unto the fountains that were under Bethulia. ¹²And when the men of the city saw them, they took up their weapons, and went out of the city to the top of the hill: and every man that used a sling kept them from coming up by casting of stones against them. ¹³Nevertheless having gotten privily under the hill, they bound Achior, and cast him down, and left him at the foot of the hill, and returned to their lord. ¹⁴But the Israelites descended from their city, and came unto him, and loosed him, and brought him into Bethulia, and presented him to the governors of the city: ¹⁵which were in those days Uziah the son of Micah, of the tribe of Simeon, and Chabris the son of Gothoniel, and Charmis the son of Melchiel. ¹⁶And they called together all the ancients of the city, and all their youth ran together, and their women, to the assembly, and they set Achior in the midst of all their people. Then Uziah asked him of that which was done. ¹⁷And he answered and declared unto

them the words of the council of Holofernes, and all the words that he had spoken in the midst of the princes of Assyria, and whatsoever Holofernes had spoken proudly against the house of Israel. ¹⁸Then the people fell down, and worshipped God, and cried unto God, saying, ¹⁹O Lord God of heaven, behold their pride, and pity the low estate of our nations, and look upon the face of those that are sanctified unto Thee this day. ²⁰Then they comforted Achior, and praised him greatly. ²¹And Uzziah took him out of the assembly into his house, and made a feast to the elders: and they called on the God of Israel all that night for help.

CHAPTER 7

The next day Holofernes commanded all his army, and all his people which were come to take his part, that they should remove their camp against Bethulia, to take aforehand the ascents of the hill country, and to make war against the sons of Israel. ²Then their strong men removed their camps in that day, and the army of the men of war was an hundred and seventy thousand footmen, and twelve thousand horsemen, beside the baggage, and other men that were afoot among them, a very great multitude. ³And they camped in the valley near unto Bethulia, by the fountain, and they spread themselves in breadth over Dothan even to Belbaim, and in length from Bethulia unto Cyamon, which is over against Esdraelom. ⁴Now the sons of Israel, when they saw the multitude of them, were greatly troubled, and said every one to his neighbour, Now will these men lick up the face of the earth; for neither the high mountains, nor the valleys, nor the hills, are able to bear their weight. ⁵Then every man took up his weapons of war, and when they had kindled fires upon their towers, they remained and watched all that night. ⁶But in the second day Holofernes brought forth all his horsemen in the sight of the sons of Israel which were in Bethulia, ⁷and viewed the passages up to the city, and came to the fountains of their waters, and took them, and set garrisons of war over them, and he himself removed toward his people. ⁸Then came unto him all the chief of the sons of Esau, and all the governors of the people of Moab, and the captains of the sea coast, and said, ⁹Let our lord now hear a word, that there be not an overthrow in thine army. ¹⁰For this people of the sons of Israel do not trust in their spears, but in the height of the mountains wherein they dwell, because it is not easy to come up to the tops of their mountains. ¹¹Now therefore, my lord, fight not against them in battle array, and there shall not so much as one man of thy people perish. ¹²Remain in thy camp, and keep all the men of thine army, and let thy servants get into their hands the fountain of water, which issueth forth of the foot of the mountain: ¹³for all the inhabitants of Bethulia have their water thence; so shall thirst kill them, and they shall give up their city, and we and our people shall go up to the tops of the mountains that are near, and will camp upon them, to watch that none go out of the city. ¹⁴So they and their wives and their children shall be consumed with famine, and before the sword

come against them, they shall be overthrown in the streets where they dwell. ¹⁵Thus shalt thou render them an evil reward; because they rebelled, and met not thy person peaceably. ¹⁶And these words pleased Holofernes and all his servants, and he appointed to do as they had spoken. ¹⁷So the camp of the children of Ammon departed, and with them five thousand of the Assyrians, and they pitched in the valley, and took the waters, and the fountains of the waters of the sons of Israel. ¹⁸Then the children of Esau went up with the children of Ammon, and camped in the hill country over against Dothan: and they sent some of them toward the south, and toward the east, over against Egrebeh, which is near unto Chusi, that is upon the brook Mochmur; and the rest of the army of the Assyrians camped in the plain, and covered the face of the whole land; and their tents and carriages were pitched to a very great multitude.

¹⁹Then the sons of Israel cried unto the Lord their God, because their heart failed, for all their enemies had compassed them round about, and there was no way to escape out from among them. ²⁰Thus all the company of Assyria remained about them, both their footmen, chariots, and horsemen, four and thirty days, so that all their vessels of water failed all the inhabitants of Bethulia. ²¹And the cisterns were emptied, and they had not water to drink their fill for one day; for they gave them drink by measure. ²²Therefore their young children were out of heart, and their women and young men fainted for thirst, and fell down in the streets of the city, and by the passages of the gates, and there was no longer any strength in them. ²³Then all the people assembled to Uzziah, and to the chief of the city, both young men, and women, and children, and cried with a loud voice, and said before all the elders, ²⁴God be judge between us and you: for ye have done us great injury, in that ye have not required peace of the sons of Assyria. ²⁵For now we have no helper: but God hath sold us into their hands, that we should be thrown down before them with thirst and great destruction. ²⁶Now therefore call them unto you, and deliver the whole city for a spoil to the people of Holofernes, and to all his army. ²⁷For it is better for us to be made a spoil unto them, than to die for thirst: for we will be his servants, that our souls may live, and not see the death of our infants before our eyes, nor our wives nor our children to die. ²⁸We take to witness against you the heaven and the earth, and our God and Lord of our fathers, Which punisheth us according to our sins and the sins of our fathers, that He do not according as we have said this day. ²⁹Then there was great weeping with one consent in the midst of the assembly; and they cried unto the Lord God with a loud voice. ³⁰Then said Uzziah to them, Brethren, be of good courage, let us yet endure five days, in the which space the Lord our God may turn His mercy toward us; for He will not forsake us utterly. ³¹And if these days pass, and there come no help unto us, I will do according to your word. ³²And he dispersed the people, every one to their own charge; and they went unto the walls and towers of their city, and sent the women and children into their houses: and they were very low brought in the city.

CHAPTER 8

Now at that time Judith heard thereof, which was the daughter of Merari, the son of Ox, the son of Joseph, the son of Oziel, the son of Elkiah, the son of Ananias, the son of Gideon, the son of Raphaim, the son of Ahitub, the son of Elijah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Eliab, the son of Nathanael, the son of Salamiel, the son of Sarasadai, the son of Israel. ²And Manasseh was her husband, of her tribe and kindred, who died in the barley harvest. ³For as he stood overseeing them that bound sheaves in the field, the heat came upon his head, and he fell on his bed, and died in the city of Bethulia: and they buried him with his fathers in the field between Dothan and Balamon. ⁴So Judith was a widow in her house three years and four months. ⁵And she made her a tent upon the top of her house, and put sackcloth upon her loins, and ware her widow's apparel. ⁶And she fasted all the days of her widowhood, save the eves of the sabbaths, and the sabbaths, and the eves of the new moons, and the new moons, and the feast and solemn days of the house of Israel. ⁷She was also of a goodly countenance, and very beautiful to behold: and her husband Manasseh had left her gold, and silver, and menservants, and maidservants, and cattle, and lands; and she remained upon them. ⁸And there was none that gave her an ill word; for she feared God greatly. ⁹Now when she heard the evil words of the people against the governor, that they fainted for lack of water; for Judith had heard all the words that Uzziah had spoken unto them, and that he had sworn to deliver the city unto the Assyrians after five days; ¹⁰then she sent her waiting woman, that had the government of all things that she had, to call Uzziah and Chabris and Charmis, the ancients of the city. ¹¹And they came unto her, and she said unto them, Hear me now, O ye governors of the inhabitants of Bethulia: for your words that ye have spoken before the people this day are not right, touching this oath which ye made and pronounced between God and you, and have promised to deliver the city to our enemies, unless within these days the Lord turn to help you. ¹²And who are ye that have tempted God this day, and stand instead of God among the children of men? ¹³And now try the Lord Almighty, but ye shall never know any thing. ¹⁴For ye cannot find the depth of the heart of man, neither can ye perceive the things that he thinketh: then how can ye search out God, that hath made all these things, and know His mind, or comprehend His purpose? Nay, my brethren, provoke not the Lord our God to anger. ¹⁵For if He will not help us within these five days, He hath power to defend us when He will, even every day, or to destroy us before our enemies. ¹⁶Do not bind the counsels of the Lord our God: for God is not as man, that He may be threatened; neither is he as the son of man, that He should be wavering. ¹⁷Therefore let us wait for salvation of Him, and call upon Him to help us, and He will hear our voice, if it please Him. ¹⁸For there arose none in our age, neither is there any now in these days, neither tribe, nor family, nor people, nor city, among us, which worship gods made with hands, as hath been aforetime. ¹⁹For the which cause our fathers were given to the sword, and for a spoil, and had a great fall before

our enemies. ²⁰But we know none other God, therefore we trust that He will not despise us, nor any of our nation. ²¹For if we be taken so, all Judah shall lie waste, and our sanctuary shall be spoiled; and He will require the profanation thereof at our mouth. ²²And the slaughter of our brethren, and the captivity of our country, and the desolation of our inheritance, will He turn upon our heads among the nations, wheresoever we shall be in bondage; and we shall be an offence and a reproach to all them that possess us. ²³For our servitude shall not be directed to favour: but the Lord our God shall turn it to dishonour. ²⁴Now therefore, O brethren, let us shew an example to our brethren, because their hearts depend upon us, and the sanctuary, and the house, and the altar, rest upon us. ²⁵Moreover let us give thanks to the Lord our God, which trieth us, even as He did our fathers. ²⁶Remember what things He did to Abraham, and how He tried Isaac, and what happened to Jacob in Mesopotamia of Syria, when he kept the sheep of Laban his mother's brother. ²⁷For He hath not tried us in the fire, as he did them, for the examination of their hearts, neither hath He taken vengeance on us: but the Lord doth scourge them that come near unto Him, to admonish them. ²⁸Then said Uzziah to her, All that thou hast spoken hast thou spoken with a good heart, and there is none than can gainsay thy words. ²⁹For this is not the first day wherein thy wisdom is manifested; but from the beginning of thy days all the people have known thine understanding, because the disposition of thine heart is good. ³⁰But the people were very thirsty, and compelled us to do unto them as we have spoken, and to bring an oath upon ourselves, which we will not break. ³¹Therefore now pray thou for us, because thou art a godly woman, and the Lord will send us rain to fill our cisterns, and we shall faint no more. ³²Then said Judith unto them, Hear me, and I will do a thing, which shall go throughout all generations to the children of our nation. ³³Ye shall stand this night in the gate, and I will go forth with my waitingwoman: and within the days that ye have promised to deliver the city to our enemies the Lord will visit Israel by mine hand. ³⁴But inquire ye not of mine act: for I will not declare it unto you, till the things be finished that I do. ³⁵Then said Uzziah and the princes unto her, Go in peace, and the Lord God be before thee, to take vengeance on our enemies. ³⁶So they returned from the tent, and went to their wards.

CHAPTER 9

Then Judith fell upon her face, and put ashes upon her head, and uncovered the sackcloth wherewith she was clothed; and about the time that the incense of that evening was offered in Jerusalem in the house of the Lord Judith cried with a loud voice, and said, ²O Lord God of my father Simeon, to whom Thou gavest a sword to take vengeance of the strangers, who loosened the girdle of a maid to defile her, and discovered the thigh to her shame, and polluted her virginity to her reproach; for Thou saidst, It shall not be so; and yet they did so: ³wherefore Thou gavest their rulers to be slain, so that they

dyed their bed in blood, being deceived, and smotest the servants with the lords, and the lords upon their thrones; ⁴and hast given their wives for a prey, and their daughters to be captives, and all their spoils to be divided among Thy dear children; which were moved with thy zeal, and abhorred the pollution of their blood, and called upon Thee for aid: O God, my God, hear me also a widow. ⁵For Thou hast wrought not only those things, but also the things which fell out before, and which ensued after; Thou hast thought upon the things which are now, and which are to come. ⁶Yea, what things Thou didst determine were ready at hand, and said, Lo, we are here: for all Thy ways are prepared, and Thy judgments are in Thy foreknowledge. ⁷For, behold, the Assyrians are multiplied in their power; they are exalted with horse and man; they glory in the strength of their footmen; they trust in shield, and spear, and bow, and sling; and know not that Thou art the God that breakest the battles: LORD is Thy name. ⁸Throw down their strength in Thy power, and bring down their force in Thy wrath: for they have purposed to defile Thy sanctuary, and to pollute the tabernacle where Thy glorious name resteth, and to cast down with sword the horn of Thine altar. ⁹Behold their pride, and send Thy wrath upon their heads: give into mine hand, which am a widow, the power that I have conceived. ¹⁰Smite by the deceit of my lips the servant with the prince, and the prince with the servant: break down their stateliness by the hand of a woman. ¹¹For Thy power standeth not in multitude, nor Thy might in strong men: for Thou art a God of the afflicted, an helper of the oppressed, an upholder of the weak, a protector of the forlorn, a saviour of them that are without hope. ¹²I pray Thee, I pray Thee, O God of my father, and God of the inheritance of Israel, Lord of the heavens and earth, Creator of the waters, King of every creature, hear Thou my prayer: ¹³and make my speech and deceit to be their wound and stripe, who have purposed cruel things against Thy covenant, and Thy hallowed house, and against the top of Zion, and against the house of the possession of thy children. ¹⁴And make every nation and tribe to acknowledge that Thou art the God of all power and might, and that there is none other that protecteth the people of Israel but Thou.

CHAPTER 10

Now after that she had ceased to cry unto the God of Israel, and had made an end of all these words, ²she rose where she had fallen down, and called her maid, and went down into the house, in the which she abode in the sabbath days, and in her feast days, ³and pulled off the sackcloth which she had on, and put off the garments of her widowhood, and washed her body all over with water, and anointed herself with precious ointment, and braided the hair of her head, and put a tire upon it, and put on her garments of gladness, wherewith she was clad during the life of Manasseh her husband. ⁴And she took sandals upon her feet, and put about her her bracelets, and her chains, and her rings, and her earrings, and all her ornaments, and decked herself

bravely, to allure the eyes of all men that should see her. ⁵Then she gave her maid a bottle of wine, and a cruse of oil, and filled a bag with parched corn, and lumps of figs, and with fine bread; so she folded all these things together, and laid them upon her. ⁶Thus they went forth to the gate of the city of Bethulia, and found standing there Uzziah, and the ancients of the city, Chabris and Charmis. ⁷And when they saw her, that her countenance was altered, and her apparel was changed, they wondered at her beauty very greatly, and said unto her, ⁸The God, the God of our fathers, give thee favour, and accomplish thine enterprises to the glory of the sons of Israel, and to the exaltation of Jerusalem. Then they worshipped God. ⁹And she said unto them, Command the gates of the city to be opened unto me, that I may go forth to accomplish the things wherewith ye have spoken with me. So they commanded the young men to open unto her, as she had spoken. ¹⁰And when they had done so, Judith went out, she and her maid with her; and the men of the city looked after her, until she was gone down the mountain, and till she had passed the valley, and could see her no more. ¹¹Thus they went straight forth in the valley: and the first watch of the Assyrians met her; ¹²and they took her, and asked her, Of what people art thou? and whence comest thou? and whither goest thou? And she said, I am a woman of the Hebrews, and am fled from them: for they shall be given you to be consumed: ¹³and I am coming before Holofernes the chief captain of your army, to declare words of truth; and I will shew him a way, whereby he shall go, and win all the hill country, without losing a body or life of any one of his men. ¹⁴Now when the men heard her words, and beheld her countenance, they wondered greatly at her beauty, and said unto her, ¹⁵Thou hast saved thy life, in that thou hast hastened to come down to the presence of our lord: now therefore come to his tent, and some of us shall conduct thee, until they have delivered thee to his hands. ¹⁶And when thou standest before him, be not afraid in thine heart, but shew unto him according to thy word; and he will entreat thee well. ¹⁷Then they chose out of them an hundred men to accompany her and her maid; and they brought her to the tent of Holofernes. ¹⁸Then was there a concourse throughout all the camp: for her coming was noised among the tents, and they came about her, as she stood without the tent of Holofernes, till they told him of her. ¹⁹And they wondered at her beauty, and admired the sons of Israel because of her, and every one said to his neighbour, Who would despise this people, that have among them such women? surely it is not good that one man of them be left, who being let go might deceive the whole earth. ²⁰And they that lay near Holofernes went out, and all his servants, and thy brought her into the tent. ²¹Now Holofernes rested upon his bed under a canopy, which was woven with purple, and gold, and emeralds, and precious stones. ²²So they shewed him of her; and he came out before his tent with silver lamps going before him. ²³And when Judith was come before him and his servants, they all marvelled at the beauty of her countenance; and she fell down upon her face, and did reverence unto him: and his servants took her up.

CHAPTER 11

Then said Holofernes unto her, Woman, be of good comfort, fear not in thine heart: for I never hurt any that was willing to serve Nebuchadnezzar, the king of all the earth. ²Now therefore, if thy people that dwelleth in the mountains had not set light by me, I would not have lifted up my spear against them: but they have done these things to themselves. ³But now tell me wherefore thou art fled from them, and art come unto us: for thou art come for safeguard; be of good comfort, thou shalt live this night, and hereafter: ⁴for none shall hurt thee, but entreat thee well, as they do the servants of king Nebuchadnezzar my lord. ⁵Then Judith said unto him, Receive the words of thy servant, and suffer thine handmaid to speak in thy presence, and I will declare no lie to my lord this night. ⁶And if thou wilt follow the words of thine handmaid, God will bring the thing perfectly to pass by thee; and my lord shall not fail of his purposes. ⁷As Nebuchadnezzar king of all the earth liveth, and as his power liveth, who hath sent thee for the upholding of every living thing: for not only men shall serve him by thee, but also the beasts of the field, and the cattle, and the fowls of the air, shall live by thy power under Nebuchadnezzar and all his house. ⁸For we have heard of thy wisdom and thy policies, and it is reported in all the earth, that thou only art excellent in all the kingdom, and mighty in knowledge, and wonderful in feats of war. ⁹Now as concerning the matter, which Achior did speak in thy council, we have heard his words; for the men of Bethulia saved him, and he declared unto them all that he had spoken unto thee. ¹⁰Therefore, O Lord and governor, reject not his word; but lay it up in thine heart, for it is true: for our nation shall not be punished, neither can the sword prevail against them, except that they sin against their God. ¹¹And now, that my lord be not defeated and frustrate of his purpose, even death is now fallen upon them, and their sin hath overtaken them, wherewith they will provoke their God unto anger, whensoever they shall do that which is not fit to be done: ¹²for their victuals fail them, and all their water is scant, and they have determined to lay their hands upon their cattle, and purposed to consume all those things, that God hath forbidden them to eat by His laws: ¹³and are resolved to spend the firstfruits of the corn, and the tenths of the wine and oil, which they had sanctified, and reserved for the priests that serve in Jerusalem before the face of our God; the which things it is not lawful for any of the people so much as to touch with their hands. ¹⁴For they have sent some to Jerusalem, because they also that dwell there have done the like, to bring them a licence from the senate. ¹⁵Now when they shall bring them word, they will forthwith do it, and they shall be given thee to be destroyed the same day. ¹⁶Wherefore I thine handmaid, knowing all this, am fled from their presence; and God hath sent me to work things with thee, whereat all the earth shall be astonished, and whosoever shall hear it. ¹⁷For thy servant is religious, and serveth the God of heaven day and night: now therefore, my lord, I will remain with thee, and thy servant will go out by night into the valley, and I will pray unto God, and He will tell me when they have committed their sins: ¹⁸and I

will come and shew it unto thee: then thou shalt go forth with all thine army, and there shall be none of them that shall resist thee. ¹⁹And I will lead thee through the midst of Judah, until thou come before Jerusalem; and I will set thy throne in the midst thereof; and thou shalt drive them as sheep that have no shepherd, and a dog shall not so much as open his mouth at thee: for these things were told me according to my foreknowledge, and they were declared unto me, and I am sent to tell thee. ²⁰Then her words pleased Holofernes and all his servants; and they marvelled at her wisdom, and said, ²¹There is not such a woman from one end of the earth to the other, both for beauty of face, and wisdom of words. ²²Likewise Holofernes said unto her, God hath done well to send thee before the people, that strength might be in our hands, and destruction upon them that lightly regard my lord. ²³And now thou art both beautiful in thy countenance, and witty in thy words: surely if thou do as thou hast spoken, thy God shall be my God, and thou shalt dwell in the house of king Nebuchadnezzar, and shalt be renowned through the whole earth.

CHAPTER 12

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. ²And 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. ³Then Holofernes said unto her, If thy provision should fail, how should we give the like? for there is none with us of thy nation. ⁴Then 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. ⁵Then the servants of Holofernes brought her into the tent, and she slept till midnight, and she arose when it was toward the morning watch, ⁶and sent to Holofernes, saying, Let my lord now command that thine handmaid may go forth unto prayer. ⁷Then 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹So she came in clean, and remained in the tent, until she did eat her meat at evening. ¹⁰And in the fourth day Holofernes made a feast to his own servants only, and called none of the officers to the banquet. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²For, 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. ¹³Then 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 Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁴Then 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. ¹⁵So 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. ¹⁶Now when Judith came in, 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. ¹⁷Then said Holofernes unto her, Drink now, and be merry with us. ¹⁸So 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. ¹⁹Then she took and ate before him what her maid had prepared. ²⁰And Holofernes took great delight in her, and drank much more wine than he had drunk at any time in one day since he was born.

CHAPTER 13

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. ²And Judith was left alone in the tent, and Holofernes lying along on his bed: for he was filled with wine. ³Now Judith had commanded her maid to stand without her bedchamber, and to wait for her coming forth, as she did daily: for she said that she would go forth to her prayers, and she spake to Bagoas according to the same purpose. ⁴So 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. ⁵For now is the time to help Thine inheritance, and to execute mine enterprise to the destruction of the enemies which are risen against us. ⁶Then she came to the pillar of the bed, which was at Holofernes' head, and took down his fauchion from thence, ⁷and approached to his bed, and took hold of the hair of his head, and said, Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel, this day. ⁸And she smote twice upon his neck with all her might, and she took away his head from him, ⁹and 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; ¹⁰and 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.

¹¹Then said Judith afar off to the watchman at the gate, Open, open now the gate: God, *even* our God, is with us, to shew *His* power yet in Israel, and His strength against the enemy, as He hath even done this day. ¹²Now

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. ¹³And then they ran all together, both small and great, for it was strange unto them that she had come: so they opened the gate, and received them, and made a fire for light, and stood round about them. ¹⁴Then she said to them with a loud voice, Praise, 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. ¹⁵So 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 Assyria, and behold the canopy, wherein he did lie in his drunkenness; and the Lord hath smitten him by the hand of a woman. ¹⁶As the Lord liveth, Who hath kept me in my way that I went, my countenance hath deceived him to destruction, and yet hath he not committed a sin with me, to defile and shame me. ¹⁷Then all the people were wonderfully astonished, and bowed themselves, and said with one accord, Blessed be Thou, O our God, Which hast this day brought to nought the enemies of Thy people. ¹⁸Then said Uzziah 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. ¹⁹For this thy confidence shall not depart from the heart of men, which remember the power of God for ever. ²⁰And 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 avenged our ruin, walking a straight way before our God. And all the people said, So be it, so be it.

CHAPTER 14

Then said Judith unto them, Hear me now, my brethren, and take this head, and hang it upon the highest place of your walls. ²And 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. ³Then shall they take their armour, and go into their camp, and raise up the captains of the army of Assur, and they 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. ⁴So ye, and all that inherit the coast of Israel, shall pursue them, and overthrow them as they go. ⁵But before ye go, 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. ⁶Then they called Achior out of the house of Uzziah; 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. ⁷But when they had recovered him, he fell at Judith's feet, and revered her, and said, Blessed art thou in all the tabernacle of Judah, and in all nations, which

hearing thy name shall be astonished. ⁸Now 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 that she spake unto them. ⁹And when she had left off speaking, the people shouted with a loud voice, and made a joyful noise in their city. ¹⁰And 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.

¹¹And 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. ¹²But when the Assyrians saw them, they sent to their leaders, which came to their captains and tribunes, and to every one of their rulers. ¹³So 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 upon us to battle, that they may be utterly destroyed. ¹⁴Then went in Bagoas, and knocked at the door of the tent; for he thought that he had slept with Judith. ¹⁵But 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. ¹⁶Therefore he cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and sighing, and a mighty cry, and rent his garments. ¹⁷After he went into the tent where Judith lodged: and when he found her not, he leaped out to the people, and cried, ¹⁸These slaves have dealt treacherously; one woman of the Hebrews hath brought shame upon the house of king Nebuchadnezzar: for, behold, Holofernes lieth upon the ground without a head. ¹⁹When 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.

CHAPTER 15

And when they that were in the tents heard, they were astonished at the thing that was done. ²And 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. ³They also that had camped in the mountains round about Bethulia fled away. Then the sons of Israel, every one that was a warrior among them, rushed out upon them. ⁴Then sent Uzziah to Betomasthem, and to Chobai, and Chola, 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. ⁵Now when the sons 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 Gilead, and in Galilee, chased them with a great slaughter, until they were past Damascus and the borders thereof. ⁶And the residue, that dwelt at Bethulia, fell upon

the camp of Assyria, and spoiled them, and were greatly enriched. ⁷And the sons 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. ⁸Then Joakim the high priest, and the ancients of the sons 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. ⁹And when they came unto her, they blessed her with one accord, and said unto her, Thou art the exaltation of Israel, thou art the great glory of Israel, thou art the great rejoicing of our nation: ¹⁰thou 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. ¹¹And 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. ¹²Then 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. ¹³And 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. Then Judith began to sing this thanksgiving in all Israel, and all the people sang after her this song of praise.

CHAPTER 16

And Judith said,

Begin *an hymn* unto my God with timbrels, sing unto my God with cymbals: tune unto Him a new psalm: exalt Him, and call upon His name. ³For 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. ⁴Assyria 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. ⁵He 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. ⁶But the Almighty hath disappointed them by the hand of a woman. ⁷For 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. ⁸For 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. ⁹Her sandals ravished his eyes, her beauty took his mind prisoner, and the fauchion passed through his neck. ¹⁰The Persians quaked at her boldness, and the Medes were daunted at her hardiness. ¹¹Then mine afflicted shouted for joy, and my weak ones cried

aloud; but they were astonished: these lifted up their voices, but they were overthrown. ¹²The sons of the damsels have pierced them through, and wounded them as fugitives' children: they perished by the battle of my lord. ¹³I will sing unto my God a new song: O Lord, Thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength, and invincible. ¹⁴Let 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. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For all sacrifice is too little for a sweet savour unto Thee, and all the fat is not sufficient for Thy whole burnt offering: but he that feareth the Lord is great at all times. ¹⁷Woe 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.

¹⁸Now as soon as they entered into Jerusalem, they worshipped the Lord: and as soon as the people were purified, they offered their whole burnt offerings, and their freewill offerings, and their gifts. ¹⁹Judith 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 God. ²⁰So the people continued feasting in Jerusalem before the sanctuary for the space of three months, and Judith remained with them.

²¹After 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. ²²And many desired her, but none knew her all the days of her life, after that Manasseh her husband was dead, and was gathered to his people. ²³But 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 Manasseh. ²⁴And 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 Manasseh her husband, and to them that were the nearest of her kindred. ²⁵And there was none that made the sons of Israel any more afraid in the days of Judith, nor a long time after her death.