



Judith 1-7:32
By
Jean Smith

JUDITH

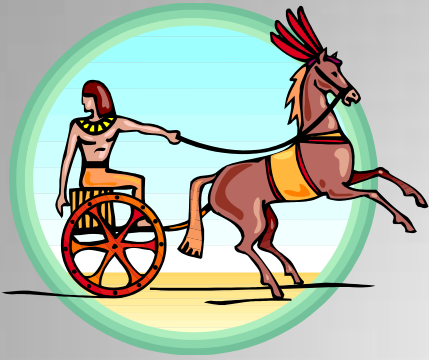
One of the
deuterocanonical books
of the Old testament
It does not form part
of the Hebrew canon.

apocrypha

deutero-canonical

KEY WORDS

Impossible Victory



JUDITH-THE FAITHFUL WIDOW

“Some boast of chariots,
and some of horses; but we
boast of the name of the
Lord or God”

Psalm 20:8



Chapter One

"CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS"

Then Nebuchadnezzar was very angry with the whole region, and swore by his throne and his kingdom that he would avenge himself on all the territories of Cilicia and Damascus and Syria, and also destroy with his sword all the inhabitants of Moab, Ammon, the whole of Judea." —

Judith 1:12 Judea and several other territories refused to join Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Assyrians, in his war against Arphaxad, king of the Medes. After Nebuchadnezzar won the war, he swore revenge on those who refused to be bullied into joining him in war.



Chapter Two



A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER

There was a discussion in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Assyrians, about taking revenge on the whole world." —Judith 2:1

Like Nebuchadnezzar, there are still many people trying to take revenge on the whole world. Let's forgive and repent of resentment and bitterness.

Chapter 3



THE POWER OF EVIL

"Nevertheless, he devastated their whole territory and cut down their sacred groves, for he had been commissioned to destroy all the gods of the earth, so that every nation might worship Nebuchadnezzar alone, and every people and tribe invoke him as a god." —Judith 3:8

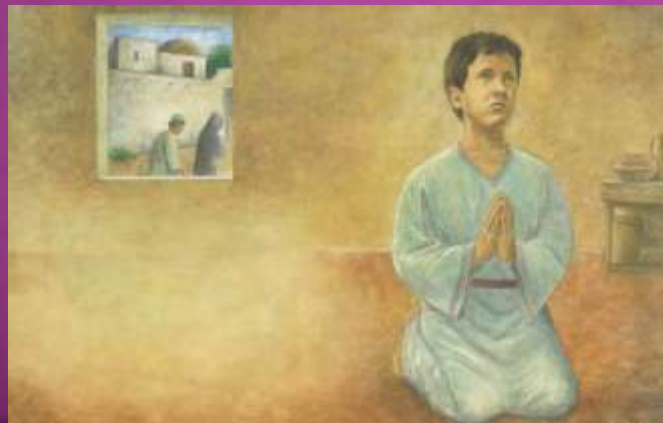
Holofernes' army steamrolled country after country. The power of the evil one sometimes seems invincible.

Chapter 4

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"All the men of Israel cried to God with great fervor and did penance." —Judith 4:9

The Israelites opposed Holofernes' mighty army by praying, fasting, and doing penance.

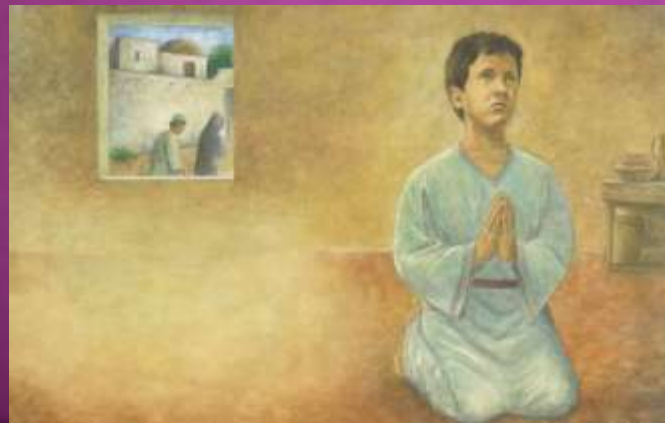


Chapter 4

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"All the men of Israel cried to God with great fervor and did penance." —Judith 4:9

The Israelites opposed Holofernes' mighty army by praying, fasting, and doing penance.



Chapter 5

THE INVINCIBILITY OF OBEDIENCE

But if they are not a guilty nation, then your lordship should keep his distance; otherwise their Lord and God will shield them, and we shall become the laughingstock of the whole world." —
Judith 5:21

Achior the Ammonite informed Holofernes that the Israelites were invincible no matter what the circumstances, if they were obedient to the Lord (see 2 Cor 10:4-6; Rm 16:19-20).



Chapter 6

Holofernes responded to Achior by handing him over to the Israelites at Bethulia. If the Israelites were obeying God and Achior was right about their invincibility, he would be saved. Otherwise, he would be killed.

YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE

"My servants will now conduct you to the mountain region, and leave you at one of the towns along the ascent. You shall not die till you are destroyed together with them. If you still cherish the hope that they will not be taken, then there is no need for you to be downcast.—Judith 6:7-9





Chapter 7



DYING OF THIRST

The siege of Bethulia "Their children fainted away, and the women and youths were consumed with thirst and were collapsing in the streets and gateways of the city, with no strength left in them." —Judith 7:22

The Israelites were surrounded by enemy troops who cut off their water supply. They were left to literally die of thirst. After 34 days, the people cried in agony to King Uzziah, who promised to surrender in five days if the Lord did not miraculously deliver His people.



Judith 8-16:32
By
Jean Smith

Chapter 8



DIVINE INTERVENTION

"No one had a bad word to say about her, for she was a very God-fearing woman." —Judith 8:8

With only five days left before the surrender and destruction of Bethulia, a very beautiful and God-fearing widow, Judith, entered the picture. After asking the elders of the city to visit her, she corrected them for giving in to the people's complaints and setting five days as a deadline for God's intervention. She saw the tragic circumstances around her in a very different perspective. She maintained that "we should be grateful to the Lord our God, for putting us to the test, as He did our forefathers" (8:25). "Not for vengeance did the Lord put them in the crucible to try their hearts, nor has He done so with us. It is by way of admonition that He chastises those who are close to Him" (8:27). Finally, Judith promised: "I will do something that will go down from generation to generation among the descendants of our race" (8:32). "Within the days you have specified before you will surrender the city to our enemies, the Lord will rescue Israel by my hand" (8:33).

Chapter 9

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

"Judith threw herself down prostrate, with ashes strewn upon her head, and wearing nothing over her sackcloth. While the incense was being offered in the temple of God in Jerusalem that evening, Judith prayed to the Lord with a loud voice." —Judith 9:1

Judith prayed a mighty prayer of faith.

Chapter 10

"DRESSED FIT TO KILL"

"She made herself very beautiful, to captivate the eyes of all the men who should see her." —Judith 10:4

After concluding her prayer, Judith took off her sackcloth and ashes, arranged her hair, put on her best dress and jewelry, and "made herself beautiful." She left the city and went to the enemy commander, Holofernes.

Chapter 11

SEX SELLS

"You are fair to behold, and your words are well spoken." —Judith
11:23

Judith told Holofernes that she would tell him when the Israelites had sinned and thereby had become vulnerable to his attacks. Holofernes had scoffed at this line of thinking in chapter five. Coming from the lovely lips of Judith, however, he now considered it to be wise.

Chapter 12

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Jdt 12 — DRINKING AND DRIVING

"The heart of Holofernes was in rapture over her, and his spirit was shaken. He was burning with the desire to possess her, for he had been biding his time to seduce her from the day he saw her." —Judith 12:16

While Judith was careful to eat only kosher food, "Holofernes, charmed by her, drank a great quantity of wine, more than he had ever drunk on one single day in his life" (12:20). Alcohol + lust = death.

Chapter 13

— LOSING HIS HEAD

"Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the Creator of heaven and earth, Who guided your blow at the head of the chief of our enemies." —Judith 13:18

Judith chopped off the head of the drunken Holofernes, put it in her picnic basket, and went out to pray.



"Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the Creator of heaven and earth, Judith chopped off the head of the drunken Holofernes, put it in her picnic basket, and went out to pray.

Chapter 14

A DEATH-BED CONVERSION

"Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the Creator of heaven and earth, Who guided your blow at the head of the chief of our enemies." —Judith 13:18

Judith chopped off the head of the drunken Holofernes, put it in her picnic basket, and went out to pray.

Chapter 15

A HANGOVER BEFORE A PARTY

" At daybreak they hung the head of Holofernes on the wall. Then all the Israelite men took up their arms and went to the slopes of the mountain." —Judith 14:11

When the Assyrian army heard about the beheading of Holofernes, they were "overcome with fear and trembling. No one kept ranks any longer; they scattered in all directions, and fled along every road, both through the valley and in the mountains. Those also who were stationed in the mountain district around Bethulia took to flight. Then all the Israelite warriors overwhelmed them" (15:2-3). They seized an enormous quantity of booty and, in Judith's honor, threw a party and started dancing.

Chapter 16

THE HIT PARADE