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Yehudit

Introduction

Yehudit (Judith) tells how a Jewish widow helps to rescue her people from an invading army. The story opens with the conquests of King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), who is presented here as ruling the Assyrians from Nineveh. His commander Holofernes demands submission from the surrounding nations, but the people of Yisrael (Israel) prepare to resist and ask God to protect them and their temple.
When Holofernes surrounds Betulia and cuts off its water supply, the people begin to lose hope. Their leaders agree to surrender unless help comes within five days. Yehudit challenges them for setting a deadline for God, then prays and carries out a dangerous plan of her own. She enters the enemy camp and uses Holofernes' confidence in her to bring about his downfall.
The account emphasises trusting God when the odds seem overwhelming, and shows how courage and wisdom can overturn military power. Yehudit's prayers and the final song of thanks direct the credit for the rescue to God.
Yehudit is recognised as Deuterocanonical Scripture by the Romaios Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Russian Orthodox Churches.

Main components of this account

Nevukadnetsar's conquests and Holofernes' campaign *1:1–3:10*
Yisrael prepares to resist and Betulia is besieged *4:1–7:32*
Yehudit challenges the leaders and prays for help *8:1–9:14*
Yehudit enters the enemy camp and kills Holofernes *10:1–13:20*
The enemy's defeat and the people's celebration *14:1–16:25*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Nevukadnetsar defeats Arpakshad

1:1 In the twelfth year of Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's) reign, who reigned over the Assyrians in Nineveh, the great city, in the days of Arpakshad, who reigned over the Madim (Medes) in Ahmeta, **2** and built around Ahmeta walls of hewn stones three cubits broad and six cubits long, and made the height of the wall seventy cubits, and its breadth fifty cubits, **3** and set its towers at its gates one hundred cubits high, and its breadth in the foundation was sixty cubits, **4** and made its gates, even gates that were raised to the height of seventy cubits, and their breadth forty cubits, for his mighty army to go out of, and the setting in array of his footmen— **5** in those days King Nevukadnetsar made war with King Arpakshad in the great plain. This plain is on the borders of Ragau. **6** There came to meet him all that lived in the hill country, and all that lived by Perat (Euphrates), Hidekel, and Hudaspes, and in the plain of Areyok the king of the Elymaeans. Many nations of the sons of Chelod assembled themselves to the battle.

7 And Nevukadnetsar king of the Assyrians sent to all who lived in Paras (Persia), and to all who lived westward, to those who lived in Kilikia, Damesek (Damascus), Levanon, Anti-Lebanon, and to all who lived along the sea coast, **8** and to those among the nations that were of Karmel and Gilead, and to the higher Galil and the great plain of Yizre'el (Jezreel), **9** and to all who were in Shomron (Samaria) and its cities, and beyond Yarden (Jordan) to Yerushalem (Jerusalem), Betane, Chellus, Kadesh, the river of Mitsrayim (Egypt), Tahfanhes, Ra'meses, and all the land of Goshen, **10** until you come above Tsoan and Nof (Memphis), and to all that lived in Mitsrayim, until you come to the borders of Kush (Ethiopia). **11** All those who lived in all the land made light of the commandment of Nevukadnetsar king of the Assyrians, and didn't go with him to the war; for they weren't afraid of him, but he was before them as one man. They turned away his messengers from their presence without effect, and with disgrace.

12 And Nevukadnetsar was extremely angry with all this land, and he swore by his throne and kingdom that he'd surely be avenged on all the coasts of Kilikia, Damesek, and Aram (Syria), that he'd kill with his sword all the inhabitants of the land of Moav (Moab), the children of Amon, all Yehudah (Judea), and all who were in Mitsrayim, until you come to the borders of the two seas. **13** And he set the battle in array with his army against King Arpakshad in the seventeenth year; and he prevailed in his battle, and turned to flight all Arpakshad's army, with all his horses and all his chariots. **14** He took possession of his cities. He came to Ahmeta and took the towers, plundered its streets, and turned its beauty into shame. **15** He took Arpakshad in the mountains of Ragau, struck him through with his darts, and utterly destroyed him to this day. **16** He returned with them to Nineveh, he and all his company of sundry nations—a very great multitude of men of war. There he took his ease and banqueted, he and his army, for one hundred and twenty days.

Nevukadnetsar plans revenge on the nations

2:1 In the eighteenth year, the twenty-second day of the first month, there was talk in the house of Nevukadnetsar king of the Assyrians that he should be avenged on all the land, even as he spoke. **2** He called together all his servants and all his great men, and communicated with them his secret counsel, and with his own mouth, recounted the wickedness of all the land. **3** They decreed to destroy all flesh which didn't follow the word of his mouth.

4 When he'd ended his counsel, Nevukadnetsar king of the Assyrians called Holofernes the chief captain of his army, who was second to himself, and said to him, **5** "The great king, the lord of all the earth, says: 'Listen, go out from my presence, and take with you men who trust in their strength, to one hundred and twenty thousand footmen and twelve thousand horses with their riders. **6** And go out against all the west country, because they disobeyed the commandment of my mouth. **7** Tell to them that they should prepare earth and water, because I'll go out in my anger against them, and will cover the whole face of the earth with the feet of my army, who'll plunder them. **8** Their slain will fill their valleys and brooks, and the river will be filled with their dead until it overflows. **9** I'll lead them as captives to the utmost parts of all the earth. **10** But go out, and take all their coasts for me first. If they'll yield themselves to you,[1] then you must reserve them for me until the day of their reproof. **11** As for those who resist, show no mercy; but hand them over to be slain and to be plundered in all your land. **12** Because as I live, and by the power of my kingdom, I've spoken, and I'll do this with my hand. **13** Moreover, don't disobey any of your lord's commands, but you must carry them out, as I've commanded you. Don't delay carrying them out.' "

Holofernes sets out to conquer the west

14 So Holofernes went out from the presence of his lord, and called all the governors, the captains, and officers of Ashur's (Assyria's) army. **15** He counted chosen men for the battle, as his lord had commanded him, to one hundred and twenty thousand, with twelve thousand archers on horseback. **16** He arranged them as a great multitude is ordered for the war. **17** He took camels, donkeys, and mules for their baggage, a very great multitude, and sheep, oxen, and goats without number for their provision, **18** and a large supply of rations for every man, and a huge amount of gold and silver out of the king's house. **19** He went out, he and all his army, on their journey, to go before King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), and to cover all the face of the earth westward with their chariots, horsemen, and chosen footmen. **20** A great company of various nations went out with them like locusts and like the sand of the earth. Because they couldn't be counted because of their multitude.

21 And they departed out of Nineveh three days' journey towards the plain of Bectileth, and encamped from Bec-

1 RV 2:10 · Note Grk. they will yield...and you shall reserve.

tileth near the mountain which is at the left hand of the Upper Kilikia. 22 And he took all his army, his footmen, horsemen, and chariots, and went away from there into the hill country, 23 and destroyed Put and Lud, and plundered all the children of Rasses and the children of Yishmael (Ishmael), which were along the wilderness to the south of the land of the Chellians. 24 And he went over Perat (Euphrates), and went through Mesopotamia, and broke down all the high cities that were on the river Arbonai, until you come to the sea. 25 And he took possession of the borders of Kilikia, and killed all who resisted him, and came to the borders of Yefet (Japheth), which were towards the south, opposite Arav. 26 He surrounded all the children of Midyan, and set their tents on fire, and plundered their sheepfolds. 27 He went down into the plain of Damesek (Damascus) in the days of wheat harvest, and set all their fields on fire, and utterly destroyed their flocks and herds, plundered their cities, laid their plains waste, and struck all their young men with the edge of the sword.

28 And the fear and the dread of him fell onto those who lived on the sea coast, on those who were in Tsidon (Sidon) and Tsor (Tyre), those who lived in Sur and Ocina, and all who lived in Yavneh. Those who lived in Azotos and Ashkelon feared him greatly.

The coastal nations surrender

3:1 And they sent to him messengers with words of peace, saying, 2 "Listen, we the servants of Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) the great king lie before you. Use us as it's pleasing in your sight. 3 Listen, our dwellings, and all our country, and all our fields of wheat, and our flocks and herds, and all the sheepfolds of our tents, lie before your face. Use them as it may please you. 4 Listen, even our cities and those who live in them are your servants. Come and deal with them as it's good in your eyes."

5 So the men came to Holofernes, and declared to him according to these words.

6 He came down towards the sea coast, he and his army, and set garrisons in the high cities, and took out of them chosen men for allies. 7 They received him, they and all the country round about them, with garlands and dances and timbrels. 8 He threw down all their borders, and cut down their sacred groves. It'd been given to him to destroy all the gods of the land, that all the nations would worship Nevukadnetsar only, and that all their tongues and their tribes would call on him as a god.

9 Then he came towards Yizre'el (Jezreel) near to Dotan, which is opposite the great ridge of Yehudah (Judea). 10 He encamped between Geva and Beyt-Shean. He was there a whole month, that he might gather together all the baggage of his army.

Yisrael prepares to resist

4:1 The Israeli people (Israel) who lived in Yehudah heard all that Holofernes the chief captain of Nevukadnetsar king of the Assyrians had done to the nations, and how he'd plundered all their temples and destroyed them utterly. 2 They were extremely afraid at his approach, and were troubled for Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and for the temple of the master their god; 3 because they'd newly come up from the captivity, and all Yehudah's people were recently gathered together; and the vessels, the altar, and the house were sanctified after being profaned.

4 And they sent into every coast of Shomron (Samaria), to Konae, to Beyt-Horon, Belmaim, Yeriho (Jericho), to Choba, Aesora, and to the valley of Shalem; 5 and they occupied beforehand all the tops of the high mountains, fortified the villages that were in them, and stored supplies for the provision of war, because their fields were newly harvested. 6 Yehoyakim the high priest, who was in those days at Yerushalem, wrote to those who lived in Betulia and Betomesthaim, which is opposite Yizre'el (Jezreel) towards the plain that's near to Dotan, 7 charging them to seize on the ascents of the hill country; because by them was the entrance into Yehudah, and it was easy to stop them from approaching, since the approach was narrow, with space for two men at the most. 8 And the Israeli people did as Yehoyakim the high priest had commanded them, as did the senate of all Yisrael's people, which was in session at Yerushalem.

The people plead with God for help

9 And every man of Yisrael cried to God with great earnestness, and with great earnestness they humbled their souls. 10 They, their wives, their children, their cattle, and every sojourner, hireling, and servant bought with their money put sackcloth on their loins. 11 Every man and woman of Yisrael, including the little children and the inhabitants of Yerushalem, fell prostrate before the temple, threw ashes on their heads, and spread out their sackcloth before the master. They put sackcloth around the altar. 12 They cried to the god of Yisrael earnestly with one consent, that he wouldn't give their children as prey, their wives as plunder, the cities of their inheritance to destruction, and the sanctuary to being profaned and being made a reproach, for the nations to rejoice at. 13 The master heard their voice, and looked at their affliction. The people continued fasting many days in all Yehudah and Yerushalem before the sanctuary of the master Almighty. 14 And Yehoyakim the high priest, and all the priests who stood before the master, and those who ministered to the master, had their loins dressed in sackcloth and offered the continual burnt offering, the vows, and the free gifts of the people. 15 They had ashes on their turbans. They cried to the master with all their power, that he'd look on all the house of Yisrael for good.

Ahior warns Holofernes about Yisrael's God

5:1 Holofernes, the chief captain of Ashur's (Assyria's) army, was told that the Israeli people had prepared for war, had shut up the passages of the hill country, had fortified all the tops of the high hills, and had set up barricades in the plains. 2 Then he was extremely angry, and he called all the princes of Moav (Moab), Amon's captains, and all the governors of the sea coast, 3 and he said to them, "Tell me now, you sons of Kena'an (Canaan), who are these people who live in the hill country? What are the cities that they inhabit? How large is their army? Where is

their power and their strength? What king is set over them, to be the leader of their army? 4 Why have they turned their backs, that they shouldn't come and meet me, more than all who live in the west?"

5 Then Ahior, the leader of all the children of Amon, said to him, "Let my lord now hear a word from your servant's mouth, and I'll tell you the truth about these people who live in this hill country, near to the place where you live. No lie will come out of your servant's mouth. 6 These people are descended from the Kasdim (Chaldeans). 7 They sojourned before this in Mesopotamia, because they didn't want to follow the gods of their fathers, which were in the land of the Kasdim. 8 They departed from the way of their parents, and worshipped the god of heaven, the god whom they knew. Their parents threw them out from the face of their gods, and they fled into Mesopotamia and sojourned there many days. 9 Then their god commanded them to depart from the place where they sojourned, and to go into the land of Kena'an. They lived there, and prospered with gold and silver, and with very large herds of cattle. 10 Then they went down into Mitsrayim (Egypt), for a famine covered all the land of Kena'an. They sojourned there until they'd grown up. They became a great multitude there, so that one couldn't count the population of their nation. 11 Then the king of Mitsrayim rose up against them, and dealt subtly with them, and brought them low, making them labour in brick,[2] and made them slaves. 12 They cried to their god, and he struck all the land of Mitsrayim with incurable plagues; so the Mitsrim (Egyptians) threw them out of their sight. 13 God dried up the Red sea before them, 14 and brought them into the way of Sinay Kadesh-Barnea and they threw out all that lived in the wilderness. 15 They lived in the land of the Amorim, and they destroyed by their strength everyone in Heshbon. Passing over Yarden (Jordan), they possessed all the hill country. 16 They threw out before them the Kena'ani (Canaanite), the Perizi, the Yevusi, the Shechemite, and all the Girgashim, and they lived in that country many days.

17 And while they didn't sin before their god, they prospered, because God who hates iniquity was with them. 18 But when they departed from the way which he appointed them, they were destroyed in many severe battles, and were led captives into a land that wasn't theirs. Their god's temple was razed to the ground, and their cities were taken by their adversaries. 19 And now they've returned to their god, and have come up from the dispersion where they were dispersed, and have possessed Yerushalem (Jerusalem), where their sanctuary is, and are settled in the hill country; for it was desolate.

20 And now, my lord and master, if there's any error in this people, and they sin against their god, we'll find out what this thing is in which they stumble, and we'll go up and overcome them. 21 But if there's no lawlessness in their nation, let my lord now pass by, otherwise their master might defend them and their god might take their side, and we'd be disgraced before the whole world."

22 When Ahior had finished speaking these words, all the people standing around the tent complained. The great men of Holofernes, and all who lived by the sea side and in Moav (Moab), said that he should be cut to pieces. 23 Because, they said, "We won't be afraid of the Israeli people (Israel), because they're a people that has no power nor might to make the battle strong. 24 Therefore now we'll go up, and they'll be a prey to be devoured by all your army, master Holofernes."

Holofernes sends Ahior to Betulia

6:1 And when the disturbance of the men that were around the council had ceased, Holofernes the chief captain of Ashur's (Assyria's) army said to Ahior and to all the children of Moav[3] before all the people of the foreigners:

2 "And who are you, Ahior, and the mercenaries of Efrayim (Ephraim),[4] that you've prophesied among us as today, and have said that we shouldn't make war with the race of Yisrael, because their god will defend them? And who's God but Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar)? 3 He'll send forth his might, and will destroy them from the face of the earth, and their god won't deliver them; but we his servants will strike them as one man. They won't sustain the might of our cavalry. 4 Because with them we'll burn them up. Their mountains will be drunken with their blood. Their plains will be filled with their dead bodies. Their footsteps won't stand before us, but they'll surely perish, says King Nevukadnetsar, lord of all the earth; for he said, 'The words that I've spoken[5] won't be in vain.'

5 But you, Ahior, hireling of Amon, who've spoken these words in the day of your iniquity, will see my face no more from this day, until I'm avenged of the race of those that came out of Mitsrayim (Egypt). 6 And then the sword of my army, and the multitude of those who serve me, will pass through your sides, and you'll fall among their slain when I return. 7 Then my servants will bring you back into the hill country, and will set you in one of the cities by the passes. 8 You won't perish until you're destroyed with them. 9 And if you hope in your heart that they won't be taken, don't let your face fall. I've spoken it, and none of my words will fall to the ground."

10 Then Holofernes commanded his servants who waited in his tent to take Ahior, and bring him back to Betulia, and deliver him into the hands of the Israeli people (Israel). 11 So his servants took him, and brought him out of the camp into the plain, and they moved from the middle of the plains into the hill country, and came to the springs that were under Betulia. 12 When the men of the city saw them on the top of the hill, they took up their weapons,

2 **RV 5:11 · Note** Some authorities read and he brought them low with clay and brick, etc.

3 **RV 6:1 · Note** Some authorities read Ammon. Compare ver. 5.

4 **RV 6:2 · Note** Some authorities read Ammon. Compare ver. 5.

5 **RV 6:4 · Note** Grk. he has spoken.

and went out of the city against them to the top of the hill. Every man that used a sling kept them from coming up, and threw stones at them. 13 They took cover under the hill, bound Ahior, threw him down, left him at the foot of the hill, and went away to their lord.

14 But the Israeli people descended from their city, and came to him, untied him, led him away into Betulia, and presented him to the rulers of their city, 15 which were in those days Ozias the son of Mikah, of the tribe of Shim'on (Simeon), and Chabris the son of Otniel, and Charmis the son of Malkiel. 16 Then they called together all the elders of the city; and all their young men ran together, with their women, to the assembly. They set Ahior among all their people. Then Ozias asked him what had happened. 17 He answered and declared to them the words of the council of Holofernes, and all the words that he'd spoken among the princes of the children of Ashur (Assyria), and all the great words that Holofernes had spoken against the house of Yisrael. 18 Then the people fell down and worshipped God, and cried, saying, 19 "Oh master God of heaven, look at their arrogance, and pity the low estate of our race. Look on the face of those who are sanctified to you this day." 20 They comforted Ahior, and praised him highly. 21 Then Ozias took him out of the assembly into his house, and made a feast for the elders. They called on the god of Yisrael for help all that night.

Holofernes surrounds Betulia

7:1 The next day Holofernes commanded all his army and all the people who'd come to be his allies, that they should move their camp towards Betulia, seize the passes of the hill country, and make war against the Israeli people. 2 Every mighty man of them moved that day. The army of their men of war was one hundred and seventy thousand footmen, plus twelve thousand horsemen, besides the baggage and the men who were on foot among them—a very great multitude. 3 They encamped in the valley near Betulia, by the fountain. They spread themselves in breadth over Dotan even to Belmaim, and in length from Betulia to Kuamon, which is near Yizre'el (Jezreel).

4 But the Israeli people, when they saw the multitude of them, were terrified, and everyone said to his neighbour, "Now these men will lick up the face of all the earth. Neither the high mountains, nor the valleys, nor the hills will be able to bear their weight. 5 Every man took up his weapons of war, and when they'd kindled fires on their towers, they remained and watched all that night.

6 But on the second day Holofernes led out all his cavalry in the sight of the Israeli people which were in Betulia, 7 viewed the ascents to their city, and searched out the springs of the waters, seized on them, and set garrisons of men of war over them. Then he departed back to his people.

8 All the rulers of the children of Esav (Esau), all the leaders of the people of Moav (Moab), and the captains of the sea coast came to him and said, 9 "Let our lord now hear a word, that there not be losses in your army. 10 Because this people of the Israeli people don't trust in their spears, but in the height of the mountains wherein they live, for it isn't easy to come up to the tops of their mountains. 11 And now, my lord, don't fight against them as men fight who join battle, and there won't so much as one man of your people perish. 12 Remain in your camp, and keep every man of your army safe. Let your servants get possession of the water spring, which flows from the foot of the mountain, 13 because all the inhabitants of Betulia get their water from there. Then thirst will kill them, and they'll give up their city. Then we and our people will go up to the tops of the mountains that are near, and will camp on them, to watch that not one man gets out of the city. 14 They'll be consumed with famine—they, their wives, and their children. Before the sword comes against them they'll be laid low in the streets where they live. 15 And you'll pay them back with evil, because they rebelled, and didn't meet your face in peace."

16 Their words were pleasing in the sight of Holofernes and in the sight of all his servants; and he ordered them to do as they'd spoken. 17 And the army of the children of Amon moved, and with them five thousand of the children of Ashur (Assyria), and they encamped in the valley. They seized the waters and the springs of the waters of the Israeli people. 18 The children of Esav (Esau) went up with the children of Amon, and encamped in the hill country near Dotan. They sent some of them towards the south, and towards the east, near Ekrebel, which is near Chusi, that's on the brook Mochmur. The rest of the army of the Assyrians encamped in the plain, and covered all the face of the land. Their tents and baggage were pitched on it in a great crowd. They were a very great multitude.

The thirsty people demand surrender

19 The Israeli people cried to the master their god, for their spirit fainted; for all their enemies had surrounded them. There was no way to escape out from among them. 20 All Ashur's army remained around them, their footmen and their chariots and their horsemen, for thirty-four days. All their vessels of water ran dry for all the inhabitants of Betulia. 21 The cisterns were emptied, and they had no water to drink their fill for one day; for they rationed drink by measure. 22 Their young children were discouraged. The women and the young men fainted for thirst. They fell down in the streets of the city, and in the passages of the gates. There was no longer any strength in them.

23 All the people, including the young men, the women, and the children, were gathered together against Ozias, and against the rulers of the city. They cried with a loud voice, and said before all the elders, 24 "God be judge between all of you and us, because you've done us great wrong, in that you haven't spoken words of peace with the children of Ashur. 25 Now we have no helper; but God has sold us into their hands, that we should be laid low before them with thirst and great destruction. 26 And now summon them, and deliver up the whole city as prey to Holofernes' people, and to all his army. 27 Because it's better for us to be captured by them. Because we'll be servants, and our souls will live, and we won't see the death of

our babies before our eyes, and our wives and our children fainting in death. 28 We take to witness against you the heaven and the earth, and our god and the master of our fathers, who punishes us according to our sins and the sins of our fathers. Do what we've said today!"

29 And there was great weeping of all with one consent in the assembly; and they cried to the master God with a loud voice. 30 And Ozias said to them, "Brethren, be of good courage! Let us endure five more days, during which the master our god will turn his mercy towards us; for he won't forsake us utterly. 31 But if these days pass, and no help comes to us, I'll do what you say." 32 Then he dispersed the people, every man to his own camp; and they went away to the walls and towers of their city. He sent the women and children into their houses. They were brought very low in the city.

Yehudit challenges the leaders to trust God

8:1 In those days Yehudit (Judith) heard about this. She was the daughter of Merari, the son of Ox, the son of Yosef (Joseph), the son of Uziel, the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Hananyah, the son of Gid'on, the son of Raphaim, the son of Ahituv, the son of Elihu, the son of Eliav, the son of Netanel, the son of Shelumiel, the son of Salasadai, the son of Yisrael (Israel). 2 Her husband was Menasheh (Manasseh), of her tribe and of her family. He died in the days of barley harvest. 3 Because he stood over those who bound sheaves in the field, and was overcome by the burning heat, and he fell on his bed, and died in his city Betulia. So they buried him with his fathers in the field which is between Dotan and Ba'al-Hamon. 4 Yehudit was a widow in her house three years and four months. 5 She made herself a tent on the roof of her house, and put on sackcloth on her loins. The clothes of her widowhood were on her. 6 And she fasted all the days of her widowhood, except the eves of the Sabbaths, the Sabbaths, the eves of the new moons, the new moons, and the feasts and joyful days of the house of Yisrael. 7 She was beautiful in appearance, and lovely to look at. Her husband Menasheh had left her gold, silver, male servants, female servants, cattle, and lands. She remained on those lands. 8 No one said anything evil about her, for she feared God greatly.

9 She heard the evil words of the people against the governor, because they fainted for lack of water; and Yehudit heard all the words that Ozias spoke to them, how he swore to them that he'd deliver the city to the Assyrians after five days. 10 So she sent her maid, who was over all things that she had, to summon Ozias, Chabris, and Charmis, the elders of her city. 11 They came to her, and she said to them, "Hear me now, Oh you rulers of the inhabitants of Betulia! Because your word that you've spoken before the people this day isn't right. You've set the oath which you've pronounced between God and you, and have promised to deliver the city to our enemies, unless within these days the master turns to help you. 12 Now who are you that you've tested God this day, and stand in the place of God among the children of men? 13 Now try the master Almighty, and you'll never know anything. 14 Because you won't find the depth of the heart of man, and you won't perceive the things that he thinks. How will you search out God, who's made all these things, and know his mind, and comprehend his purpose? No, my kindred, don't provoke the master our god to anger! 15 Because if he hasn't decided to help us within these five days, he has power to defend us in such time as he will, or to destroy us before our enemies' face. 16 But don't you pledge the counsels of the master our god! Because God isn't like a human being, that he should be threatened, neither is he like a son of man, that he should be won over by pleading. 17 Therefore let's wait for the salvation that comes from him, and call on him to help us. He'll hear our voice, if it pleases him. 18 Because there arose none in our age, neither is there any of us today, tribe, or kindred, or family, or city, which worship gods made with hands, as it was in the former days; 19 for which cause our fathers were given to the sword, and for plunder, and fell with a great destruction before our enemies. 20 But we know no other god beside him. Therefore we hope that he won't despise us, nor any of our race. 21 Because if we're captured, all Yehudah (Judea) will be captured and our sanctuary will be plundered; and he'll require our blood for profaning it. 22 The slaughter of our kindred, the captivity of the land, and the desolation of our inheritance, he'll bring on our heads among the Gentiles, wherever we'll be in bondage. We'll be an offence and a reproach to those who take us for a possession. 23 Because our bondage won't be ordered to favour; but the master our god will turn it to dishonour. 24 And now, kindred, let's show an example to our kindred, because their soul depends on us, and the sanctuary, the house, and the altar depend on us. 25 Besides all this let's give thanks to the master our god, who tries us, even as he did our fathers also. 26 Remember all the things which he did to Avraham, and all the things in which he tried Yitshak (Isaac), and all the things which happened to Ya'akov (Jacob) in Mesopotamia of Aram (Syria), when he kept the sheep of Lavan (Laban) his mother's brother. 27 Because he hasn't tried us in the fire, as he did them, to search out their hearts, neither has he taken vengeance on us; but the master scourges those who come near to him, to admonish them."

28 And Ozias said to her, "All that you've spoken, you've spoken with a good heart. There's no one who'll deny your words. 29 Because this isn't the first day wherein your wisdom is manifested; but from the beginning of your days all the people have known your understanding, because the disposition of your heart is good. 30 But the people were extremely thirsty, and compelled us to do as we spoke to them, and to bring an oath on ourselves, which we won't break. 31 And now pray for us, because you're a godly woman, and the master will send us rain to fill our cisterns, and we'll faint no more."

Yehudit announces her plan

32 Then Yehudit (Judith) said to them, "Hear me, and I'll do a thing, which will go down to all generations among the children of our race. 33 All of you must stand at the gate tonight. I'll

go out with my maid. Within the days after which you said that you'd deliver the city to our enemies, the master will deliver Yisrael (Israel) by my hand. 34 But don't ask what I'm going to do; for I won't tell you until the things are finished that I'll do."

35 Then Ozias and the rulers said to her, "Go in peace. May the master God be before you, to take vengeance on our enemies." 36 So they returned from the tent, and went to their stations.

Yehudit prays for help

9:1 But Yehudit fell onto her face, and put ashes on her head, and uncovered the sackcloth with which she was clothed. The incense of that evening was now being offered at Yerushalem (Jerusalem) in God's house, and Yehudit cried to the master with a loud voice, and said, 2 "Oh master God of my father Shim'on (Simeon), into whose hand you gave a sword to take vengeance on the strangers who loosened the belt of a virgin to defile her, uncovered her thigh to her shame, and profaned her womb to her reproach; for you said, 'This mustn't happen;' and they did so. 3 Therefore you gave their rulers to be slain, and their bed, which was ashamed for her who was deceived,[6] to be dyed in blood, and struck the servants with their masters, and the masters on their thrones; 4 and gave their wives for a prey, and their daughters to be captives, and all their spoils to be divided among your dear children; which were moved with zeal for you, and abhorred the pollution of their blood, and called on you for aid. Oh God, Oh my god, hear me also who am a widow. 5 Because you did the things that were before those things, and those things, and such as come after; and you planned the things which are now, and the things which are to come. The things which you planned happened. 6 Yes, the things which you determined stood before you, and said, 'Listen, we're here; for all your ways are prepared, and your judgement is with foreknowledge.' 7 Because the Assyrians are multiplied in their power. They're exalted with horse and rider. They were proud of the strength of their footmen. They've trusted in shield, spear, bow, and sling. They don't know that you're the master who breaks the battles. 'The master' is your name. 8 Break their strength in your power, and bring down their force in your anger; for they intend to profane your sanctuary, and to defile the tabernacle where your glorious name rests, and to destroy the horn of your altar with the sword. 9 Look at their pride, and send your anger on their heads. Give into my hand, which am a widow, the might that I've conceived. 10 Strike by the deceit of my lips the servant with the prince, and the prince with his servant. Break down their arrogance by a woman's hand. 11 Because your power stands not in numbers, nor your might in strong men, but you're a God of the afflicted. You're a helper of the oppressed, a helper of the weak, a protector of the forsaken, a saviour of those who are without hope. 12 Please, please, God of my father, and God of the inheritance of Yisrael, master of the heavens and of the earth, Creator of the waters, King of all your creation, hear my prayer. 13 Make my speech and deceit to be their wound and bruise, who intend hard things against your covenant, your holy house, the top of Tsiyon (Zion), and the house of the possession of your children. 14 Make every nation and tribe of yours to know that you're God, the god of all power and might, and that there's no other who protects the race of Yisrael but you."

Yehudit enters the enemy camp

10:1 When she'd ceased to cry to the god of Yisrael (Israel), and had finished saying all these words, 2 that she rose up where she'd fallen down, called her maid, and went down into the house that she lived on the Sabbath days and on her feast days. 3 She pulled off the sackcloth which she'd put on, took off the clothes of her widowhood, washed her body all over with water, anointed herself with rich ointment, braided the hair of her head, and put a tiara on it. She put on her clothes of gladness, which she used to wear in the days of the life of Menasheh (Manasseh) her husband. 4 She took sandals for her feet, and put on her anklet, bracelets, rings, earrings, and all her jewellery. She made herself very beautiful to deceive the eyes of all men who'd see her. 5 She gave her maid a leather container of wine and a flask of oil, and filled a bag with roasted grain, lumps of figs, and fine bread. She packed all her vessels together, and laid them on her.

6 They went out to the gate of the city of Betulia, and found Ozias and the elders of the city, Chabris and Charmis standing by it. 7 But when they saw her, that her face was altered and her clothing was changed, they were greatly astonished by her beauty and said to her, 8 "May the god of our fathers give you favour, and accomplish your purposes to the glory of the Israeli people, and to the exaltation of Yerushalem (Jerusalem)."

Then she worshipped God, 9 and said to them, "Command that they open the gate of the city for me, and I'll go out to accomplish the things you spoke with me about."

And they commanded the young men to open to her, as she'd spoken; 10 and they did so.

Then Yehudit (Judith) went out, she, and her handmaid with her. The men of the city watched her until she'd gone down the mountain, until she'd passed the valley, and they could see her no more. 11 They went straight onward in the valley. The watch of the Assyrians met her; 12 and they took her, and asked her, "Of what people are you? Where are you coming from? Where are you going?"

She said, "I'm a daughter of the Ivrim (Hebrews). I'm fleeing away from their presence, because they're about to be given you to be consumed. 13 I'm coming into the presence of Holofernes the chief captain of your army, to declare words of truth. I'll show him a way that he can go and win all the hill country, and there won't be lacking of his men one person, nor one life."

14 Now when the men heard her words, and looked at her face, they were astonished by her beauty. They said to her,

6 **RV 9:3 · Note** Some authorities read which was ashamed for their deceit that they practised.

Readers' Version

15 "You've saved your life, in that you've hurried to come
down to the presence of our master. Now come to his tent.
Some of us will guide you until they deliver you into his
hands. 16 But when[7] you stand before him, don't be afraid
in your heart, but declare to him what you just said, and
he'll treat you well." 17 They chose out of them a hundred
men, and appointed them to accompany her and her maid;
and they brought them to Holofernes' tent.

18 And there was great excitement throughout all the
camp, for her coming was reported among the tents. They
came and surrounded her as she stood outside Holofernes'
tent, until they told him about her. 19 They marvelled at
her beauty, and marvelled at the Israeli people (Israel) be-
cause of her. Each one said to his neighbour, "Who'd de-
spise these people, who have among them such women?
Because it isn't good that one man of them be left, seeing
that, if they're let go, they'll be able to deceive the whole
earth.

20 Then the guards of Holofernes and all his servants
came out and brought her into the tent. 21 And Holofernes
was resting on his bed under the canopy, which was woven
with purple, gold, emeralds, and precious stones. 22 And
they told him about her; and he came out into the space
before his tent, with silver lamps going before him. 23 But
when Yehudit (Judith) had come before him and his ser-
vants, they all marvelled at the beauty of her face. She fell
down on her face and bowed down to him, but his servants
raised her up.

Yehudit wins Holofernes' confidence

11:1 Holofernes said to her,
"Woman, take courage. Don't be
afraid in your heart; for I never hurt
anyone who's chosen to serve Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchad-
nezzar), the king of all the earth. 2 And now, if your people
who live in the hill country hadn't slighted me, I wouldn't
have lifted up my spear against them; but they've done
these things to themselves. 3 And now tell me why you fled
from them and came to us; for you've come to save your-
self. Take courage! You'll live tonight, and in the future;
4 for there's no one that'll wrong you, but all will treat you
well, as is done to the servants of King Nevukadnetsar my
lord."

5 And Yehudit said to him, "Receive your servant's words,
and let your handmaid speak in your presence, and I won't
lie to my lord tonight. 6 If you'll follow the words of your
handmaid, God will bring the thing to pass perfectly with
you; and my lord won't fail to accomplish his purposes.
7 As Nevukadnetsar king of all the earth lives, and as his
power lives, who's sent you for the preservation of every
living thing, not only do men serve him by you, but also
the wild animals in the countryside, the cattle, and the
birds of the sky will live through your strength, in the time
of Nevukadnetsar and of all his house. 8 Because we've
heard of your wisdom and the subtle plans of your soul. It's
been reported in all the earth that you only are brave in all
the kingdom, mighty in knowledge, and wonderful in feats
of war. 9 And now as about the matter which Ahior spoke
in your council, we've heard his words; for the men of Be-
tulia saved him, and he declared to them all that he'd spo-
ken before you. 10 Therefore, Oh lord and master, don't ne-
glect his word, but lay it up in your heart, for it's true; for
our race won't be punished, neither will the sword prevail
against them, unless they sin against their god. 11 And
now, that my lord may not be defeated and frustrated in
his purpose, and that death may fall onto them, their sin
has overtaken them, wherewith they'll provoke their god
to anger, whenever they do wickedness. 12 Since their food
failed them, and all their water was scant, they took coun-
sel to kill their livestock, and determined to consume all
those things which God charged them by his laws that they
shouldn't eat. 13 They're resolved to spend the first fruits
of the grain and the tithes of the wine and the oil, which
they'd sanctified and reserved for the priests who stand
before our god's face in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), which it
isn't fitting for any of the people so much as to touch with
their hands. 14 They've sent some to Yerushalem, because
they also that live there have done this thing, to bring
them permission from the council of elders. 15 When these
instructions come to them and they do it, they'll be given
to you to be destroyed the same day. 16 Therefore I your
servant, knowing all this, fled away from their presence.
God sent me to work things with you, at which all the
earth will be astonished, even as many as hear it. 17 Be-
cause your servant is religious, and serves the god of
heaven day and night. Now, my lord, I'll stay with you; and
your servant will go out by night into the valley. I'll pray to
God, and he'll tell me when they've committed their sins.
18 Then I'll come and tell you. Then you can go out with all
your army, and there'll be none of them that'll resist you.
19 And I'll lead you through the middle of Yehudah (Judea),
until you come to Yerushalem. I'll set your throne in its
centre. You'll drive them as sheep that have no shepherd,
and a dog won't so much as open his mouth before you; for
these things were told me according to my foreknowledge,
and were declared to me, and I was sent to tell you."

20 Her words were pleasing in the sight of Holofernes and
of all his servants. They marvelled at her wisdom, and said,
21 "There isn't such a woman from one end of the earth to
the other, for beauty of face and wisdom of words."

22 Holofernes said to her, "God did well to send you be-
fore the people, that might would be in our hands, and de-
struction among those who slighted my lord. 23 And now
you're beautiful in your face, and wise in your words. If
you'll do as you've spoken, your god will be my god, and
you'll live in King Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's)
palace, and will be renowned through the whole earth."

Yehudit stays in the camp

12:1 He commanded that she should
be brought in where his silver ves-
sels were set, and asked that his servants should prepare
some of his own delicacies for her, and that she should
drink from his own wine.

7 **RV 10:16 · Note** Grk. if.

Readers' Version

2 And Yehudit (Judith) said, "I can't eat it, because that could cause me to sin. I'll eat from the supplies I brought with me."

3 And Holofernes said to her, "But if the things that are with you should run out, from where will we be able to give you more like it? Because there's none of your race with us."

4 And Yehudit said to him, "As your soul lives, my lord, your servant won't use up those things that are with me until the master works by my hand the things that he's determined." 5 Then Holofernes' servants brought her into the tent, and she slept until midnight. Then she rose up towards the morning watch, 6 and sent to Holofernes, saying, "Let my lord now command that they allow your servant to go out to pray."

7 Holofernes commanded his guards that they shouldn't stop her. She stayed in the camp three days, and went out every night into the valley of Betulia and washed herself at the fountain of water in the camp. 8 And when she came up, she implored the master God of Yisrael (Israel) to direct her way to the triumph of the children of his people. 9 She came in clean and remained in the tent until she ate her food towards evening.

Holofernes invites Yehudit to a feast

10 On the fourth day, Holofernes made a feast for his own servants only, and called none of the officers to the banquet. 11 And he said to Bagoas the eunuch, who had charge over all that he had, "Go now, and persuade this Ivri (Hebrew) woman who's with you that she come to us, and eat and drink with us. 12 Because listen, it'd be a disgrace if we let such a woman go, not having had her company; for if we don't draw her to ourselves, she'll laugh us to scorn."

13 Bagoas went from the presence of Holofernes, and came in to her, and said, "Let this fair lady not fear to come to my lord, and to be honoured in his presence, and to drink wine and be merry with us, and to be made this day as one of the daughters of the children of Ashur (Assyria) who serve in Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's) palace."

14 Yehudit (Judith) said to him, "Who am I, that I should contradict my lord? Because whatever would be pleasing in his eyes, I'll do speedily, and this will be my joy to the day of my death." 15 She arose, and decked herself with her clothing and all her woman's attire; and her servant went and laid fleeces on the ground for her next to Holofernes, which she'd received from Bagoas for her daily use, that she might sit and eat on them.

16 Yehudit came in and sat down, and Holofernes' heart was ravished with her. His passion was aroused, and he greatly desired her company. He was watching for a time to deceive her from the day that he'd seen her.

17 Holofernes said to her, "Drink now, and be merry with us."

18 Yehudit said, "I'll drink now, my lord, because my life is magnified in me this day more than all the days since I was born." 19 Then she took and ate and drank before him what her servant had prepared. 20 Holofernes took great delight in her, and drank a great deal of wine, more than he'd drunk at any time in one day since he was born.

Yehudit kills Holofernes

13:1 But when the evening had come, his servants hurried to depart. Bagoas shut the tent outside, and dismissed those who waited from the presence of his lord. They went away to their beds; for they were all weary, because the feast had been long. 2 But Yehudit was left alone in the tent, with Holofernes lying along on his bed; for he was drunk with wine. 3 Yehudit had said to her servant that she should stand outside her bedchamber, and wait for her to come out, as she did daily; for she said she'd go out to her prayer. She spoke to Bagoas according to the same words. 4 All went away from her presence, and none was left in the bedchamber, small or great. Yehudit, standing by his bed, said in her heart, Oh master God of all power, look in this hour on the works of my hands for the exaltation of Yerushalem (Jerusalem). 5 Because now is the time to help your inheritance, and to do the thing that I've purposed to the destruction of the enemies which have risen up against us. 6 She came to the bedpost which was at Holofernes' head, and took down his sword from there. 7 She drew near to the bed, took hold of the hair of his head, and said, "Strengthen me, Oh master God of Yisrael, this day." 8 She struck twice on his neck with all her might and cut off his head, 9 tumbled his body down from the bed, and took down the canopy from the posts. After a little while she went out, and gave Holofernes' head to her maid; 10 and she put it in her bag of food. They both went out together to prayer, according to their custom. They passed through the camp, circled around that valley, and went up to the mountain of Betulia, and came to its gates.

Yehudit returns with Holofernes' head

11 Yehudit said afar off to the watchmen at the gates, "Open, open the gate, now. God is with us, even our god, to show his power yet in Yisrael (Israel), and his might against the enemy, as he's done even this day."

12 When the men of her city heard her voice, they hurried to go down to the gate of their city, and they called together the elders of the city. 13 They all ran together, both small and great, for it seemed unbelievable to them that she'd come. They opened the gate and received them, making a fire to give light, and surrounded them. 14 She said to them with a loud voice, "Praise God! Praise him! Praise God, who hasn't taken away his mercy from the house of Yisrael, but has destroyed our enemies by my hand tonight!"

15 Then she took the head out of the bag and showed it, and said to them, "Listen, the head of Holofernes, the chief captain of Ashur's (Assyria's) army, and the canopy under which he laid in his drunkenness. The master struck him by a woman's hand. 16 And as the master lives, who preserved me in my way that I went, my face deceived him to his destruction, and he didn't commit sin with me, to defile and shame me."

17 All the people were extremely amazed, and bowed themselves, and worshipped God, and said with one accord, "Blessed are you, Oh our god, who have this day hu-

miliated your people's enemies."

18 Ozias said to her, "Blessed are you, daughter, in the sight of the Most High God, above all the women on the earth; and blessed is the master God, who created the heavens and the earth, who directed you to cut off the head of the prince of our enemies. 19 Because your hope won't depart from the hearts of people who remember God's strength forever. 20 May God turn these things to you for a perpetual praise, to visit you with good things, because you didn't spare your life because of the affliction of our race, but prevented our ruin, walking a straight way before our god."

And all the people said, "Amen! Amen!"

Yehudit prepares the people to attack

14:1 Yehudit (Judith) said to them, "Hear me now, my kindred, and take this head, and hang it on the battlement of your wall. 2 As soon as morning comes and the sun rises over the earth, each of you must pick up your weapons, and every brave man must go out of the city. Put a captain in charge of them, as though you'd go down to the plain towards the watch of the children of Ashur (Assyria); but you men mustn't go down. 3 These will take up their full armour, and will go into their camp and rouse up the captains of Ashur's army. They'll run together to Holofernes' tent. They won't find him. Fear will fall onto them, and they'll flee before your face. 4 You men, and all that inhabit every border of Yisrael (Israel), must pursue them and overthrow them as they go. 5 But before you do these things, summon Ahior the Amoni to me, that he may see and know him that despised the house of Yisrael, and that sent him to us, as it were to death.

Ahior believes in Yisrael's God

6 And they called Ahior out of Ozias' house; but when he came, and saw Holofernes' head in a man's hand in the assembly of the people, he fell onto his face, and his spirit failed. 7 But when they'd recovered him,[8] he fell at Yehudit's feet, bowed down to her, and said, "Blessed are you in every tent of Yehudah (Judah)! In every nation, those who hear your name will be troubled. 8 Now tell me all the things that you've done in these days."

And Yehudit declared to him among the people all the things that she'd done, from the day that she went out until the time that she spoke to them. 9 But when she finished speaking, the people shouted with a loud voice, and made a joyful noise in their city. 10 But when Ahior saw all the things that the god of Yisrael had done, he put deep trust in God, and circumcised the flesh of his foreskin, and was joined to the house of Yisrael, to this day.

The enemy discovers Holofernes' death

11 But as soon as the morning arose, they hanged Holofernes' head on the wall, and every man took up his weapons, and they went forth by bands to the ascents of the mountain. 12 But when the children of Ashur (Assyria) saw them, they sent word to their leaders, and they went to their captains and tribunes, and to every one of their rulers. 13 They came to Holofernes' tent, and said to him that was over all that he had, "Wake our lord up, now, for the slaves have been bold to come down against us to battle, that they may be utterly destroyed."

14 Bagoas went in, and knocked at the outer door of the tent; for he supposed that Holofernes was sleeping with Yehudit. 15 But when no one answered, he opened it, went into the bedchamber, and found him thrown on the threshold dead; and his head had been taken from him. 16 He cried with a loud voice, with weeping, groaning, and shouting, and tore his clothes. 17 He entered into the tent where Yehudit lodged, and he didn't find her. He leapt out to the people, and cried aloud, 18 "The slaves have dealt treacherously! One woman of the Ivrim (Hebrews) has brought shame on King Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's) house; for Holofernes lies on the ground, and his head isn't on him!"

19 But when the rulers of Ashur's army heard this, they tore their tunics, and they were deeply troubled. There were cries and a very great noise in the camp.

Yisrael pursues the fleeing army

15:1 When those who were in the tents heard, they were amazed at what happened. 2 Trembling and fear fell onto them, and no man dared stay any more in the sight of his neighbour, but rushing out with one accord, they fled into every way of the plain and of the hill country. 3 Those who'd encamped in the hill country round about Betulia fled away. And then the Israeli people, every one who was a warrior among them, rushed out on them. 4 Ozias sent to Betomesthaim, Bevay, Choba, and Chola, and to every border of Yisrael, to tell about the things that'd been accomplished, and that all should rush on their enemies to destroy them. 5 But when the Israeli people heard this, they all fell onto them with one accord, and struck them to Choba. Yes, and in the same way also, people from Yerushalem and from all the hill country came (for men had told them about what happened in their enemies' camp), and those who were in Gilead and in Galil fell onto their flank with a great slaughter, until they were past Damesek (Damascus) and its borders. 6 The rest of the people who lived at Betulia fell onto the camp of Ashur, and plundered them, and were enriched greatly. 7 The Israeli people returned from the slaughter, and got possession of that which remained. The villages and the cities that were in the hill country and in the plain country took many spoils; for there was a very great supply.

The people honour Yehudit

8 Yehoyakim the high priest, and the elders of the Israeli people (Israel) who lived in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), came to see the good things which the master had showed to Yisrael, and to see Yehudit (Judith) and to greet her. 9 When they came to her, they all blessed her with one accord, and said to her, "You're the exaltation of Yerushalem! You're the great glory of Yisrael! You're the great rejoicing of our race! 10 You've done all these things by your hand. You've done

8 **RV 14:7 · Note** Many authorities read he had recovered himself.

Readers' Version

with Yisrael the things that are good, and God is pleased with it. May you be blessed by the Almighty master forever!"

And all the people said, "Amen!"

11 And the people plundered the camp for thirty days; and they gave Holofernes' tent to Yehudit, along with all his silver cups, his beds, his bowls, and all his furniture. She took them, placed them on her mule, prepared her wagons, and piled them on it.

12 And all the women of Yisrael ran together to see her; and they blessed her, and made a dance among them for her. She took branches in her hand, and distributed them to the women who were with her.[9] **13** Then they made themselves garlands of olive, she and those who were with her, and she went before all the people in the dance, leading all the women. All the men of Yisrael followed in their armour with garlands, and with songs in their mouths.

Yehudit's song of thanks

16:1 And Yehudit began to sing this song of thanksgiving in all Yisrael, and all the people sang with loud voices this song of praise. **2** Yehudit said,

"Begin a song to my god with timbrels.
Sing to my master with cymbals.
Make melody to him with psalm and praise.
Exalt him, and call on his name.
3 Because the master is the god that crushes battles.
Because in his armies among the people,
he delivered me out of the hand of those who persecuted me.
4 Ashur (Assyria) came out of the mountains from the north.
He came with ten thousands of his army.
Its multitude stopped the torrents.
Their horsemen covered the hills.
5 He said that he'd burn up my borders,
kill my young men with the sword,
throw my nursing children to the ground,
give my infants up as prey,
and make my virgins a plunder.
6 "The Almighty master brought them to nothing by a woman's hand.
7 Because their mighty one didn't fall by young men,
neither did sons of the Titans strike him.
Tall giants didn't attack him,
but Yehudit (Judith) the daughter of Merari made him weak with the beauty of her face.
8 "Because she put off the clothing of her widowhood
for the exaltation of those who were distressed in Yisrael (Israel).
She anointed her face with ointment,
bound her hair in a tiara,
and took a linen garment to deceive him.
9 Her sandal ravished his eye.
Her beauty took his soul prisoner.
The sword passed through his neck.
10 "The Persians quaked at her daring.
The Madim (Medes) were daunted at her boldness.
11 "Then my lowly ones shouted aloud.
My oppressed people were terrified and trembled for fear.
They lifted up their voices and the enemy fled.
12 The children of slave-girls pierced them through,
and wounded them as fugitives' children.
They perished by my master's army.
13 "I'll sing to my god a new song:
Oh master, you're great and glorious,
marvellous in strength, invincible.
14 Let all your creation serve you;
for you spoke, and they were made.
You sent out your spirit, and it built them.
There's no one who can resist your voice.
15 Because the mountains will be moved from their foundations with the waters,
and the rocks will melt as wax at your presence:
But you're yet merciful to those who fear you.
16 Because all sacrifice is little for a sweet savour,
and all the fat is very little for a whole burnt offering to you;
but he who fears the master is great continually.
17 "Woe to the nations who rise up against my race!
The master Almighty will take vengeance on them in the day of judgement
and put fire and worms in their flesh;
and they'll weep and feel their pain forever."

The celebration and Yehudit's later life

18 Now when they came to Yerushalem (Jerusalem), they worshipped God. When the people were purified, they offered their whole burnt offerings, their free will offerings, and their gifts. **19** Yehudit dedicated all Holofernes' stuff, which the people had given her, and gave the canopy, which she'd taken for herself out of his bedchamber, for a gift to the master.

20 And the people continued feasting in Yerushalem before the sanctuary for three months, and Yehudit (Judith) remained with them.

21 After these days, everyone departed to his own inheritance. Yehudit went away to Betulia, and remained in her own possession, and was honourable in her time in all the land. **22** Many desired her, but no man knew her all the days of her life from the day that Menasheh (Manasseh) her husband died and was gathered to his people. **23** She became very highly respected; and she grew old in her husband's house, to one hundred and five years. She let her maid go free. Then she died in Betulia. They buried her in the cave of her husband Menasheh. **24** The house of Yisrael (Israel) mourned for her seven days. She distributed her goods before she died to all those who were nearest of kin to Menasheh her husband, and to those who were nearest of her own kindred. **25** There was no one who made the Israeli people afraid any more in the days of Yehudit,

9 **RV 15:12 · Note** Compare 2 Maccabees 10:7.

nor for a long time after her death.

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