

Chapter 3

Manie kinges and other princes fubmitte them felues to Holofernes. 8. He receiueth them, and taketh of their chief men to reinforce his armie, 11. neuertheles deftroyeth their cities, and their goddes, that Nabuchodonofor only might be called god.

Then the kinges and princes of al cities and prouinces, namely of Syria and Mefopotamia, and Syria Sobal, and Lybia, and Cilicia fent their embaffadours, which coming to Holofernes, faid: ² Let thy indignation towarde vs ceafe: For it is better that liuing we feare Nabuchodonofor the great king, and be fubiect to thee, then dying, we should with our deftruction fuffer the damages of our feruitude. ³ Euerie citie of ours, and al our poffeffion, al mountaynes, and hilles, and fieldes, and heardes of oxen, and flockes of sheepe, and goates, and of horfes, and camels, and al our goddes, and families are in thy fight: ⁴ let al our thinges be vnder thy law. ⁵ We alfo, and our children are thy feruantes. ⁶ Come to vs a peaceable Lord, and vfe our feruice, as it shal pleafe thee. ⁷ Then went he downe from the mountaynes with horfemen in a great powre, and tooke euerie citie, and euerie inhabiter of the land. ⁸ And of al the cities he tooke to helpe him valiant men, and chofen for battel. ⁹ And fo great feare lay vpon al thofe prouinces, that the inhabitantes of al cities, princes and honorable perfons, together with the people went out to meete him coming, ¹⁰ receyuing him with garlandes, and torches, dauncing with timbrels, & shaulmes. ¹¹ Neither doing thefe thinges, could they for al that mitigate the firceneffe of his ftomacke: ¹² for he did both deftroy their cities, and cut downe their groues. ¹³ For Nabuchodonofor the king had commanded him, that he should deftroy al the goddes of the earth, that

the only might be called god of those nations, which could be subdued with the might of Holofernes. ¹⁴ And passing through al Syria Sobal, and al Apamea, & al Mefopotamia he came to the Idumeians into the land of Gabaa, ¹⁵ and tooke their cities, and fate there for thirtie dayes, in which daies he commanded al the armie of his powre to be vnited.

^a An expresse figure of Antichrist *2. Thef. 2.* for whom al heretikes make way as precurfers, for the singular *man of finne* wil confesse no God but himself.