

Chapter 5

Holofernes hearing that the Ifraelites prepare to refift him, in great rage demandeth diuers particulars concerning that people. 5. Achior an Ammonite telleth the meruelous workes of God towards them, 22. aduifeth him not to fight againft them. 26. The chief capitanyes are offended, & threaten Achior.

And it was told Holofernes the General of the warres of the Affyrians, that the children of Ifrael prepared them felues to refift, and had fhut vp the wayes of the mountaynes, ² and with exceeding furie he chafed in great anger, and called al the princes of Noab and dukes of Ammon, ³ and he fayd to them: Tel me ^awhat is this people which befetteth the mountaynes: or what, and of what forte, and how great their cities are: alfo what their power is, or what is their multitude: or who is the king of their warfare: ⁴ and why aboute al that dwel in the Eaft, haue thefe contemned vs, and haue not come forth to meete vs, that they might receiue vs with peace? ⁵ Then Achior captaine of al the children of Ammon anfwering, faid: If thou voutfafe my Lord to heare, I wil tel the truth in thy fight of this people, which dwelleth in the mountaynes, and there fhall not a falfe word come forth of my mouth. ⁶ This people
Gen. 11. is of the progenie of the Chaldees. ⁷ The fame dwelt firft in Mefopotamia, becaufe they would not folow the goddes of their fathers, which were in the land of the Chaldees. ⁸ Forfaking therfore the ceremonies of their fathers, which were in multitude of goddes, ⁹ they worshipped one God of heauen, who alfo commanded them that they should depart from thence, and should dwel
Gen. 12. in Charan. And when there was famine ouer al the land, they went downe into Ægypt, and there for foure hundred yeares were fo multiplied, that the hoft of them

^a Holofernes could not be altogether ignorant of fo famous a people as the Iewes, but in his rage marueling at their attempt demādeth more particularly of their habilitie to refift him. See *v. 27.*

Exod. 1. could not be numbred. ¹⁰ And when the king of Ægypt
oppreffed them, and in the buildinges of his cities had
fubdewed them in brick and claye, they cried to their
Lord, and he ftroke the whole Land of Ægypt with di-
Exo. 7. &c. uers plagues. ¹¹ And when the Ægyptians had caft them
out from them, and the plague had ceaſed from them,
and they would take them againe, and cal them backe
to their ſeruice, ¹² theſe fleeing away, the God of heauen
opened the ſea, ſo that the waters were conſolidated
Exo. 14. as a wal, on either ſide, and they walking through the
Made ſolid botome of the ſea paſſed drie foote. ¹³ In which place
or firme. whiles an innumerable armie of the Ægyptians purſewed
them, they were ſo ouerwhelmed with the waters, that
there was not one remayning, to tel the fact to poſteritie.
¹⁴ Alſo being paſt the read ſea, they poſſeſſed the deſertes
of Mount Sinai, in which neuer man could dwel, or ſonne
Exod. 15. of man reſted. ¹⁵ There bitter fountaynes were made
16. 17. ſweete for them to drinke, and for fourtie yeares they re-
ceiued meate from heauen. ¹⁶ Wherefoeuer they entered
without bow and arrow, and without ſhilde and ſword,
their God fought for them, and ouercame. ¹⁷ And there
Iudic. 2. was not that did inſult againſt this people, but when
3. 4. &c. they departed from the worſhip of the Lord their God.
Nu. 21. ¹⁸ But as often as beſide their owne God, they worſhiped
an other, they were geuen to praye, and into the ſword,
and to reproch. ¹⁹ And as often as they were penitent
for that they reuolted from the worſhip of their God, the
Iof. 12. God of heauen gaue them power to reſiſt. ²⁰ Finally the
king of the Chananeites, and of Iebuſeites, and of the
Pherezeites, and of the Hetheites, and of the Heueites,
and of the Amorrheites, and al the mightie in Heſebon
they ouerthrew, and they poſſeſſed their landes, & their
cities: ²¹ And as long as they finned not in the fight of
their God, it was wel with them, for their God hateth
4. Reg. 21. iniquitie. ²² For ^atheſe yeares alſo paſt when they had
reuolted from the way, which God had geuen them, that
they ſhould walke in it, they were deſtroyed in battels

^a He ſemeth to ſpeake of the captiuitie of king Manaffes. *Paral. 33.*
See the *argument of this booke.*

by manie nations, and verie manie of them were led captiue into a ftrange land. ²³ But of late returning to the Lord their God, from the difperſion wherein they were difperfed, they are vnited & are come vp into al theſe mountaynes, and poſſeſſe Ierufalem againe where their Holies are. ²⁴ Now therfore my Lord, ſearch if there be any iniquitie of theirs in the fight of their God: and let vs goe vp to them, becauſe their God deliuering wil deliuer them to thee, and they ſhal be ſubdewed vnder the yoke of thy power: ²⁵ but if there be no offence of this people before their God, we can not reſiſt them, becauſe their God wil defend them: and we ſhal be a reproche to the whole earth. ²⁶ And it came to paſſe, when Achior had ceaſed to ſpeake theſe wordes, al the great men of Holofernes were angrie, and they thought to kil him, ſaying to each other: ²⁷ ^{a)} Who is this, that ſayth the children of Iſrael can reſiſt king Nabuchodonofor, and his armies, men vnarmed, and without force, and without ſkil of the feates of warre? ²⁸ That Achior therfore may know that he deceiueth vs, let vs goe vp into the mountaynes: and when their mightie ones ſhal be taken, then ſhal he with them be ſtrooken through with the fword: ²⁹ that euerie nation may know that Nabuchodonofor is god of the earth, and beſides him there is none other.

^a As Holofernes *v. 3.* demanded that which he in great part knew, fo his men, (knowing Achior wel ynough) in rage demanded *vvho* he is that dare ſay ſuch thinges?