

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 flut 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 ^a)what 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 shall not a falfe word come forth of my mouth. ⁶ This people 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 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

Gen. 11.

Gen. 12.

^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 ceafed from them,
and they would take them againe, and cal them backe
to their feruice, ¹² thefe fleeing away, the God of heauen
opened the fea, fo that the waters were confolidated
Exo. 14. as a wal, on either fide, and they walking through the
Made folid
or firme. botome of the fea paffed drie foote. ¹³ In which place
whiles an innumerable armie of the Ægyptians purfewed
them, they were fo ouerwhelmed with the waters, that
there was not one remaying, to tel the fact to pofter-
itie. ¹⁴ Alfo being paff the read fea, they poffeffed the
defertes of Mount Sinai, in which neuer man could dwel,
or fonne of man refted. ¹⁵ There bitter fountaynes were
Exod. 15. made fweete for them to drinke, and for fourtie yeares
16. 17. they receiued meate from heauen. ¹⁶ Wherefoeuer they
entered without bow and arrow, and without shielde and
fword, their God fought for them, and ouercame. ¹⁷
Iudic. 2. And there was not that did infult againft this people,
3. 4. &c. but when they departed from the worfhip of the Lord
their God. ¹⁸ But as often as befide their owne God,
Nu. 21. they worfhiped an other, they were geuen to praye, and
into the fword, and to reproch. ¹⁹ And as often as they
were penitent for that they reuolted from the worfhip of
their God, the God of heauen gaue them power to refift.
Iof. 12. ²⁰ Finally the king of the Chananeites, and of Iebufeites,
and of the Pherezeites, and of the Hetheites, and of the
Heueites, and of the Amorrheites, and al the mightie in
Hefebon they ouerthrew, and they poffeffed 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 iniquitie. ²² For ^atheſe yeares alfo paft when they
4. Reg. 21. had reuolted from the way, which God had geuen them,

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

that they should walke in it, they were destroyed in battels 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 disperfion wherein they were disperfed, they are vnited & are come vp into al these mountaynes, and poffeffe Ierufalem againe where their Holies are. ²⁴ Now therefore my Lord, fearch if there be any iniquitie of theirs in the fight of their God: and let vs goe vp to them, becaufe their God deliuering wil deliuer them to thee, and they fhall be fubdewed vnder the yoke of thy power: ²⁵ but if there be no offence of this people before their God, we can not refift them, becaufe their God wil defend them: and we fhall be a reproche to the whole earth. ²⁶ And it came to paffe, when Achior had ceafed to fpeake thefe wordes, al the great men of Holofernes were angrie, and they thought to kil him, faying to each other: ²⁷ ^a) Who is this, that fayth the children of Ifrael can refift king Nabuchodonofor, and his armies, men vnarmed, and without force, and without skil of the feates of warre? ²⁸ That Achior therefore may know that he deceiueth vs, let vs goe vp into the mountaynes: and when their mightie ones fhall be taken, then fhall he with them be ftrooken through with the fword: ²⁹ that euerie nation may know that Nabuchodonofor is god of the earth, and befides 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 *vwho* he is that dare fay fuch thinges?