

Chapter 6

Holofernes in great rage fendeth Achior to Bethulia, that he may there be flaine with the Ifraelites. 8. He is leift bound to a tree, 10. from whence the Ifraelites taking him, he telleth them the caufe. 14. They entertaine him courteoufly and earnestly pray to God for helpe.

And it came to paffe when they had ceaſed to ſpeake, Holofernes being fore offended, ſaid to Achior: ² Becauſe thou haſt prophecied vnto vs ſaying, that the nation of Ifrael is defended of their God, that I may ſhew thee ^a)that there is no god, but Nabuchodonofor: ³ when we ſhal haue ſtrookẽ them al as one man, then thy ſelf with them ſhalt die by the ſword of the Affyrians, and al Ifrael with thee ſhal periſh by deſtruction: ⁴ and thou ſhalt proue that Nabuchodonofor is lord of the whole earth: and then the ſword of my warfare ſhal paſſe through thy ſides, & pearſed thou ſhalt fal among the wounded of Ifrael, and thou ſhalt no more fetch breath, til thou be deſtroyed with them. ⁵ But if thou thinke thy prophecie true, let not thy countenance quaile, and the paleneſſe that is in thy face, let it depart from thee, if thou thinke theſe my wordes can not be accompliſhed. ⁶ And that thou mayſt know that thou ſhalt proue theſe thinges together with them, behold from this houre thou ſhalt be affociate to their people, that whiles they ſhal receiue worthie puniſhment of my ſword, thou withal may be ſubiect to the vengeance. ⁷ Then Holofernes commanded his ſeruantes that they ſhould take Achior, and lead him into Bethula, and ſhould deliuer him into the handes of the children of Ifrael. ⁸ And the ſeruantes of Holofernes taking him, went through the champaine: but when they came neere the mountaynes, the flingers came forth againſt them. ⁹ And they turning out of the way by the ſide of the mountayne, tyed Achior to a tree hand and foote, and

^a Nabuchodonofors vaffals would haue no other god but him. And God almightie is alſo ielous and wil haue no God but him ſelfe.

fo left him bound with withes, and returned to their lord. ¹⁰ Moreouer the children of Ifrael descending from Bethulia, came to him. Whom loofing they brought to Bethulia, and fetting him in the middes of the people, demanded what was the matter, that the Affyrians had left him bound. ¹¹ In thofe dayes the princes there, were Ozias the fonne of Micha of the tribe of Simeon, and Charmi, who alfo is Gothoniell. ¹² In the middes therefore of the ancientes, and in the fight of al, Achior told al thinges that he had fpoken being asked of Holofernes: and how the people of Holofernes would haue killed him for this word, ¹³ and how Holofernes him felfe being angrie cōmanded him to be deliuered for this caufe to the Ifraelites: that when he should ouercome the children of Ifrael, then he might command Achior alfo himself to die by diuerfe tormentes, for this that he had faid: The God of heauen is their defender. ¹⁴ And when Achior had declared al thefe thinges, al the people fel on their face, adoring our Lord, and with common lamentation and weeping they powred out their prayers with one accord to our Lord, ¹⁵ faying: Lord God of heauen and earth, behold ^a)their pride, and haue regard to ^b)our humilitie, and attend ^c)the face of thy faintes, and fhew that ^d)thou forfakeft not them that prefume of thee and, that thou humbleft them that prefume of them felues, and glorie of their power. ¹⁶ Their weeping therfore being ended, & the peoples prayer by the whole day being finifhed, they comforted Achior, ¹⁷ faying: The God of our fathers, whose power thou haft fet forth, he wil geue thee this recompence, that thou rather fhalt fee their deftruction. ¹⁸ And when the Lord our God shal geue this libertie to his feruantes, be God with thee alfo in the middes of vs: that as it shal please thee, fo thou with al thine mayft conuerfe with vs. ¹⁹ Then Ozias, the

^a God regardeth the pride of finners,

^b the humiliation of penitentes,

^c the fanctitie of his Church in general, as wel holie perfons, as holie thinges,

^d and true cōfidence in him, without prefum̃g of mens poure.

counfel being ended, receiued him into his houfe, and made him a greate fupper. ²⁰ And al the ancientes being called, they refreshed them felues together after the fafting was ended. ²¹ But afterwarde al the people was called together, and al the night long within the church, they prayed defiring helpe of the God of Ifrael.