

## 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.*

**A**nd it came to paffe when they had ceafed to fpeake, Holofernes being fore offended, faid to Achior: <sup>2</sup> Because thou haft prophecied vnto vs faying, that the nation of Ifrael is defended of their God, that I may fthew thee <sup>a</sup>)that there is no god, but Nabuchodonofor: <sup>3</sup> when we fhall haue ftrookē them al as one man, then thy felf with them fhalt die by the fword of the Affyrians, and al Ifrael with thee fhall perifh by deftruction: <sup>4</sup> and thou fhalt proue that Nabuchodonofor is lord of the whole earth: and then the fword of my warfare fhall paffe through thy fides, & pearfed thou fhalt fal among the wounded of Ifrael, and thou fhalt no more fetch breath, til thou be deftroied with them. <sup>5</sup> But if thou thinke thy prophecie true, let not thy countenance quaile, and the paleneffe that is in thy face, let it depart from thee, if thou thinke thefe my wordes can not be accomplifhed. <sup>6</sup> And that thou mayft know that thou fhalt proue thefe thinges together with them, behold from this houre thou fhalt be affociate to their people, that whiles they fhall receiue worthie punishment of my fword, thou withal may be fubieft to the vengeance. <sup>7</sup> Then Holofernes commanded his feruantes that they fhould take Achior, and lead him into Bethula, and fhould deliuer him into the handes of the children of Ifrael. <sup>8</sup> And the feruantes of Holofernes taking him, went through the champaine: but when they came neere the mountaynes, the flingers came forth againft them. <sup>9</sup> And they turning out of the way by the fide of the mountayne, tyed Achior to a tree hand and foote, and

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<sup>a</sup> Nabuchodonofors vaffals would haue no other god but him. And God almightie is alfo ielous and wil haue no God but him felfe.

fo left him bound with withes, and returned to their lord. <sup>10</sup> Moreouer the children of Ifrael defcending 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. <sup>11</sup> In thofe dayes the princes there, were Ozias the fonne of Micha of the tribe of Simeon, and Charmi, who alfo is Gothoniell. <sup>12</sup> In the middes therefore of the ancientes, and in the fight of al, Achior told al thinges that he had fpoken being afked of Holofernes: and how the people of Holofernes would haue killed him for this word, <sup>13</sup> 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 himfelf to die by diuerfe tormentes, for this that he had faid: The God of heauen is their defender. <sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> faying: Lord God of heauen and earth, behold <sup>a</sup>)their pride, and haue regard to <sup>b</sup>)our humilitie, and attend <sup>c</sup>)the face of thy faintes, and fhew that <sup>d</sup>)thou forfakeft not them that prefume of thee and, that thou humbleft them that prefume of them felues, and glorie of their power. <sup>16</sup> Their weeping therfore being ended, & the peoples prayer by the whole day being finifhed, they comforted Achior, <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Then Ozias, the

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<sup>a</sup> God regardeth the pride of finners,

<sup>b</sup> the humiliation of penitentes,

<sup>c</sup> the fanctitie of his Church in general, as wel holie perfons, as holie thinges,

<sup>d</sup> and true cōfidence in him, without prefum̃g of mens poure.

counfel being ended, receiued him into his houfe, and made him a greate fupper. <sup>20</sup> And al the ancientes being called, they refreshed them felues together after the fafting was ended. <sup>21</sup> 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.