

Chapter 9

Iudith in hearecloth & afhes prayeth for the deliuerie of the people, remembering like benefites of God, 12. craueth powre to ouerthrow Holofernes.

V Who going away, Iudith ^{a)}went into her oratorie: and clothing her felf with hearecloth, put afhes vpon her head: and falling prostrate to our Lord, she cried to our Lord, faying: ² Lord God of my father Simeon, who gaueft him a fword for defence againft ftrangers, which were rauishers in their coinquination, and difcouered the virgine vnto confufion: ³ and gaueft their wemen into praye, and their daughters into captiuitie: and al the praye to be diuided to thy feruantes, which were zelous in ^{b)}thy zele: helpe I befech thee ô Lord God me a widow. ⁴ For thou haft done the thinges heretofore, and haft purpofed one thing after an other: and that hath bene done which thou wouldeft. ⁵ For al thy wayes are readie, and thy iudgements thou haft put in thy prouidence. ⁶ Looke vpon the campe of the Affyrians now, as thou didft voutfafe to

Exo. 14. fee the campe of the Ægyptians, when they ran armed after thy feruantes, truſting in chariotes, and in their horfemen, and in a multitude of men of warre. ⁷ But thou didft looke ouer their campe, and darkeneffe wearied them. ⁸ The depth held their feete, and the waters ouerwhelmed them. ⁹ So let theſe alfo be made ô Lord, which truſt in their multitude, and in their chariotes, and in pikes, and in ſhieldes, and in their arrowes, and glorie in their ſpeares, ¹⁰ and know not thy felf art our God, which deſtroyeſt warres from the beginning, and Lord is thy name. ¹¹ Lift vp thyne arme as from the beginning, and daſh their power in thy power: let their

^a Of ſuch priuate oratories as this our Sauour ſemeth to ſpeake *Mat. 6.* faying: *Enter into thy chamber &c.* Of like oratories among Chriſtians read *Card. Baronius An. D. 293. Cyp. ep. 56.*

^b The zele of Simeon and Leui was commendable, but for diuers euil circumſtances the fact was reprobud by Iacob. *Gen. 34. & 49.*

power fal in thy wrath, which promife that they wil violate thy holie thinges, and pollute the tabernacle of thy holie name, & with their fword throw downe the horne of thyne altar. ¹² Bring to paffe Lord, that his pride be cut of with his owne fword, ¹³ ^{a)}let him be caught with the fnares of his eies in me, and thou shalt fstrike him from the lippes of my charitie. ¹⁴ Geue me conftancie in mind, that I may contemne him: and powre that I may ouerthrow him. ¹⁵ For this shal be a memorial of thy name, when the hand of a woman shal ouerthrow him. ¹⁶ For not in multitude is thy power ô Lord, neither in ftrength of horfes is thy wil, neither haue the proud pleafed thee from the beginninge: but the prayer of the humble and meeke hath alwayes pleafed thee. ¹⁷ God of the heauens, creatour of the waters, and Lord of euerie creature, heare me wretch, praying and prefuming of thy mercie. ¹⁸ Remember Lord thy teftament, and geue a word in my mouth, and ftrengthen counfel in my hart, that thy houfe may continew in thy fanctification: ¹⁹ and al Nations may acknowledge, that thou art God, and there is no other besides thee.

^a She prayed, that Holofernes fhould be moued with her beautie, & fwete fpeech: which he might be and not finne, but he by his free wil finning God turned his finne to the good of others. See *Annot. Exod. 7. S. Aug. Ser. 228.*