

Chapter 11

*Holofernes demanding Iudith the caufe of her coming:
4. she deceiueh him with a probable narration.*

Then Holofernes faid to her: Be of good chere, and feare not in thy hart: becaufe I haue neuer hurt man, that would ferue Nabuchodonofor the king. ² And thy people, if they had not contemned me, I would neuer haue lifted vp my fpeare ouer them. ³ But now tel me, for what caufe haft thou departed from them, and it hath pleaſed thee to come to vs? ⁴ And Iudith faid to him: ^a)Take the wordes of thy handmayde, for if thou wilt folow the wordes of thy handmayde, our Lord wil do with thee a perfect thing. ⁵ For Nabuchodonofor the king of the earth liueth, and his power liueth which is in thee to the chaſtifying of al ftraying foules: that not onlie men ferue him by thee, but alſo the beaſtes of the field obey him. ⁶ For the induſtrie of thy mind is reported to al nations, and it is declared to al the world, that thou onlie art good, and mightie in al his kingdom, and thy diſcipline is bruted to al prouinces. ⁷ Neither is that vnknowne, which Achior fpake, neither are we ignorant of that thou haft commanded to come vpon him. ⁸ For it is certaine that our God is ſo offended with finnes, that he hath ſent word by his prophetes to the people, that he wil deliuer them for their finnes. ⁹ And becaufe the children of Ifrael know they offended their God, thy dread is vpon them. ¹⁰ Moreouer alſo famine hath inuaded them, and for drought of water they are now eſtemed among the dead. ¹¹ Finally they ordayne this, to kil their cattel, and to drinke the bloud of them, ¹² and the holie thinges of our Lord their God which God commanded not to be touched, in corne, wine, and oile, theſe haue they purpoſed to beſtow, and

^a Al that Iudith fayth is true in her ſenſe as ſhe meant it, but not in the vnderſtanding of Holofernes and his ſouldiars, yet was no leſſe lawful then that Iofue did in deceuing the citizes of Hay. *Iofue. 8. S. Aug. q. 10. in Iofue.*

they wil confume the thinges which they ought not to touch with their handes: therfore becaufe they do thefe thinges, it is fure that they fhall be geuen into perdition. ¹³ Which I thy handmayde knowing, am fled from them, and our Lord hath fent me to tel thee thefe verie thinges. ¹⁴ For I thy handmayde worfhippe God, euen now being with thee, and thy handmayde wil goe forth, and I wil pray God, ¹⁵ and he wil tel me when he wil repay them their finnes, and I coming wil tel thee, fo that I may bring thee through the middes of Ierufalem, and thou fhalt haue al the people of Ifrael, as fheepe, that haue no pafior, and there fhall not fo much as one dog barke againft thee: ¹⁶ becaufe thefe thinges are told me by the prouidence of God. ¹⁷ And becaufe God is angrie with them, I am fent to tel thefe verie thinges to thee. ¹⁸ And al thefe wordes pleased Holofernes, and his feruantes, and they maruailed at her wifedom, and one faid to an other: ¹⁹ There is not fuch a woman vpon the earth in looke, in beautie, and in fenfe of wordes. ²⁰ And Holofernes fayd to her: God hath done wel, which fent thee before the people, that thou mighteft geue them into our handes: ²¹ and becaufe thy promife is good, if thy God fhall doe this for me, he fhall alfo be my God, and thou fhalt be great in the houle of Nabuchodonofor, and thy name fhall be renowmed in al the earth.