

Chapter 13

Holofernes lying in a drunken sleepe, Iudith cutteth of his head, 12. so returneth with her maide through the gard, as it were to pray, cometh to Bethulia, 16. exhorteth al to thanke God, and sheweth them the head. 22. She is bleffed of al. 27. Achior alfo praiseth God and Iudith.

And when it was waxen late, his seruantes made haft to their lodgings, and Vagao shut the chamber doores, and went his way. ² And they were al ouerladen with wine. ³ And Iudith was alone in the chamber. ⁴ Moreouer Holofernes lay in his bed, faft a flepe with very much ^a)drunkennes. ⁵ And Iudith faid to her mayd that fhe fhould ftand without before the chamber, and watch. ⁶ And Iudith ftood before the bed, praying with teares, and with mouing of her lippes in filence, ⁷ faying: Confirme me ô Lord God of Irael, and in this houre haue refpect to the workes of my handes, that as thou haft promifed, thou mayft aduance ^b)Ierufalem thy citie: and I may bring to paffe that which I beleuing that it may be done by thee, haue purpofed. ⁸ And when fhe had fayd thefe thinges, she went to the pillar, that was at his beds head, and his fword that hong tyed on it, she loofed. ⁹ And when she had drawn it out, she tooke him by the heare of his head, and fayd: Confirme me ô Lord God in this houre, ¹⁰ and she ftroke twife vpon his necke, and cut of his head, and tooke his canopie from the pillars, and rolled afide his bodie a truncke. ¹¹ And after a while she went out, and deliuered the head of Holofernes to her mayde, and bad her put it into her wallet. ¹² And they two went forth, according to their cuftome, as it were to prayer, and they

^a The fafting of one woman ouerthrew an innumerable hoft of drunkards. *S. Amb. li. de ieiunio & Elia c. 9.*

^b If Bethulia had benne taken Ierufalem alfo had bene in extreme danger: for faftie wherof God had made more fpecial promife to Daud and others. *Ifaia. 37. 38. &c.*

paffed the campe, and compaffing the valley, they came to the gate of the citie. ¹³ And Iudith a far of faid to the keepers of the walles: Open the gates, becaufe God is with vs, which hath wrought power in Ifrael. ¹⁴ And it came to paffe, when the men had heard her voyce, they called the ancientes of the citie. ¹⁵ And they ran al to meete her, from the leaft to the greateft: becaufe they hoped not that now she would come. ¹⁶ And they lighting lightes gathered round about her euerie one: and she going vp into a higher place, commanded filence to be made. And when al had held their peace, ¹⁷ Iudith faid: Prayfe yee the Lord our God, who hath not forfaken them that hope in him: ¹⁸ and in me his handmayde he hath fulfilled his mercie, which he promifed to the houfe of Ifrael: and he hath killed by my hand the enemie of his people this night. ¹⁹ And bringing forth the head of Holofernes out of the wallet, she shewed it them, faying: Loe the head of Holofernes the general of the armie of the Affyrians, and behold his canopie, wherein he lay in his drunkennes, where the Lord our God ftroke him by the hand of a woman. ²⁰ But the fame our Lord liueth, that his ^a)Angel hath kept me, both going hence, and abyding there, and from thence returning hither: and our Lord hath not fuffered me his handmayde to be defyled, but without pollution of finne he hath called me backe to you, reioycing in this victorie, in my efcape, and in your deliuerie. ²¹ Confefse ye al to him, becaufe he is good, becaufe his mercie is for euer. ²² And they al adoring our Lord, faid to her: Our Lord hath bleffed thee in his power, becaufe by thee he hath brought our enemies to nothing. ²³ Moreouer Ozias the prince of the people of Ifrael, faid to her: Bleffed art thou daughter of our Lord the high God aboue al wemen vpon the earth. ²⁴ Bleffed be our Lord, which made heauen and earth, which hath directed thee vnto the woundes of the head of the prince of our enemies. ²⁵ Becaufe this day he hath fo magnified thy name, that thy prayfe fhall not

^a Iudiths proper Angel fo defended her, as Iacobs Angel deliuered him from all euiles. *Gen. 48.*

depart out of the mouth of men, which shal be mindeful of the power of our Lord for euer, for that thou haft not spared thy life for the distreffes and tribulation of thy kinred, but haft holpen the ruine before the prefence of our God. ²⁶ And al the people fayd: So be it, fo be it. ²⁷ Moreouer Achior being called came, and Iudith faid to him: The God of Ifrael, to whom thou gaueft testimonie, that he reuengeth him felf of his enemies, he hath cut of the head of al the vnfaithful this night by my hand. ²⁸ And that thou mayft proue that it is fo, loe the head of Holofernes, who in the contempt of his pride contemned the God of Ifrael: and threatened thee death, faying: When the people of Ifrael shal be taken, I wil command thy fides to be pearfed with a fword. ²⁹ But Achior feing the head of Holofernes, being in anguish for feare, fel on his face vpon the earth, and his foule was fore trubled. ³⁰ But after taking spirit agayne he was refreshed, & fel downe at her feete, and adored her, and fayd: ³¹ Bleffed art thou of thy God in euerie tabernacle of Iacob, becaufe in euerie nation, which shal heare thy name, the God of Ifrael shal be magnified in thee.