

Chapter 15

The Affyrians flee for feare, 3. the Hebrewes purfue them, 7. and are enriched by the spoyles. 9. The high prieft with others come from Ierufalem and prayfe Iudith. 14. The goodes of Holofernes are geuen to her.

And when al the armie heard that Holofernes was beheaded, courage and counfel fel from them, and being shaken with trembling onlie and feare, they helpe them felues by flight, ² fo that none spake with his neighbour, but hanging the head, al thinges leaft behind, they made haft to efcape the Hebrewes, whom they heard to come armed vpon them, fleing by the waies of the fieldes, and the pathes of the hilles. ³ The children of Ifrael therfore feing them fleing, folowed them. And they went downe founding with trumpettes, and shouting after them. ⁴ And becaufe the Affyrians were not vnited together, they went headlong into flight: but the children of Ifrael purfewing in one companie, difcomfited al that they could find. ⁵ Ozias therfore fent meffengers through al the cities and countries of Ifrael. ⁶ Euerie countrie therfore, and euerie citie fent chofen youth armed after them, and they purfewed them in the edge of the fword, vntil they came to the extremetie of their borders. ⁷ And the reft that were in Bethulia, entered into the campe of the Affyrians, and tooke away the praye, which the Affyrians fleing had leaft, and were loden excedingly. ⁸ But they that were returned conquerers to Bethulia, tooke away with them al thinges that were theirs, fo that there was no number in cattel, and beaftes, and al their moueables, that from the leaft vnto the greateft al were made rich of their prayes.

⁹ And Ioachim the high Prieft came from Ierufalem into Bethulia with al his ancientes to fee Iudith. ¹⁰ Who when fhe was come out to him, they al bleffed her with

The fourt part.
The prayfes
of Iudith, who
with al the peo-
ple praife God.

one voyce, faying: ^a)Thou art the glorie of Ierufalem, thou the ioy of Ifrael, thou the honour of our people: ¹¹ becaufe thou haft done manfully, and thy hart was ftrenghened, for that thou haft loued chaftitie, and after thy husband not knowne any other: therefore alfo the hand of our Lord hath ftrenghened thee, and therefore shalt thou be bleffed for euer. ¹² And al the people fayd: So be it, fo be it. ¹³ And for thirtie daies, fcarfe were the fpoyles of the Affyrians gathered of the people of Ifrael. ¹⁴ Moreouer al thinges, that were proued to be the peculiar goodes of Holofernes, they gaue to Iudith in gold, and filuer, and garmentes, and pretious ftones, and al ftuffe, and al the thinges were deliuered her of the people. ¹⁵ And al the people reioyfed with wemen, and virgins, and yongmen, on infrumentes and harpes.

^a Iudith was a fpecial figure of the B. Virgine Marie, to whom thefe praifes perteyne in more eminent forte, then to anie other creature. *S. Iulbertus Carnotenfis.*