

**Walk Through The Bible**  
**St. Barnabas Parish**  
**Wulff and Baillou Hill Roads**  
**Nassau, New Providence,**  
**The Bahamas**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006**

**Conclusion to**  
**The Book Of Tobit**

**1. Tobit 13:1-17 God afflicts and shows Mercy**

- a. 1-2 God is the source of His people's affliction and the source of the mercy shown to them.
- b. 3-4 Acknowledge Him because of who He is; Lord, Father, and God.
- c. 5-6 God brings affliction upon sin, but He showers mercy on those who turn back to Him. Repentance is a must.
- d. 7-11 Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed because of its iniquity but God will restore both. Other nations will come to worship Yahweh because of her.
- e. 12-17 Blessings and curses flow upon persons based upon their treatment of the sacred city Jerusalem. God will rebuild the city that He has destroyed and her splendor will be nothing like what they have ever seen before.

**2. Tobit 14:1-14 Blessings upon Blessings**

- a. 1-2 Despite all that Tobit has experienced, in the end God blesses him not only with his sight again, but He makes him prosper because of his acknowledgement of God's power.
- b. 3-4 Tobit on his deathbed summons Tobias and his seven sons and orders them to leave Nineveh because the Lord is about to bring destruction on the Land just as the prophets of ancient Israel had predicted. They will be safer in Media than in Assyria and Babylon. Even Samaria and Jerusalem will not escape the judgment that will befall the land.
- c. 5-11 God will one day restore Jerusalem and the whole world will be converted to Him. Yet Tobit reminds Tobias and his grandchildren that they must be faithful to God all the

days of their life. They must practice almsgiving and shun injustice and the deceit that seems to be common in his day. Tobit dies and is given an honorable burial.

- d. 12-15 Tobit is obedient to the very end and he receives blessings upon blessings. He inherited the property of his father and father-in-law. Yet before he dies he sees the words of his father come true; Nineveh does fall and its people are taken captive. The Lord has spoken and it was done!!!

**What have you learnt from The Book of Tobit???**

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**Introduction to The Book of Judith**

**Position:** 2nd Book of the Apocrypha

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Century B. C. (165-37 B.C. during the Hasmonean dynasty)

**Author:** Unknown

**Theme:** Despite the Oppression, Do Not Compromise Yourself-God will help you to overcome even your strongest enemies.

**General Outline of this Jewish Novel**

This is a fictional account of a victory of a Jewish woman who slays the leader of an invincible army. Like the Book of Esther, the Book of Judith tells the tale of a Jewish woman who overcomes the odds to rescue her people from certain destruction. The historical facts and the geographical information have all been exaggerated and the main purpose of the book is religious in nature.

**Chapters 1-7**

After Nebuchadnezzar had won victory in the east, he sends his rootless general Holofernes to punish those nations that did not act as allies in the war. He is able to defeat one nation after another and appears to be unstoppable. Holofernes finally reaches the little Jewish city of Bethulia and begins a long siege which he believes will eventually lead to them surrendering to his control. After a month, the hungry and thirsty inhabitants demand that their leaders surrender.

**Chapter 8-16**

At this point a beautiful, wealthy, and pious widow enters the story. She rebukes her people for not trusting in the God who promises to deliver. She promises that with the help of God she will deliver the city.

Making herself beautiful, she takes a servant girl with her and goes to the camp of the enemy. Holofernes is immediately attracted to her. She promises that she will let him know when the

divine protection will no longer be upon the people of her own city because they have eaten the first fruits and devoured the tithe which is supposed to be given at the Temple. She invites the general to a Banquet at which he drinks too much wine and she kills him with his own sword.

She then puts his head in a bag, and both her and her maid leaves the camp. God had surely struck down their enemy at the hands of a woman. Encouraged by her example, the city sets out towards a disorganized army which flees before them.

The Book closes with a song of thanksgiving by Judith. Her actions brought peace. The book is written in Jewish and Greek style of the period mentioned above.

### **Purpose of the Book**

While the nation fought for political independence from the Seleucid Empire, many Jews were under pressure to conform and compromise and adopt Greek customs and ways. Others reacted by a stricter adherence to the Jewish customs and laws. Yet another group decided to retreat to the desert to avoid confrontation. The Book of Judith was intended to encourage fellow Jews to stand up against the Greek culture and its pagan religion and remain loyal to God.

#### **1. Judith 1:1-16 Revenge!!!**

- a. 1-6 Nebuchadnezzar declares war on Arphaxad, the King of Media, who lives in a city so fortified that one cannot possibly believe that it will ever be captured. Despite the madness of coming against such a city, Nebuchadnezzar is able to gather a small group of countries to help him in his quest.
- b. 7-11 His request to the nations to the East however does not meet with a favourable response. They disregard his call, and reminds him that he is simply a “man”. They send back his messengers in disgrace.
- c. 12 Nebuchadnezzar swears that he will take revenge on those territories that have not joined him, and the oath is made based on his throne and his kingdom.
- d. 13-16 Nebuchadnezzar is able to defeat Arphaxad whereupon they return to Nineveh to feast and rest for 120 days.

#### **2. Judith 2:1-28 Carrying out The Threat!!!**

- a. 1-3 Not satisfied with his victory, Nebuchadnezzar now turns his attention to the rebel states. He must gain the approval of his ministers to carry out his punishment on the disobedient.
- b. 4-13 While giving Holofernes his instructions, Nebuchadnezzar’s arrogance comes out. He really believes that he is in charge.
- c. 14-18 Holofernes must use a great deal of the country’s resources to carry out the king’s plan for revenge.

- d. 19-28 As expected Holofernes appears to be an unstoppable force as he mows down country after country. The result is that the other nations who lie in his path have all become fearful of him.

**3. *Judith 3:1-9 When under Pressure - Sing a New Song!!!***

- a. 1-4 The nations that resisted have now changed the tone of their song - “We are servants of Nebuchadnezzar, the Great King!!!”
- b. 5-8 There is a heavy price to pay. They lose control of their land. Their young men are forced into the enemy’s service. Their shrines are destroyed and Nebuchadnezzar must be acknowledged as their only god!!!
- c. 9 Meanwhile Holofernes simply waits around and feast on them because of their fear.