

Walk Through The Bible

St. Barnabas Parish
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Nassau, New Providence,
The Bahamas

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The Book of Judith

1. 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.

2. 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 feasts on them because of their fear.

3. **Judith 4:1-15 When in distress - Call upon the Lord**

- a. 1-5 The attention is now turned to Judea in the south. Holofernes has been able to carry out quick attacks on the other nations but he pauses for a month before preparing to invade Judea. This allows the Jews time to prepare to resist the coming enemy. (History once again has been distorted to reflect the re-consecration of the vessels of the temple during the Maccabean revolt in the second century.) The whole region is able to prepare including parts of Samaria.
- b. 6-7 The cities of Bethulia and Betomesthaim are ordered to seize the mountain passes near to them so that they are able to defend them against their enemies. The High Priest is portrayed as a military leader.
- c. 8-15 The nation is following the instructions of the High Priest and a Council of Elders which later became the Sanhedrin in Jesus' day. They invite the entire nation to entreat the Lord's favour by praying and fasting. Everybody is to put on sackcloth and ashes. Even the altars are draped in sackcloth. They ask God to save them from the hands of their enemies. Even the priests performed their duties wearing sackcloth and ashes.

4. **Judith 5:1-24 Why do these People think that they are special???**

- a. 1-4 Holofernes confers with all of Judea's former enemies in an effort to find out about the people of Israel and what makes them believe that they can resist his advances. In what has the Israelites placed their confidence???
- b. 5-19 Achior provides a history for Holofernes. The children of Israel are said to have forsaken the gods of their original ancestors and turned to the God of heaven. God had relocated them. God caused them to prosper. When there was a famine in the land, they went down to Egypt and even there they prospered. God delivered them from Egyptian oppression. God pushed out the residents of the land before them. God prospered them as long as they did not sin. But when they departed from their God, trouble followed.
- c. 20-24 Achior advises that they should look for some spiritual fault that will cause God's people to be vulnerable. It is then that they will be assured of victory over God's people. But if they are not guilty of sin, Achior's advice is that they pass these people by or Holofernes and his army will become the laughing stock of the world. His advice was resented by Israel's enemies who simply saw them as a powerless people in the face of this vast marching army.

5. **Judith 6:1-21 When Men elevate themselves to the position of God!!!**

- a. 1-4 Holofernes rebukes Achior telling him that only Nebuchadnezzar is a god, and he is in charge of all the world's events. His army and his might are the only things that are final.

- b. 5-13 Holofernes orders Achior to be taken into custody until he has destroyed the Jewish people. After that he will kill Achior in the midst of them to demonstrate that the word spoken by him is not the final word on their destiny and fate.
- c. 14-21 The Israelites find Achior at the bottom of the hill near Bethulia and they inquire of him what he has told Holofernes' council. In contrast to Holofernes arrogance the people humble themselves before their God, waiting on Him to deliver them. Achior is received with honour by Uzziah who makes a banquet for him, while the people call on the Lord.