



Judith

Courageous

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The Holy Book of Judith describes the heroic and selfless actions of a beautiful widow determined to save the traitorous people of her city.

The work of an unknown author, the Holy Book of Judith falls into two roughly equal parts. In the first part, chapters 1-7, King Nebuchadnezzar, “who reigned over the Assyrians in the great city of Nineveh,”

sent his general Holofernes to punish the western nations because they had refused to join him in a war against Media. Holofernes marched against them, and all except the Israelites submitted. At that point, Achior, leader of the Ammonites, warned Holofernes that God would defend the Israelites so long as they remained faithful. Disregarding the warning, Holofernes surrounded the Israelites in the ancient Palestinian town of Bethulia, near Jerusalem.

In the second part of the the Holy Book, chapters 8-16, famine undermined the courage of the besieged city and they contemplated surrender, but the pious and beautiful widow Judith, in Hebrew meaning “Jewess”, upbraided them and volunteered to deliver the Israelites after rebuking them for losing faith in God when under siege. She went to the Assyrian camp, pretending to be an informer against her people foretelling Holofernes that he would be victorious. The charmed Holofernes, invited her to a banquet in his tent, where he became drunk and fell asleep. Judith, having taken advantage of the general’s intoxication, seized a sword, beheaded him, wrapped



The determination of Judith

the severed head in a bag and returned with it to her people. The jubilant Israelites then attacked the leaderless Assyrians, who fled in panic. Judith lead the people in a song of celebration and praise, and then all went to Jerusalem to offer thanksgiving.

Paralleling to the story of Judith, Esther as well, risked her life to save her people. According to her Holy Book, Queen Esther,

after a request from Mordecai and her people and after prayer and fasting for three days, approached the King without having been summoned, an action which usually resulted in death. Revealing at a banquet of wine the intentions of Haman to destroy the Jews, Esther, just as Judith, was victorious and saved her people by the death of the enemy.

Both Judith and Esther show comparison to the bloodshed of the Lord Jesus Christ to save us. The Lord Jesus Christ willingly gave his life, and Judith and Esther voluntarily risked their lives to save their beloved people. The Lord Jesus Christ conquered over death while Judith and Esther conquered by death. Religion and patriotism are equated, and emphasis is also placed on the beliefs that disobedience to the Law will bring certain punishment and that faith must remain strong in times of stress. Through the stories of Judith and Esther, we can learn one of the most important lessons: faith. Judith reprimanded her people for loosing faith when success seemed unattainable under assault. Achior spoke of how God would



defend his people as long as they remained faithful. In conjunction with fasting and prayer, faith saved the lives of Esther and her people. Faith is when we put all our trust in God, rather than trying to make our own decisions or to agonize over the consequences of those decisions. We allow God to shape our lives, convinced that whatever the outcome, we could not have done better.

God's Providence is shown as working through human instruments, in these cases, Judith and Esther, not through divine intervention. We are all God's tools on earth, He instructs us and all our work is done through Him, we deserve no credit. May the bravery, determination and faithfulness of our heroine Judith be reflected on us as we strive to be the perfect tools that God placed us here to be.

Holy Bible Word Search: Holy Bible Books

All the words listed below are in the puzzle — left, right, up, down or diagonally. When you find one of these words in the puzzle, circle it. After you have found all the words, the leftover letters will reveal the mystery word.

E P S T D S H A I R A H C E Z
P M U H A N U M B E R S Y R J
H O T E N I H C A L A M M C U
E V I S I O P H I L E M O N D
S C T S E E I J H T U R N R G
I C C A L Y H T O M I T O P E
A C O L O S S I A N S V R S S
N G I O E K U L T L A B E A N
S E S N E S T H E R E H T L A
S N A I P P I L I H P V U M I
G E I A H A B A K K U K E S T
N S A N N A U H S O J S D R A
I I H S N O I T A T N E M A L
K S C H R O N I C L E S O M A
H A I N A H P E Z A E S O H G

Acts	Kings
Amos	Lamentations
Chronicles	Leviticus
Colossians	Luke
Corinthians	Malachi
Daniel	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Numbers
Ecclesiastes	Philemon
Ephesians	Philippians
Esther	Psalms
Galatians	Revelation
Genesis	Ruth
Habakkuk	Thessalonians
Hosea	Timothy
Isaiah	Titus
Jonah	Zechariah
Joshua	Zephaniah
Judges	