Bible Study 97

# Wednesday, October 4, 2023

 “Women of the Bible” (continued…)

 Judith

At the end of the Old Testament Canon there can be found a series of books named the Apocrypha. These are not included in many Protestant Bibles including the King James. There are however found in Catholic and Revised versions. Among the books are ‘the Maccabees and Judith.

Judith is an interesting book that tells the tale of Israel at the time of King Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king who ruled over a vast empire. Judith belongs to the small town of BETHULIA.

The King has sent his army to attack the Israelites led by his General Holofernes. Specifically, he attacks Judith’s home city of BETHULIA. He lays siege to the city and the town leaders conclude that if God does not do something to save them, they will surrender in FIVE days.

They wish to bargain with God, but this incenses Judith, who sees this as offensive to God. “You cannot bargain, plead or threaten God the Almighty for he is above this kind of marketplace quarreling.” With the men doing nothing Judith makes a plan.

She heads to the enemy camp saying she has a message for the General, how to defeat her own people the Israelites. Holofernes is struck by her beauty and invites her to his banquet. Judith prepares and dresses in her most seductive attire.

Holofernes passions are aroused, and he goes half crazy with his desire for her. As they dine Judith plies him with amble amounts of wine. So much so that he falls asleep. Judith strikes his neck twice with a sword and cuts off his head.

She returns to the city carrying the head of Holofernes which they place on the ramparts. The people inspired by Judith’s courage rally and defeat the enemy army in one great battle.

Bargaining with God. Do we still do it?

How does Judith compare with Ruth, Esther and Hannah?

Is it okay to lie for a good end?

Who are the women of the New testament?

Mary

Anna.

Elizabeth

Mary of Bethany; Martha; Salome; Mary the Mother of James; the Samaritan woman; Mary the Magdalene. Pilate’ s wife. The women of Paul’s Epistles.