

## Lesson 22: Judith 8 – 10:9

### Description of Judith, Judith and the Elders, The Prayer of Judith

In the last lesson, the Assyrians had surrounded the area around Bethulia. They had captured the water supply for the town. The people of Bethulia are suffering. Their cisterns are dry. The people go to the elders and ask them to give up. Uzziah decided that they should continue to pray for **five more days** and if the LORD does not save them, then they will surrender. The people believed that their suffering was caused by their sins and those of their ancestors. In this chapter we finally meet Judith.

#### 1. Read Judith 8:1-8 and footnotes. Share any interesting footnotes with the group.

**How did Judith's husband die?**

**How long had she been a widow?**

**How is Judith described here? See 8:1-8 and 8:29.**

#### 2. Read Judith 8:9-16 and footnotes.

**Is there evidence here that the town elders *respect* Judith?**

**How does Judith say the elders are "testing the LORD?" See verses 8:12-13 and 8:16.**

**See also Deut. 6:16 and Matthew 4:5-7 below.**

**Deut. 6:16-17** <sup>16</sup>You shall not put the LORD, your God, to the test, as you did at Massah. <sup>17</sup>But keep the commandments of the LORD, your God, and the decrees and the statutes he has commanded you.

**Matthew 4:5-7** <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

**How were the elders testing the LORD?**

#### 3. Read Judith 8:17-24 and footnotes.

**Judith's speech testified to the spiritual change that had taken place in the Israelites since the return from exile. What has changed? See 8:17-20.**

**Challenge Question: If the city falls, Judith suggests it is the fault of the people of Bethulia, because of their lack of faith. What does she say is their *responsibility* at this point as faithful Jews? See 8:21-24.**

**4. Read 8:25-36 and footnotes.**

Judith says they are being tested. Judith compares this testing to whom in history?  
See 8:27.

*Why* does Judith say the LORD tests his people?

Uzziah suggests Judith should pray for what? Look for footnotes on this verse.

**5. Read 9:1-14 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.**

Read Genesis 34:25-29 in your bible. How and why did Simeon and Levi *deceive* the enemy?

How does Judith speak of God in the following verses?

9:2

9:5

9:6

9:8

9:11

9:12

9:14.

Read 9:10 and 9:13 again. What does Judith say she will do in order to defeat the enemy?

**6. Read Judith 10:1-9 and footnotes. Share any footnotes of interest.**

How does Judith prepare for her meeting with the enemy?