

*Judith*

**X. JUDITH**

1 Incipit de iudith *quomodo interfecit olofernem*

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We secgað nu ærest on þisum gewritum þæt twegen  
 cyningas wæron gecweden on Leden Nabochodonosor,  
 swiðe namcuðe begen. An wæs se Chaldeisca þe acwealde  
 5 Godes folc on Iudea lande for heora geleafleaste, þa þa hi  
 wurðodon wolice hæþengyld 7 deofolgyld beeodon heora  
 drihtne on teonan. Ða towænde se cyning heora winsuman  
 burh, Hierusalem gehaten, 7 þæt halige templ—ðe Salomon  
 geworhte mid wundorlicum cræfte—7 towearp hi  
 10 grundlunga, 7 þæt Godes folc ofsloh, 7 þa herelafe to  
 his lande adraf to Babiloniam, heora micclan byrig; 7  
 hi þær wunedon on his wælhreowan þeowte, gecnæwe  
 heora synna wið þone soþan God. Hundseofontig geara  
 hi wunedon þær on þeowte, oðþæt Cyrus cyning hi  
 15 asænde eft ongean to Iudea lande, þanon þe hi alædde  
 wæron, 7 het hi eft aræran þæt ænlice templ: swa swa  
 se ælmihtiga God on his mod asænde, þæt he his folce  
 mildsode æfter swa micelre yrmþe.

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Nu wæs se oþær cyning þe wæs gehaten on Leden  
 20 Nabochodonosor on Syrian lande, þæs Cyres sunu þe we  
 ær foresædon, 7 his tonama wæs Cambises gecweden.  
 Hwæt, þa Cambisus gecwæð to gefeohte ongean

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Manuscripts: C, O, and printed sources: A and W. 2) *We*] capital 'W' in C which descends six lines, *Leofan men we*, A and W; *gewritum*] *gelwritum*, C, *gewrite*, W. 3) *cyningas*] *cynges*, W; *wæron*] *weron*, W; *gecweden*] *gecweðen*, C; *on*] *in*, W; *Leden*] *Læden*, W; *Nabochodonosor*] *Nabuchononossor*, W. 4) *An wæs*] *An wes*, W. 5) *geleafleaste*] *geleaflestæ*, W; *hi*] *hio*, W. 6) *wurðodon*] *wurðoden*, W; *hæþengyld*] *hæþengeld*, W; *heora*] om. W. 7) *on*] *to*, W; *teonan*] W ends. 11) *heora*] *h\i/ere*, C. 13) *soþan*] *soþa*, C.

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Arfaxath, þæra Meda cyning, 7 he hine ofsloh, 7 þurh  
þone sige hine sylfne ahof on swiðlicre modignesse,  
25 7 asende his ærendracan him on ælce healfe to eallum  
þam leodscipum þe lagon to his rice. Wolde þæt hi ealle  
sceoldon him anum abugan, þæt he ana wære heora  
cyning; ac ealle þa leodscipas anmodlice him  
wiðcwædon, 7 asændon his ærendracan eft sona  
30 ongean, butan ælcum wurðmynte swiðe unwurðlice. [36]

Ða gebealh se cyning Nabochodonosor hine sylfne,  
7 swor þurh his cynestol þæt he wolde gewrecan  
witodlice on him eallum þæt hi his ærendracan 7 hine  
sylfne forsawon. He gegaderode his witan ða, 7 wið  
35 hi ealle rædde, cwæð þæt him swa þuhte þæt he sylf  
wolde ealne middanearð to his anwealde gebigean, 7 hi  
him andwerdon þæt he ænlice spræce. Þa sende se  
cyning sumne heretogan, Holofernem gehaten, mid  
mycelre fyrðinge, 7 bebed him þas word: 'Ne wanda  
40 þu nan ðing, ne ara ðu nanum rice ne ænigre  
burhscire. Ac ælce getrymmede burh þu gebige to me!' [48]

Ða ferde Holofernus mid ormætre fyrde, swa swa se  
cyning bead, 7 tobræc ælce burh, 7 þa ofsloh þe him  
wiðstodon, swa þæt his ege asprang ofer ealle þeoda.  
45 Hundtwelftig þusenda wigendra manna wæron on his  
fyrðinge, 7 twelf þusenda scyttena symle him ætforan.  
7 nan folc ne mihte his fyrde wiðstandan, ac comon him  
to of fyrlenum landum, mid fyrhte fornumene, friðes  
biddende. Cwædon þæt him leofre wære, þæt hi  
50 libbende þeowdon þam mæran cyninge Nabochodonosor [60]  
ðonne hi swyltende samod forwurdon. 7 hi swa abugan  
þa þam breman heretogan mid eallum heora æhtum to  
þæs cyninges anwealde. He ferde þa mid þrymme

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33) *witodlice*] *witodlice*, C with first 'd' subpuncted. 35) *sylf*] *s\el/lf*, C. 49) *Cwædon*] *cwæðon*, C. 51) *ðonne*] *ðonum*, C; *swa abugan*] O begins. 52) *eallum*] *eallon*, O; *æhtum*] *eh-ton*, O. 53) *He*] *hefflþe*, O; *ferde*] *sænde*, C.

55 feohtende wið manega leodscipas, 7 heora land gewann,  
 oðþæt þæt Iudeisce folc his fare geaxodon, 7 hi swiðe  
 forhtodon for his fyrdinge. Hi gearcodon swaþeah hi  
 sylfe to wige on þam heagum muntum micclum  
 ymbtrymde, 7 fordytton ælc fær upp to þam muntum,  
 7 hi anmodlice ealle to Gode clypodon, biddende his  
 60 fultumes þæt hi ne forwurdon.

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Holofernis þa siððan mid his fyrde becom to Iudea  
 lande, þe on God belyfdon, 7 his fyrd endemes to  
 gefeohte hi gearcodon ongean Israhela folc, þæt hi hi  
 fordydon. Ac him wearð gesæd þæt hi hi sylfe  
 65 gegearcodon mid wige him togeanes, 7 woldon him  
 wiðstandan. Holofernis þa axode his yldestan cæmpan  
 hwæt þæt mennisc wære, on ðam muntum wunigende,  
 þe hine swa forsawon, 7 hine secan noldon, ne hine  
 friðes biddan, him abugende. Ða cwæð sum heretoga  
 70 se hatte Achior, Ammoniscre þeode, mid swiðlicum  
 truwan: 'Leof, ic þe secge soð be þisum folce. Þis cynn  
 com iu of Chaldeisce mægðe, 7 hi æfre wurþiað ænne  
 ælmihtigne God, se þe on heofonum eardað, on hine  
 truwigende.

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75 Ða þa se micela hunger ealne middaneard ofereode,  
 þa ferdon heora fæderas þær þær hi fundon him

54) *wið*] *swyðe wið*, A & O; *manega*] *ma\anel/nega*, O;  
*leodscipas*] *leodscipes*, C; *gewann*] *gewan*, O. 55) *oðþæt þæt*]  
*þæt*, O; *his*] *heora*, C; *geaxodon*] *geacsodon*, O. 56) *forhtodon*]  
*forhtoden*, O; *fyrdinge*] *fy\el/rdinge*, O. 57) *micclum*] *miclum*,  
 O. 58) *ymbtrymde*] *ymbtryde*, O; *fordytton*] *fordydton*, C,  
*forditton*, O; *ælc*] *ærl*, C & O. 59) *hi anmodlice ealle*] *hi*  
*ealle anmodlice*, O. 60) *forwurdon*] *forwurðon*, C. 61) *mid*  
*his fyrde*] om. C, *mid his fy\el/rde*, O. 62) *belyfdon*] *gelyfdon*,  
 A, *bely\elfdon*, O. 63) *woldon*] *woldom*, C. 64) *axode*]  
*acxode*, O; *yldestan*] *y\el/ldestan*, O. 65) *wunigende*]  
*wuniende*, O. 66) *noldon*] *nolde*, C; *ne hine*] *ne hi*, O. 70)  
*hatte*] *hatta*, C; *Ammoniscre*] *ammoniscere*, O; *swiðlicum*]  
*wislicum*, O. 71) *þe*] om. O; *cynn*] *cyn*, O. 73) *ælmihgtigne*]  
*ælmiltigne*, O. 74) *truwigende*] *truwiende*, O. 75) *hunger*]  
*hungor*, O. 76) *him*] *hi\el*, O.

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bigleofan to Egypta lande, 7 þær lange wunodon feower  
hund geara, oþþæt ðær swa fela wæs þæs mancynnes  
geweaxen þæt man ne mihte hi geriman. Ða wolde  
80 Pharao, se Egiptisca cyning, hi yfele geswencan; 7 [95]  
gesette hi on þeowte to his weallgeweorcum, þæt hi  
worhton his burga. Ac hi clypodon endemes to þam  
æلميhtigan Gode þe hi on gelyfdon þæt he hi ahredde; 7  
85 hi forleton his folc of heora lande faran frige to heora  
earde.

‘Heora God hi þa gelædde of þam lande ealle ofer þa  
Readan Sæ, siðigende be þam grunde, swa þæt þæt  
wæter astod swylce stanweallas him on ælce healfe,  
90 þær þær hi inn eodon; 7 Pharao se cyning ferde him æt [106]  
hindan, wolde hi habban eft to his þeowte. Ac God hine  
adræncte on þære deopan sæ, þæt of ealre his fyrde an  
mann ne belaf.

‘Ðæt Godes folc þa eode upp be þam grunde, herigende  
95 heora drihten þe hi swa ahredde. 7 hi wunedon swa on  
westenum feowertig wintra, þær þær nan man ær  
eardian ne mihte, 7 him dæghwamlice com, þurh  
heora drihtnes sande, mete of heofenum eallum þam  
mancynne, 7 þa biteran wyllspringas him wurdon  
100 geswette, 7 eac of heardum stane hi hæfdon yrnende [117]  
wæter. Hi gewunnon syððan mid sige ðysne eard, 7

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77) *bigleofan*] *bileofan*, O; *wunodon feower hund*] *wunedon .cccc.*, O. 78) *fela*] *feala*, O; *mancynnes*] *mannes*, O. 79) *geweaxen*] *geweaxon*, C. 80) *Pharao*] *farao*, O; *yfele*] *yfela*, O. 83) *gelyfdon*] *gely\elfdon*, O. 84) *syllice*] *sy\ellice*, O. 89) *stanweallas*] *stanwealles*, C & O; *him*] *hi\al/* or *him\al/* (?), O. 90) *inn*] *in*, O. 92) *adræncte*] *adrencte*, O; *fyrde*] *fy\el/rde*, O. 93) *mann*] *man*, O. 95) *wunedon*] *wunodon*, O; *swa on*] *þa on*, A & O (see notes). 96) *feowertig*] *xl*, O. 97) *dæghwamlice*] *dæghwomlice*, O. 98) *drihtnes*] *drihnes*, O; *heofenum*] *heofonum*, O. 99) *wyllspringas*] *wyllspringes*, C, *wy\el/springas*, O. 100] *stane*] *stanne*, O; *yrnende*] *hyrnende*, C.

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heora God him fylste 7 feaht for hi; 7 ne mihte nan  
mann naht þisum folce, swa lange swa hi heoldon heora  
God on riht. Swa oft swa hi bugon fram his  
105 biggengum to þam hæðenum godum, hi wurdon  
gehergode 7 to hospe gewordenene þurh hæðene leoda.  
Swa oft swa hi gecyrdon mid soðre dædbote eft to heora  
Gode, he gedyde hi sona mihtige 7 strange to  
wiðstandenne heora feondum. Heora God soþlice hatað  
110 unrihtwisnyse!

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‘Nu, for manegum gearum, þa þa misheoldon þone  
heofonlican God, hi wurdon gehergode, 7 sume ofslagene,  
7 sume gelædde to fyrrenum landum, on hæftne  
wunigende, oððæt hi wendon eft to þam heofonlican  
115 Gode þe hi on gelyfað; 7 hi habbað nu eft heora eard  
gebogod 7 þa burh Hierusalem, þær bið heora haligdom.

‘Ic bidde þe nu, hlaford, þæt þu læte ofaxian gif ðis  
folc nu hæbbe ænige unrihtwisnyse oððe gylt  
geworhtne ongean heora God, 7 hi beoð underþeodde  
120 þonne þinum anwealde. Gif hi þonne nabbað nane  
unrihtwisnesse ne heora Gode abolgen, þonne beo we  
ealle to hospe gedone þurh heora drihten, þe hi bewerað,  
swa swa his gewuna is.’

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Holofern is þa sona æfter þissere segene gebealh  
125 hine swiðe 7 mid gebeote cwæð: ‘Wite ðu nu, Achior,  
þæt ðu weorþan scealt mid urum swurdum ofslagen  
mid him, þonne we hi ealle ofsleað swa swa æne  
mann, þæt þu mage tocnawan þæt ure cynehlaford  
Nabochodonosor is soðlice God, 7 he nu Israhel ealle  
130 eaðelice fordeð.’

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He het hine þa gebindan 7 gebringan on þæt land 7  
þam folce betæcan þæt he mid him forwurde. He wearð  
þa gebunden, swa swa se brema het, 7 to ðam lande  
gelæd; 7 forleton hine þær to anum treowe huxlice  
135 gebundenne. He wearð þa afunden fram þam folce þær,

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102) *nan*] *nann*, C with second ‘n’ subpuncted. 103) *nabt*] *nahte*, C. 105) *hæðenum*] O ends f.29v (begins again at l.320). 126) *weorþan*] *wurþan*, A. 128) *tocnawan*] *tocwawan*, C.

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7 he him eall sæde his sið be ændebyrdnesse, 7 þæt  
folc þa sona æfter his segene feollon to eorðan, mid  
flowendum tearum, cweðende mid heofunge: ‘Ðu,  
heofonlica drihten, geseoh heora modignesse 7 ure  
140 æadmodnesse 7 geswutela, drihten, þæt þu forseon [164]  
nelt þa þe on þe truwiað mid trumum geleafan, 7 þu þa  
geeadmetst þe on heora mihte wuldriað.’ Hi þa gefrefrodon  
þone foresædan Achior, 7 Ozias heora heafodmann  
hine hæfde mid him, 7 hi bædon þa ealle Godes  
145 mildheortnesse 7 his gescyldnesse wið þone Syriscan here.

Hwæt, þa Holofernus wolde hi ut asittan, 7 he heora  
wæterscipe mid weardmannum besette twentig daga  
on an on æmn ðere byrig; cwædon þæt hi hopodon  
to þam muntum swiðor þonne to wæpnum  
150 oððe to ænigum wigge. Ðæt Israhela folc þa wearð [176]  
geangsumod on mode for þære wæterleaste, 7 þær  
witodlice næs on eallum þam pyttum þe on þære  
byrig wæron swa mycel wæteres dæl þæt him mihte  
eallum to genihtsumnesse. Ac hi leton þa to ræde  
155 þæt hi woldon abugan þam breman heretogan to his  
mannrædene, þæt hi moston libban. Ozias ða cwæð to  
eallum þam folce: ‘Mine gebroðra, beoð eow geðyldige  
7 mid emnum mode andbidiað gyt anum fif dagas  
ures drihtnes willan, 7 gif us þonne ne becymð nanes  
160 cynnes frofer, ne nan alysednes ure neodþearfe, þonne [189]  
mote we abugan þam breman heretogan to his  
mannrædene, þæt us amundige.’

Ða wæs on þære byrig, on þam ylcan timan, an ænlic  
wimman on wudewanhade Iudith gehaten, þæra  
165 heahfædera cynnes, swiðe gelefed mann on þone  
lyfigendan God, hlisfull on þeawum, rihtlice lybbende  
æfter Moyses æ, Manases laf. Se wæs hire wer, ac he  
wearð ofslagen þurh þære sunnan hætān on hærfestlicre  
tide, ute mid his rifterum þe ripon his corn. He læfde

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148) *on æmn*] *on næmn*, C (see notes); *cwædon*] *cwæðen*, C.  
168) *hætān*] *hæten*, C.

170 þære wudewan unlytel on feo 7 on oðrum æhtum, æfter [201]  
his gebyrdum mycele welan on manegum begeatum; 7  
hi wunode on clænnysse æfter hire were on hyre  
upflore mid hire þinenum. Heo wæs swiðe wlitig, 7  
wenlices hiwes, 7 heo fæste symle buton on  
175 freolsdagum, mid hæran gescryd to hire lice æfre, on  
Godes ege butan unhlisan. p. 360

Deos Iudith ofaxode hu Ozias gespræc, 7 cwæð þæt  
hit wære witodlice unræd þæt mann sceolde settan  
swylcne andagan Gode, þæt he binnan fif dagum þam  
180 folce gehulpe oððe hi woldon gesecan þone Syriscan [213]  
here 7 þone ealdorman to his anwealde: 'Ne gladiað þas  
word God us to miltsunge, ac hi hine gremiað to  
gramlicre yrsunge. We sceolon beon gemyndige his  
mildheortnesse, forþan ðe we nyton nænne oðerne god  
185 buton hine ænne. Uton andbidian mid eadmodnesse his  
anes frofres. Abraham 7 Isaac 7 ure heahfæderas  
wurdon afandode on heora frecednessum 7 on  
earfoðnessum. Hi wæron getrywe þam ælmihtigan Gode,  
þe hi æfre ahredde. Hine we sceolon biddan, þæt he us  
190 geblissige, 7 of þyssere earfoðnysse us generige.' [226]

Æfter þisum wordum, 7 oðrum gebedum, heo awearp  
hire hæran 7 hire wudewan reaf, 7 hi sylfe geglængede  
mid golde, 7 mid purpuran, 7 mid ænlicum gyrlum, 7  
eode hire syððan, mid anre þinene, ut of þære byrig. 7  
195 bebead þam folce 7 þam foresædan Oziam þæt hi na ne  
hogodon embe hire fær, ac wunodon on gebedum  
7 gebædon for hi; 7 hi ealle wundrodon hire wlitese  
swiðe.

Heo ða, on ærne mergen, to þam weardum becom,  
200 sæde þæt heo wolde gesecan þone ealdormann 7 hine [238]  
gewissian to his agenum willan hu he eadlice mihte  
þæt manncynn berædan, butan frecednesse his agenes

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172) *wunode*] *wunod\el*, C. 178) *witodlice*] *witoðlice*, C. 184)  
*nyton*] *nyten*, C. 196) *embe*] *for \embel*, C with 'for'  
subpuncted. 200) *heo*] *he*, C.



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folces, þæt an man ne wurde of his werode amyrrad.  
Hi ða wundrodon hire wlytes swiðe, 7 hire wislicra  
205 worda, 7 mid wurðmynte hi gelæddon to heora  
ealdormen into his getelde. Sona swa he beseah on hire  
scinendan nebbwlyte, swa wearð he gegripen mid ðære  
galnesse his unstæððigan heortan; 7 heo aleat to his  
fotum, sæde þæt heo wiste to gewissan þinge, þæt þæt  
210 Israhela folc swa yfle wæs gehæfd mid scarpum hungre,  
7 swiðlicum þurste, for heora synnum wið þone soðan  
God, þæt hi moston ealle endemes forwurðan buton hi  
ðe hraðor to his ræde gebugon.

Heo cwæð eft oðrum worde: 'Ic wurðige minne God  
215 eac swilce mid þe, 7 on asettum timan ic sceal me  
gebiddan gebigedum cneowum to him 7 æt him ofaxian  
hwænne þu eaðelicost miht to þam folce becuman, mid  
ealre þinre fare, tomiddes Hierusalem, be minre  
wissunge, 7 þu hæfst hi ealle swa swa hyrdeleas sceap.  
220 Forþi ic com to þe, þæt ic cydde þe þis.'

He gelyfde þa hire wordum 7 hire wel behet, 7 his  
þegenas sædon þæt swylc wimman nære on ealre  
eorðan swa fægeres wlytes, 7 swa wis on spræce; 7 se  
ealdorman hi het gan into his maðmcleofan 7 þær wunian  
225 oðþæt he hyre word sende, 7 he het his hiredmen hire  
þenian of his agenum þenungum 7 his estmetum. Ac heo  
nolde swaþeah his sanda brucan for his hæðenscipe,  
ac heo hæfde gebroht on hire þinene fætelse hire  
230 weorcum gefylde.

Iudith þa abæd æt þam ealdormen þæt heo moste be  
leafe, on ðam langum nihtum, gan on hyre gebedum to  
gebiddenne hire drihten ut of þam maðmcleofan on hire  
cneowgebodum, 7 he sealde hire leafe þæt heo swa don  
235 moste; 7 heo swa dyde symle on nihtum. Bæd þone  
ælmihhtigan God þæt he hire gewissode his folce to

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204) *hire*] *hira*, C. 214) *Heo*] *He*, C. 223) *fægeres*] *fægeras*, C.  
224) *maðmcleofan*] *madmum*, C & A (see notes). 232) *ðam*] *ðan*, C. 233) *maðmcleofan*] *madmcleofan*, C & A. 236)  
*ælmihhtigan*] *ælmihhtigum*, C.

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ahreddinge on þære frecednysse.

240 Ða, on þam feorðan dæge, feormode se ealdorman his  
heahþegnas on his getelde on micelre blisse, 7 bebead [285]  
his burðegne þæt he gebringan sceolde into his  
gebeorscipe þa foresædan Iudith, 7 he swa dyde. Heo  
com þa geglenged for nanre galnysse, 7 stod him  
ætforan swiðe fægres hiwes, 7 his mod sona swiðe  
wearð ontend on hire gewilnunge to his galnesse; 7 het  
245 hi beon bliðe on his gebeorscipe, 7 heo him behet þæt  
heo swa wolde.

250 Ða wearð Holofernīs wundorlice bliðe ealne þone  
dæg, 7 fordræncte hine sylfne mid þam strangum wine  
ofer his gewunan, 7 ealle his þegnas eac wæron  
forðræncte; 7 hi efston on æfnunge to heora mane [297]  
swiðe, 7 þa burþegnas gebrohton þone ealdormann on  
anum bedde mid þære Iudith, 7 na swiðe ne gymdon  
syððan heora hlafordes.

255 Iudith geseah þa, þa þa he on slæpe wæs, þæt hire  
wæs gerymed to hire ræde wel forð; 7 het hire þinene  
healdan þa duru, 7 gelæhte his agen swurd 7 sloh to  
his hneccan, 7 mid twam slegum forsloh him þone  
swuran, 7 bewand þæt bodig mid ðam beddclaðum.  
Heo nam ða þæt heafod, 7 his hopscytan, 7 eode hire ut  
260 mid hire þinene swylce on gebedum, swa swa hyre [309]  
gewuna wæs, oþþæt hi buta becomon to þam burhgeate.

Iudith þa clypode 7 cwæð to þam weardmannum: 'Undoð  
þas burhgate! God sylf is mid us, se þe mihte gefremode  
on Israhela þeode.' 7 hi þa ardlice undydon þa gate, 7  
265 comon endemes mid leohte hire to, forþan þe hi wendon  
þæt heo ne com na ongean. Heo astah þa up to anum  
steapum beorge, 7 ætywde þæt heafod him eallum,  
cweðende: 'Heriað, ic bidde, mid blisse urne drihten, se  
þe ne forlæt on hine gelefende 7 þa þe hihtað on his

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237) *ahreddinge*] *a\b/reddinge*, C. 238) *þam*] *þan*, C. 244)  
*ontend*] *onteand*, C. 252) *gymdon*] *gyndon*, C. 255) *ræde*]  
*bræde*, C. 256) *swurd*] *swurð*, C. 266) *heo*] *hie*, C; *com*]  
*come*, C. 269) *þe hihtað*] *\þelic hihtað*, C with 'ic'  
subpuncted.

*Judith*

270 micclum truwan, 7 on me gefylde his mildheortnesse þa [323]  
þe he behet Israheles hirede; 7 he ofsloh nu to niht on  
minum handum his folces feond! 7 heo unforht cwæð:  
'Godes engel soðlice me gescylde wið hine, þæt ic  
unwemme eft becom to eow; 7 God self ne geþafode  
275 þæt ic gescynd wurde, ac butan besmitennysse he  
asende me ongean, on his sige blissigende 7 on eowre  
alysednesse.'

Hi sceawodon þa þæt heafod mid swiðlicre wafunge,  
7 Ozias heora ealdor, 7 hi ealle samod, bletsodon Iudith  
280 mid þissere bletsunge: 'Drihten þe gebletsode on his [334]  
drihtenlican mihte, se ðe þurh þe gehwyrfde ure fynd p.362  
to nahte, 7 se ðe nu todæg þinne naman gemærsode,  
swa þæt of manna muðum þin mærd ne ateorað.' Ða com  
Achior, Holofernes þegen, se ðe ær him gecyðde  
285 Godes gecyðnesse, 7 him swa aeode, swa swa he him  
sæde, þeah þe he mid huxe hine hete gebindan, 7 hine  
þeowde to ofsleanne mid þam folce. He wearð þa  
afyrht æt fruman swiðe for ðære gesihþe, þa þa he  
sceawode þæt heafod. Ac he blissode sona, 7 bletsode  
290 Iudith, 7 gelyfde siððan on þone lyfigendan God, æfter [347]  
Moyses æ, þæs mæran heretogan.

Iudith þa bebed þam burhwarum þus: 'Asettað þis  
heafod on þam hehstan wealle, 7 gað eow gewæpnode,  
on Gode truwigende, nu on ærne mergen ut of þyssere  
295 byrig. Þonne beoð eowre fynd afyrhte for eow, þonne hi  
heafodleasne heora ealdorman findað, þonne mage ge  
gewyrcean eower word on heom.'

Hi dydon þa swa, sona on dægred, 7 gewæpnode  
ut ferdon mid folclicum truman, swiðe hlydende to þam  
300 ungeleaffullum, oððæt þa Syriscan gesawon heora [358]  
fær; 7 hi þa woldon awreccan heora ealdorman. Ac nan  
man ne dorste þa duru unlucan, ac hi woldon elles mid  
gehlyde hine awreccan. Ða þa him þæs ne speow þurh

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282) *nu*] *nud* with 'd' subpuncted, C. 290) *lyfigendan*] *lyfigenda*, C. 293) *þam*] *þan*, C. 299) *þam*] *þan*, C.

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heora hludan spræce, þa asændon hi inn ænne his  
305 burðena 7 se afunde his hlaford licgan heafodleasne. 7  
he þa mid wanunge wende ut ongean, secende Iudith, 7  
sæde þam folce: 'An wifman hæfð nu us ealle gescynd  
7 urne cynehlaford! Her lið se ealdormann heafodleas  
on bedde mid his blode besyled!'

310 Hi wurdon þa afyrhte wundorlice ealle, 7 butan  
ælcum ræde bysmorlice flugon to heora lande weard,  
7 forleton heora ðing heora feondum to handa þe him  
fyligdon on bæc, 7 hi æfre hyndon hindan mid  
wæpnum; 7 of eallum heora burgum Ozias asende him  
315 maran fultum, 7 aflugdon hi endemes of heora earde þæt  
hi eft ne gecyrdon. Israhela folc þa mid ænlicum sige  
wendon him hamweard, 7 þa herelafa dældon betwux  
him on deorwurðum sceattum, swa þæt hi wurdon swiðe  
gewelegode; 7 hi ealle betæhton Holofernes þing Iudithe  
320 to hæbbenne, 7 hi heredon þa God mid swiþlicre blisse  
on sange 7 on dreame.

Ioachim wæs gehaten heora yldesta sacerd. Se com  
of Hierusalem mid eallum his preostum to Bethulian  
byrig, mid mycelre blisse, þæt he Iudith gesawe; 7 hi  
325 hi swiðe bletsodon ealle þisum wordum: 'Þu eart wuldor  
soðlice ure byrig Hierusalem 7 Israheles bliss, ures  
folces arwurðness, forþan þe þu wunodest æfter  
þinum were wiflice on clænnysse, 7 God þe gestrangode  
for þære clænnesse, 7 forðan þu sylf bist gebletsod on  
330 worulde!'

Iudith þa herode þone heofonlican God swyðe mid  
lofsange, swa swa hit on Læden us sægð, 7 hi ealle  
offrodon heora lac Gode binnan Hierusalem bliðe for ðam

[371]

[384]

f. 30r  
[394]

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304) *hludan*] *h[ ]ludan*, C. 310) *wurdon*] *wurðon*, C. 320)  
*blisse*] O begins (f.30r). 322) *yldestan*] *y\elldestan*, O. 323)  
*preostum*] *prestum*, O. 324) *micelre*] *micelere*, O; *hi*] *he*, C.  
325) *eart*] *ært*, O. 326) *bliss*] *blis*, O. 327) *arwurðness*]  
*arwurðny\els*, O. 329) *clænnesse*] C ends (all subsequent  
material taken from O and W), *clænny\el/sse*, O. 333)  
*offrodon*] *offroden*, O.

*Judith*

sige. Iudith þa þurhwunode on hire widewanhade  
335 mærllice for Gode on micclum wurðmynte; .c. geara heo  
leofode, 7 hire lytlan heo freode, 7 þæt Israhela folc  
eall wunode on sibbe on eallum hire life, 7 eac lange  
syððan.

Nis þis nan leas spel! Hit stent on Leden þus on  
340 ðære bibliothecan. Þæt witon boceras þe þæt Leden [406]  
cunnon þæt we na ne leogað. On hire wæs gefylled þæs  
hælendes cwyde: 'Ælc þe hine ahefð sceal beon  
geeadmet, 7 se ðe hine geeadmet sceal beon ahafen.'  
Heo eadmod 7 clæne, 7 ofercom þone modigan, lytel 7  
345 unstrang, 7 alede þone miclan. Forðan þe heo getacnode  
untweolice mid weorcum þa halgan gelaðunge þe gelyfð  
nu on God, þæt is Cristes cyrce on eallum Cristenum  
folce, his an clene bryd þe mid cenum geleafan þam  
ealdum deofle of forcerf þæt heafod, æfre on  
350 clænnysse Criste þeowigende. Iudith behet ærest þam [418]  
wælhreowum ealdormen þæt heo wolde hine  
gebringan binnan to hire folce. Ac hit næs na ealles  
leas, þæt þæt heo him behet, þa þa heo ber his heafod  
binnan þam weallum 7 þam folce æteowde hu  
355 hire fylste God. Þam sy a wurðmynt to worulde! Amen.

Heo nolde agan, swa swa us sægð seo racu, þæs  
welhreowan hærereaf, þe þæt folc hire forgeaf; ac  
amansumode mid ealle his gyrlan, nolde hi werian, ac  
awearp hi hire fram—nolde þurh his hæþenscype  
360 habban ænige synne. Sume nunnan syndon þe [429]  
sceandlice libbað, tellað to lytlum gylte þæt  
hi hi forlicgon 7 þæt hi leohtlice magon swa lytel  
gebetan. Ac heo ne bið na eft mæden, gif heo hi æne

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334) *widewanhade*] *wudewanbade*, A. 335) *C*] *hundteontig*,  
A. 339) *þus*] *nis*, A. 340) *bibliothecan*] *bibliothecum*, O. 344)  
*Heo eadmod*] *heo\wen/eadmod*, O. 346) *untweolice*] *untwyolice*, O. 349) *forcearf*] *forcerf*, O. 350) *clænnysse*] *clænny\el/sse*, O. 357) *hærereaf*] *hærebreaef*, O. 360) *nunnan*] *nunan*, O. 361) *sceandlice*] *scea\nd/lice*, O; *gylte*] *gylde*, O.

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forligð; ne heo næfð þa mede þes hundfealdan wæstmes.  
365 Nimað eow bysne be þyssere Iudith, hu clænlice heo  
leofode ær Cristes acennednysse, 7 ne leogað ge na  
Gode on ðæs godspelles timan þa halgan clænnysse  
þe ge Criste beheton, forðan þe he fordemð þa dyrnan  
forligras 7 þa fulan sceandas he besengð on helle, swa  
370 swa hit on Læden stent æfter Paulus lare: 'Fornicadores & adulteros iudicabit Deus.' [441]

Ic wylle eac secgan, min swustor, þæt mægðhad 7  
clænnys mycele mihte habbað, swa swa we gehwær  
rædað on martira þrowungum 7 on uitas patrum,  
375 swa swa Malchus...

Malchus ða eode ut of ðam scræfe mid his gemacan  
mycclum ablicged, 7 hi naman þa hors ðe hi þyder  
brohton, 7 wæron ða ridende ðe ær wæron feðende, 7  
becomon to Syrian, þær ðær hi syþþan wunodon æfre  
380 on clænnysse Criste ðeowigende. Ðam sy wuldor 7 lof [452]  
a to worulde! Amen.

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367) *clænnysse*] *clænny\el/sse*, O. 368) *forðan*] *fo\g/rdan*, O;  
*dyrnan*] *dy\el/rnan*, O. 369) *sceandas*] *sceanda*, A (see notes).  
370) *Paulus*] *Paules*, A; &] *et*, A. 373) *clænnys*] *clænny\el/s*,  
O. 374) *uitas*] *uita\s/*, O. 375) *Malchus*] O ends (all  
subsequent material taken entirely from W). 378) *ridende*]  
*bridende*, W. 380) *ðeowigende*] *ðeowigenne*, W.