

## THE BOOK OF JUDITH

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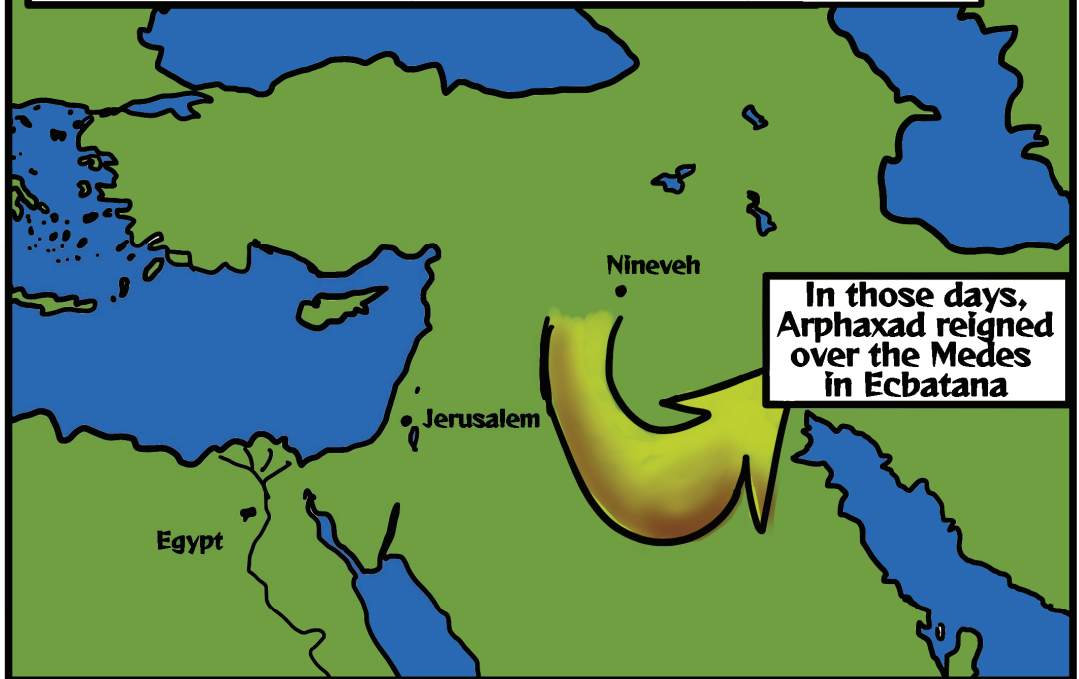
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Based on the apocryphal Book of Judith

It was the twelfth year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled over the Assyrians in the great city of Nineveh...



In those days, Arphaxad reigned over the Medes in Ecbatana

King Nebuchadnezzar, supported by many surrounding nations, made war with King Arphaxad in the great plain territory.



Take this decree to all the inhabitants of Persia and the western countries, to all the peoples under my thumb as far even as Gilead, Jerusalem, Egypt, and the frontiers of Ethiopia.

They must join my war to crush these Chaldeans.

They will honor your glory, Mighty One.

By Nebuchadnezzar, you will make war—

We refuse to hear this summons!

Silence!

Be gone, weakling!  
We are not afraid of Nebuchadnezzar!





In the seventeenth year, Nebuchadnezzar led all his forces against King Arphaxad.

Victory to King Nebuchadnezzar!

Your magnificence is now a mockery!

We are lost!

Plunder the Medes!

Have mercy!

Help!

Ah, Arphaxad. You are now mine.

Die, slave!

And now, we feast!

Nebuchadnezzar's army enjoyed rest and feasting for one hundred twenty days

The eighteenth year, on the twenty-second day of the first month, palace gossip predicted that King Nebuchadnezzar was planning his revenge on all the countries, just as he had threatened.

The time has come

We will utterly destroy all who did not answer

They will beg for death

and we will give it to them.

Send for Holofermes.

Yes, my lord.