

And when they finished their prayer before the CAUSE, they comforted that king, speaking to his heart, quote: "The CAUSE, our GOD and our ancestors' GOD, whose name and might you made known,³⁵ will be your helping shield.³⁶ And THEY will show you the fall of this evil enemy, when the CAUSE our GOD avenges vengeance, avenging the children of Israel. And may the CAUSE be with you!³⁷ And you will dwell with us wherever is good in your eyes.³⁸" And Uzziah came and received him in his home, and made him a great feast. And after that all the people gathered and prayed all night, asking for help from the CAUSE.

And the very next day, Eliforni commanded to go to war on them. And the infantry soldiers of a hundred and twenty thousand men, and the cavalry twelve thousand, gathered together with great force and a strong hand³⁹ against the children of Israel. And when the children of Israel saw their myriads, they sat on the earth and brought ash on their heads,⁴⁰ and the children of Israel cried out to the CAUSE⁴¹ to save them from their enemies.⁴² And they took their weapons and sat in the narrow paths in which were the way to the mountain, and guarded them day and night. And Eliforni in his going around the mountain found the channels of water which were outside the city, and commanded to uproot and to pull down and to destroy and to overthrow⁴³ them. And the soldiers of the army came to the king, saying to him that the children of Israel do not trust in spear nor bow nor arrow - rather the high mountains and all the hills strengthen them. As for you, so that you may overcome them without a war-camp, set, yes, set guardians on the water-springs so they cannot bring up water from them. And you kill them through thirst without a sword, or

וַיְהִי בְּכָלֹת אֶת־תְּפִלָּתָם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה נִחְמוּ אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ הַהוּא וַיְדַבְּרוּ עַל־לִבּוֹ לֵאמֹר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר הוֹדַעְתָּ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ וְאֶת־גְּבוּרָתוֹ יְהִי מִגֵּן עֲזָרָךְ: וְהוּא יִרְאֶךָ אֶת־מַפְלֵת הָאוֹיֵב הָרֹעַ הַזֶּה בְּנֶקֶם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ נֶקֶם נִקְמַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיְהִי יְהוָה עִמָּךְ וְאַתָּנוּ תֵּשֵׁב בְּטוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ: וּבֹא עֲזִיחוֹ וְקַבְּלוּ בְּבֵיתוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ מִשְׁתֶּה גָדוֹל: וְאַחֲר־כֵּן נִתְקַבְּצוּ כָּל־הָעָם וַיִּתְּפִלּוּ כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה שׁוֹאֲלִים עֲזָר מֵאֵת יְהוָה:

וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרַת הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה צֹנָה אֱלִיפֹרְנִי לַעֲלֹת לַמִּלְחָמָה עֲלֵיהֶם: וְהָעָם הָרַגְלִיִּים אֲנָשֵׁי־חֵיל הָיוּ מְאֹה וְעֹשִׂים אֲלָפִים אִישׁ וְהַפָּרָשִׁים שְׁנַיִם עֹשִׂר אֲלָפִים נִתְקַבְּצוּ יַחְדָּו בְּבֶחַ גָּדוֹל וּבִיד חֲזָקָה נֶגֶד בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וּכְאֲשֶׁר רָאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־רַבּוּיָם יָשְׁבוּ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹפֶר עַל־רֹאשָׁם וַיִּצְעֲקוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יְהוָה לְהוֹשִׁיעֵם מִיַּד אוֹיְבֵיהֶם: וַיִּקְחוּ | אֶת־כָּלִי זִינֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁבּוּ בַּדְּרָכִים הַצָּרִים אֲשֶׁר בָּהֶם נִתִּיב הַהָר וַיִּשְׁמְרוּ אוֹתָם יוֹמָם וּלְיָלָה: וְאַלִּיפֹרְנִי בִלְכָתוֹ | סָבִיב הַהָר מִצָּא סִילוּנֵי הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר חוּץ לָעִיר וַיִּצּוּ לִנְתוֹשׁ וּלְנִתּוֹץ וּלְהַאֲבִיד וּלְהָרוֹס אוֹתָם: וַיָּבֹאוּ חֵילֵי הַצָּבָא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ לֵאמֹר לֹא כִי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵינָם בּוֹטְחִים לֹא בַּחֲנִית וְלֹא בַּחֲצִים וְלֹא בַּקֶּשֶׁת אֲפֹס הַהָרִים הָרָמִים וְכָל־הַגְּבָעוֹת מַחֲזִיקִים אוֹתָם: וְאַתָּה לְמַעַן תּוּכַל לָהֶם בְּלִי מַעֲרַכַת

35 Psalm 106:8

36 Deuteronomy 33:29

37 I Samuel 20:13

38 Genesis 20:15

39 Exodus 32:11

40 Joshua 7:6

41 Judges 4:3

42 Judges 2:18

43 Jeremiah 1:10

they will hand the city to you out of thirst. And the matter was good in the eyes of the king⁴⁴ and before all his generals, and he set centurions around the water-springs.

And thirty days after he set this watch, the water was lacking from the cisterns and from the canals for all the residents of Jerusalem, and the people thirsted for water. And the children of Israel gathered against Uzziah, all the men and women, boys and lads together, all speaking as one, quote: "GOD judge between us and you, for you have done us wrong, and withheld us from answering before the king! Thus GOD will hand us over to their hands, and none will help, and we will fall before their eyes from great dehydration. And now, let us hand ourselves wholeheartedly over to the king. Is it not better for us to serve the CAUSE and be slaves to Eliforni than die of thirst, and be a reproach to all flesh⁴⁵ upon seeing us, our sons and daughters dead before us? We call the heavens and earth to witness today,⁴⁶ and the GOD of our ancestors who accounts for our sins, that you will immediately and quickly hand the city over to the hand of the enemy's force, and we will quickly die by the sword!"

מִלְחָמָה שׁוֹם תָּשִׁים שׁוֹמְרִים עַל מְקוֹרֵי הַמַּיִם לְבִלְתִּי יוֹכְלוּ לַעֲלוֹת מֵי־מִהְמָה: וְתָמִית אוֹתָם בַּצָּמָא מִבְּלִי חָרֵב אֹז יִמְסְרוּ לָךְ אֶת־הָעִיר מִפָּנֶי הַצָּמָא: וַיֵּטֶב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וּלְפָנָי כָּל־שְׁלִישֵׁי וַיֵּשֶׁם מִסְבִּיב שָׂרֵי מֵאוֹת עַל מְקוֹרֵי הַמַּיִם:

וַיְהִי | לְעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם אַחֲרֵי שׁוּמוֹ מִמְשַׁמְרָה זֹאת נִתְמַעֲטוּ הַמַּיִם מִהַבּוֹרוֹת וּמִהַפְּלָגִים לְכָל־יוֹשְׁבֵי יְרוּשָׁלַיִם וַיִּצְמָא הָעָם לַמַּיִם: וַיֵּאָסְפוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־עֲזִיָּהוּ כָּל־הָאֲנָשִׁים וְהַנָּשִׁים בַּחוּרִים וּנְעָרִים יַחַד כֻּלָּם פָּה אֶחָד לֵאמֹר יִשְׁפֹּט אֱלֹהִים בֵּינֵינוּ וּבֵינְךָ בִּי הִרְעַתָּה לָנוּ וּמֵאֲנֶתָ לַעֲנוֹת מִפָּנֶי הַמֶּלֶךְ: וְעַל־כֵּן יִמָּסֶר אֱלֹהִים אוֹתָנוּ בְּיָדֵיהֶם וְאֵין עֹזָר וְנִפְלָנוּ לְעֵינֵיהֶם בְּרַב הַצָּמָאֹן: וְעַתָּה נִמָּסֶר עַצְמָנוּ בְּלֵב שָׁלֵם לַמֶּלֶךְ: הֲלֹא טוֹב־לָנוּ | לַעֲבֹד לַיהוָה וְהֵינּוּ עֲבָדִים לְאַלִּיפוֹרְנֵי מִמּוֹתָנוּ בַּצָּמָא וּמִהִיּוֹתָנוּ דְּרֹאוֹן לְכָל־בָּשָׂר בְּרֹאוֹתָנוּ בְּנֵינוּ וּבָנוֹתֵינוּ מֵתִים לְפָנֵינוּ: מַעֲיָדִים אֲנַחְנוּ הַיּוֹם אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְאֶת־אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ הַפּוֹקֵד עָלֵינוּ כָּפִי עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ כִּי תִמְסְרוּ תַּכְךָ וּמִידָּךְ אֶת־הָעִיר בְּיַד חֵיל הָאוֹיֵב וְנָמוּת מִהֶרָה לְפִי־חָרֵב:

44 Esther 2:4

45 Isaiah 66:24

46 Deuteronomy 4:26

And as they heard the cry of the children of Israel, all the generals of Israel's armies cried a great and bitter cry⁴⁷ and wept great weeping⁴⁸ in the Palace. And they cried to the Cause with one voice, saying: "We have sinned with our ancestors, we have done iniquity, we have done evil!"⁴⁹ GOD, do not silence yourself, do not hush, do not be quiet, DEITY! For behold, YOUR enemies growl, and YOUR foes raise their heads! Against YOUR people they craft conspiracy, counsel against YOUR treasured ones. They said, 'Let's annihilate them as a nation, that the name of Israel no longer be remembered.' For they counseled together, cutting a deal against You!⁵⁰

Please, DEITY, MOTHERLY FATHER, have mercy on YOUR people and on YOUR inheritance, and do not turn YOUR covenant children over to the hand of the people that do not know You. Why should the nations say 'where is their God?'⁵¹ In YOUR great glory, destroy those rising against You!⁵² Make them like Midian, like Sisera and Jabin in the Kishon river. They were exterminated at En-dor, like dung for the field. Set their great men like Oreb and Zeeb, like Zebah and Zalmunna all their princes."⁵³

And when they finished all the crying and weeping, Uzziah stood, his eyes flowing with tears, and said to them, "Be strong and courageous in your heart,⁵⁴ my brothers! We will yet acquire mercy from the CAUSE, in five more days; perhaps the CAUSE will turn back THEIR raging anger⁵⁵ and grant honor to THEIR name. And if after five days the CAUSE does not save us, we will do as you have spoken."

And upon hearing these matters, Judith the widow,

וַיְהִי כַשְׁמָעָם אֶת־צַעֲקָתָא בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
כָּל־שָׂרֵי צְבָאוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל צָעֲקוּ צַעֲקָה גְדוֹלָה
וּמָרָה וַיִּבְכּוּ בְּכִי גָדוֹל תּוֹדֹה הֵחִיל: וַיִּצְעֲקוּ
אֶל־יְהוָה קוֹל אֶחָד לֵאמֹר חָטְאנוּ
עִם־אֲבוֹתֵינוּ הָעֵינֵינוּ הִרְשַׁעְנוּ: אֱלֹהִים
אֶל־דְּמִי־לָךְ אֶל־תַּחֲרֹשׁ וְאֶל־תִּשְׁקֹט אֵל:
כִּי־הִנֵּה אוֹיְבֶיךָ יִהְיוּ וּמִשְׁנֵאִיךָ נִשְׂאוּ
רָאשׁ: עַל־עַמֶּךָ יַעֲרִימוּ סוֹד וַיִּתְּעֲצוּ
עַל־צַפּוֹנֶיךָ: אָמְרוּ לָכֵן וְנַכְחִידֶם מִגּוֹי
וְלֹא־יִזְכָּר שֵׁם־יִשְׂרָאֵל עוֹד: כִּי־נִוְעָצוּ לָב
יַחַד עָלֶיךָ בְּרִית יִכְרְתוּ:

אֲנִי הָאֵל אָב הַרְחֲמֵן חֲמַל עַל עַמֶּךָ וְעַל
נַחֲלָתְךָ וְאֶל־תִּמְסָר | בְּנֵי בְרִיתְךָ בְּיַד הָעַמִּים
אֲשֶׁר לֹא יָדְעוּךָ: לָמָּה יֹאמְרוּ הַגּוֹיִם אֵי
אֱלֹהֵיהֶם וּבָרַב גְּאוּנֶךָ תִּהְרַס קִמְיָךְ: עֲשֵׂה
לָהֶם כְּמִדְיָן כְּסִיסְרָא כְּיָבִין בְּנַחַל קִישׁוֹן:
נִשְׁמְדוּ בְּעֵין־דָּאָר הָיוּ דָּמֵן לְאֲדָמָה: שִׁיתָמוּ
נְדִיבֵימוֹ כְּעָרַב וְכַזָּאב וְכַזָּבַח וְכַצְלָמְנַע
כָּל־נְסִיכֵימוֹ:

וְכַאֲשֶׁר כָּלּוּ כָּל־הַצַּעֲקוֹת וְהַבְּכִי קָם עֲזִיָּהוּ
וַעֲיִנָּיו זֹלָגוֹת דְּמָעוֹת וְאָמַר אֲלֵיהֶם חֲזָקוּ
וַיֵּאמְרָן לְבַבְכֶּם אַחִי: וְנִקְנֶה חֶסֶד מִיְּהוָה עוֹד
חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים אוֹלִי יָשׁוּב חֲרוֹן אַף־יְהוָה וַיִּתֵּן
כְּבוֹד לְשֵׁמוֹ: וְאִם אַחֲרֵי חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים
לֹא־יִוָּשִׁיעַ יְהוָה לָנוּ נַעֲשֶׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּם:

וַיְהִי כַשְׁמָע אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה יְהוּדִית

47 Genesis 27:34

48 Judges 21:2

49 Psalm 106:6

50 Psalm 83:2-6

51 Psalm 79:10

52 Exodus 15:7

53 Psalm 83:10-12, citing multiple earlier Biblical passages. For Sisera and Jabin at Kishon see Judges 4 and 5. For the four princes of Midian see Judges 7 and 8.

54 Psalm 31:25

55 Jeremiah 30:24

daughter of Beeri,⁵⁶ was very reverent of the CAUSE. Judith made herself in the attic of her house a small room to pray in, and stayed there with her girls. And she afflicted her soul with fasting⁵⁷ all the days of her life; and she was a very beautiful woman. And Judith had found grace in the eyes of all who saw her,⁵⁸ for she was reverent of the CAUSE.

And when she heard that Uzziah had spoken to hand the city over after five days, she sent to call for the priests Habri and Carmi,⁵⁹ and they came to her. And Judith said to them, "What is this thought-up matter that Uzziah thought to do, to hand the city over into the hand of the enemy if our salvation does not come within five days? And who are you, that you have tried the CAUSE? Has THEIR faithfulness disappeared forever⁶⁰ that you have set a border to THEIR mercy and compassion, to set yourself a day per your choice? Far be it from you to turn away from after the CAUSE! For the mercies of the CAUSE have not ended, for THEIR compassions have not finished.⁶¹ Better to wait silently for the CAUSE's salvation!⁶² For the MASTER does not abandon forever, but aggrieves then pardons per THEIR great mercies.⁶³ In but a moment They may speak of a nation or kingdom⁶⁴ and comfort from evil.⁶⁵

And now, come, let us return to the CAUSE,⁶⁶ who is long-suffering, and let us ask of THEM forgiveness and atonement for this sin, in weeping and fasting, and to our GOD, who will

הָאֱלֹמָנָה בַּת־בְּעִירִי וְהִיא הִיתָה יִרְאֵת־יְהוָה מְאֹד׃ וַתַּעַשׂ לָהּ יְהוּדִית בַּעֲלִיּוֹת בֵּיתָה חֲדָר מִיָּחָד לְהִתְפַּלֵּל־בּוֹ וַתָּשָׁב שָׁם עִם־נַעֲרוֹתֶיהָ׃ וְהִיא הִיתָה מְעַנָּה בַּצּוֹם נִפְשָׁה כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ׃ וְהִיא הִיתָה אִשְׁת׃ יִפְתָּחָר מְאֹד׃ וַתְּהִי יְהוּדִית נִשְׂאֵת חֹן בְּעֵינֵי כָּל־רוֹאֶיהָ כִּי הִיתָה יִרְאֵת אֶת־יְהוָה׃

וְהִיא | כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעָה כִּי דִבֶּר עֲזִיָּהוּ לְמָסֹר אֶת־הָעִיר אַחֲרֵי חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים שְׁלָחָה לְקָרָא אֶת־הַכֹּהֲנִים חַבְרִי וְכַרְמִי וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלֶיהָ׃ וַתֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוּדִית מַה־זֶּה הַדְּבָר הַחֲשׂוֹב אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁב עֲזִיָּהוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת לְמָסֹר אֶת־הָעִיר בְּיַד הָאוֹיֵב אִם־לֹא יָבֹא יְשׁוּעָתָנוּ תוֹךְ־חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים וּמִי אַתֶּם כִּי נִסִּיתֶם אֶת־יְהוָה׃ הָאִפֶּס לְנֶצַח חֲסֵדוֹ כִּי | שִׁמְתֶּם גְּבוּל לְחֲסֵדִיו וּלְרַחֲמָיו לְשׁוֹם לָכֶם יוֹם כָּפִי בַּחֲרִיתְכֶם חֲלִילָה לְסוֹר מֵאַחֲרֵי יְהוָה׃ חֲסֵדִי יִהְיֶה כִּי לֹא־תִמְנָנוּ כִּי לֹא־כָלוּ רַחֲמָיו׃ טוֹב וַיַּחֲלִי וְדוֹמָם לְתַשׁוּעַת יְהוָה׃ כִּי לֹא יִזְנַח לְעוֹלָם אֲדֹנָי׃ כִּי אִם־הוֹגָה וְרַחֵם כָּל־בַּחֲסֵדִיו׃ רַגַע יִדְבֹּר עַל־גּוֹי וְעַל־מַמְלָכָה וְנַחֵם עַל־הָרָעָה׃

וַעֲתָה לְכוּ וְנִשׁוּבָה אֶל־יְהוָה כִּי אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם׃ הוּא וְנִשְׁאַלָה מִמֶּנּוּ סְלִיחָה וְכִפְרָה עַל־זֶה הָעוֹן בְּבִכְי וּבְצוֹם וְאֶל־אֱלֹהֵינוּ כִּי־יִרְבֶּה

56 In Septuagintal Judith 8:1 her father's name is Merari. Beeri is the name given to the father of Esau's wife, also named Judith, in Genesis 26:34.

57 Psalm 35:13

58 Esther 2:15

59 Mentioned in Septuagintal Judith 6:15 as Chabris and Charmis, the rulers of the city of Bethulia along with Uzziah. Not referred to as priests therein.

60 Psalm 77:9

61 Lamentations 3:22

62 Lamentations 3:26

63 Lamentations 3:31–32

64 Jeremiah 18:7

65 Jonah 4:2

° Some printings read אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם and אֶרֶךְ אֶת־, both of which are obvious printers' errors. The verse in Hosea reads אֶל־, and אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם is a common phrase whereas אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם is meaningless.

increase forgiving.⁶⁷ And a difficult time it is to Jacob, but from it he will be saved.⁶⁸ And just as our souls are panicked from their arrogance, so too we will cheer and rejoice⁶⁹ in our salvation. For we have not done evil like our ancestors, who abandoned THEM and burned incense to other gods,⁷⁰ which is why they were handed over to the sword and captivity and shame and disgrace at their enemies' hands. And we know no other deity but our GOD – there is none but THEM!⁷¹ And THEY will reckon for our blood from the hand of those rising against us, for the sake of THEIR name's glory.

And now, my brothers, you are the priests of the CAUSE, and the soul of all THEIR people Israel relies on you. And you, be strong and courageous in your heart,⁷² and the heart of all Israel, saying to them that our ancestors were brought in trial to try them if they truly love the CAUSE their GOD. And you, say to them that that Abraham our father stood in his trial of the PLACE, and the CAUSE loved him. And so too Isaac and Jacob and Moses and the rest of the ancestors were found faithful before the CAUSE via suffering. And all those who did not stand in trial revering the CAUSE, but complained before the CAUSE, were afflicted by the destroyer and died in the plague of snakes. And now, understand and see that just as a man rebukes his son, the CAUSE our GOD rebukes us,⁷³ but does not give us to death,⁷⁴ for the sake of THEIR great and awesome name."

And Uzziah and the priests said to her, "All your words are just, none of them perverse or crooked."⁷⁵ We have foolishly

לְסִלּוֹחַ: וְעַתְּ-צָרָה הִיא לִיעֲקֹב וּמִמֶּנָּה יוֹשָׁע:
וּכְאֲשֶׁר נִבְהָלָה נַפְשֵׁנוּ מִפָּנֵי יְדוֹנָם כֵּן נִגִּילָה
וְנִשְׂמָחָה בִּישׁוּעָתָנוּ: כִּי-לֹא הִרְשַׁעְנוּ
כְּאֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר עֲזָבוּהָ⁶⁷ וַיִּקְטְרוּ לֵאלֹהִים
אַחֲרִים וְעַל-כֵּן נִמְסְרוּ לַחֶרֶב וּלְשָׁבִי
וּלְחֶרֶפָה וּלְכָלמָה בְּיַד שׂוֹנְאֵיהֶם: וְאַנְחָנוּ לֹא
נִדְעַל אֵל אֲחֵר זֹלָתִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֵין עוֹד מִלְּבָדוֹ:
וְהוּא יִדְרֹשׁ דַּמֵּינוּ מִיַּד קִמֵּינוּ לְמַעַן כְּבוֹד
שְׁמוֹ:

וְעַתָּה אַחֵי אַתֶּם הַכֹּהֲנִים לַיהוָה וְנַפְשׁ
כָּל-עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל תְּלוּיֹת בְּכֶם: וְאַתֶּם חֲזָקוּ
וַיֵּאמְרוּ לְבַבְכֶּם וְלֵב כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר
אֲלֵיהֶם כִּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ הוֹבֵאוּ בְּנִסְיוֹן לְנִסּוֹת
אוֹתָם אִם בָּאֵמֶת אֶהְבּוּ אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:
וְאַתֶּם | תֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם כִּי אֲבָרְהָם אֲבִינוּ
עָמַד בְּנִסְיוֹנוֹ שֶׁל מָקוֹם וַיְהוֶה אֶהְבּוּ: וְכֵן
יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב וּמֹשֶׁה וְשָׂאֵר הָאֲבוֹת נִמְצְאוּ
נֶאֱמָנִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה בִּיסוּרֵין: וְכָל-מִי שֶׁלֹּא
עָמַד בְּנִסְיוֹן בִּירְאֵת יְהוָה וְהִתְלוֹנְנוּ לִפְנֵי
יְהוָה נִגְפוּ לִפְנֵי הַמַּשְׁחִית וַיָּמוּתוּ בַּמַּכָּת
הַנִּחָשִׁים: וְעַתָּה הִתְבוֹנְנוּ וּרְאוּ כִי כְאֲשֶׁר
יִיסַר אִישׁ אֶת-בְּנוֹ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִיִּסְרָנוּ
וְלָמוּת לֹא נִתְּנָנוּ בְּעֶבֶר שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל
וְהַנּוֹרָא:

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֶיהָ עֲזִיזָהּ וְהַכֹּהֲנִים צָדֵק כָּל-אֲמָרֵי
כִּי אֵין בָּהֶם גִּפְתָּל וְעֵקֶשׁ: נֹאֲלָנוּ וְאַשָּׁר

⁶⁷ Some printings read עֲזָבוּנוּ "they have abandoned us" while others read עֲזָבוּהָ "they have abandoned her," but this verse is a third-person adaptation of עֲזָבוּנִי "they have abandoned ME" and thus should be the third-person non-feminine singular עֲזָבוּהוּ "they have abandoned THEM."

⁶⁷ Isaiah 55:7

⁶⁸ Hosea 6:1

⁶⁸ Jeremiah 30:7

⁶⁹ Isaiah 25:9

⁷⁰ II Kings 22:17, Jeremiah 1:16

⁷¹ Deuteronomy 4:35

⁷² Psalm 31:25

⁷³ Deuteronomy 8:5

⁷⁴ Psalm 118:18

done sin,⁷⁶ in setting a border for the CAUSE's salvation. And so, plead on our behalf, for upright and reverent of the CAUSE are you." And Judith said to them, "I will plead to the CAUSE for your sake, so you too should plead to the Cause for mine, to fulfill my plot that I have thought to do,⁷⁷ to avenge the vengeance of the children of Israel upon⁷⁸ the Greeks.

Now, at evening-time, stand at the gates of the city, and I will go out – me and my maid with me – at night. And you, do not interrogate of me where I am going, rather, always let your prayers be in your mouths to the CAUSE, GOD of Israel, to account for THEIR people for THEIR name's honor's sake." And Uziah said to her, "Go in peace, and may the GOD of Israel grant your request that you have asked of THEM. And may the CAUSE be with you, to avenge us from our enemies, amen!"⁷⁹

חָטְאוּנוּ לְשׁוּם גָּבוּל לְיִשׁוּעַת יְהוָה: וְלֵכֶן
הֶעֱתִירִי בַעֲדָנוּ כִּי־יִשְׁרָה וְיֵרָאֵת אֶת־יְהוָה
אִתִּי: וְתֹאמַר לָהֶם יְהוּדִית אֲנִי אֶתְפַּלֵּל
לְיְהוָה בַּעֲדְכֶם וְגַם אַתֶּם הֶעֱתִירוּ אֶל־יְהוָה
בַּעֲדִי לְהִקִּים אֶת־עֲצָתִי אֲשֶׁר חֲשַׁבְתִּי
לַעֲשׂוֹת לְנַקְם נִקְמַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֵת
הַיּוֹנִים:

וְלֵכֶן לַעֲת עֶרֶב תַּעֲמְדוּ בְשַׁעְרֵי הָעִיר וְאַצֵּא
אֹנִי וְשַׁפְחָתִי עִמִּי בַלַּיְלָה: וְאַתֶּם אַל־תִּחְקְרוּ
מִמֶּנִּי אָנָּה אֲנִי בָּא אִפְסִי כִי תִמְיֵד תִּהְיֶה
תְּחַנְתְּכֶם בְּפִיכֶם⁷⁷⁷ לְיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
לִפְקֹד אֶת־עַמּוֹ בַּעֲבוּר כְּבוֹד שְׁמוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר
אֵלֶיהָ עֲזִיבוּהוּ לְכִי לְשָׁלוֹם וְאַל־הִי יִשְׂרָאֵל יִתֵּן
אֶת־שְׂאֵלְתְּךָ אֲשֶׁר שְׂאֵלְתָּ מֵעַמּוֹ: וַיְהִי יְהוָה
עִמָּךְ לְנַקְם אוֹתָנוּ מֵאוֹיְבֵינוּ | אָמֵן:

75 Proverbs 8:8

76 Numbers 12:11

77 Jeremiah 18:8

78 Numbers 31:2

⁷⁷⁷ Some printings read בְּפִיָּהֶם, a printers' error.

79 I Samuel 1:17

And Judith went into her room and donned sack and ashes and put dust on her head and bowed down to the CAUSE and spilled out her soul in fast and weeping and prayer before the CAUSE. And thus she said in her prayer: "O CAUSE, GOD of Shimon my ancestor, who set in his hand a sword to avenge the foreigners who defiled and revealed the nakedness of Dinah their sister, and YOU set their wives to captivity and their daughters and all their possessions to plunder by the hand of YOUR servants who were zealous in zeal for YOU! Account, please, for me, CAUSE my GOD, per YOUR great mercy, for all YOUR paths are righteousness, and YOUR judgments are greatly deep.⁸⁰ And gaze, please, upon the camp of this evil enemy, that mocks the camps of GOD, as You saw the camp of Egypt as they, armed, pursued after Israel Your people and Your inheritance, those that trusted in their chariots and their horses and their great strength, and You looked down at their camps and You panicked them with dark places. The abysses covered them, they went into the depths like a stone⁸¹ in the mighty waters.⁸² Like them, o CAUSE my GOD, should be all those who trust in their strength,⁸³ and in riders and in cavalry⁸⁴ and in arrows and in bow, and boast of their spears. They do not know nor understand that⁸⁵ You are the CAUSE our GOD, the CAUSE, a warrior, arousing zeal, shouting, even roaring, upon THEIR enemies, victorious.⁸⁶ Bare YOUR mighty right arm and shatter, in YOUR mighty fire, the nations that do not know YOUR, and the kingdoms that do not call by YOUR name,⁸⁷ those who said "Let us inherit GOD's pleasant places,⁸⁸ to come to the Temple and defile YOUR holy Palace and snap the horn of YOUR altar!"

ויהודית נכנסה בחדרה ותלבש שק ואפר ותעל עפר על ראשה ותשתחוה ליהוה ותשפך את נפשה בצום ובכל ותפלח לפני יהוה: וכה אמרה בתפלתה יהוה אלהי שמעון אבי אשר-שמת | בידו חרב להתנקם מהנכרים אשר טמאו וגלו את-ערות דינה אחותם ונתת את-נשיהם בשבי ואת-בנותיהם וכל-שללם לבז ביד עבדיך אשר קנאו את-קנאתך: פקדני-נא יהוה אלהי כרב חסדך כי כל-דרכיך צדק ומשפט וטהור רבה: והבט-נא את-מחנה האויב הרע הזה אשר חרף מערכות אלהים כאשר ראית את-מחנה מצרים | ברדפם חמושים אחרי ישראל עמד ונחלתך אשר בטחו במרכבותיהם ובסוסייהם וברב חילם והשקפת על מחניהם והבהלת אותם במחשפים: תהמת יכסימו ירדו במצולת כמו-אבן במים אדירים: כמוהם יהיו גם-אלה יהוה אלהי הבוטחים על-חילם וברכב ובפרשים ובחצים ובקשת המתהללים בחניתותיהם: לא ידעו ולא יבינו כי אתה יהוה אלהינו יהוה איש מלחמות יעיר קנאה יריע אף-יצריח על-איביו יתגבר: חשף זרוע גבורתך כבראשונה ושבר | באש גבורתך אלה-הגוים אשר לא-ידעו ועל ממלכות אשר בשמד לא קראו: אשר אמרו נירשה-לנו את נאות אלהים לבא במקדש ולטמא היכל קדשך ולנתק קרן מזבחך:

80 Psalm 36:7

81 Exodus 15:5

82 Exodus 15:10

83 Psalm 49:7

84 Ezekiel 26:7

85 Isaiah 44:18

86 Isaiah 42:13

87 Psalm 79:6

88 Psalm 83:13

Please, CAUSE! Do it for YOUR sake if not for ours.⁸⁹ Let their sword hit their own heart, their bows be shattered!⁹⁰ And to this evil stressing foe, Eliforni the king, go forth to him, bend him down;⁹¹ and let him be caught in the trap of his eyes to love me, and make him fall ill with the sickness of desire for me. And grant my soul strength to reject him, and in my hand the might and power to destroy him. Let the wicked fall into their nets, until I alone pass through.⁹² And let this me a remembrance of YOUR great name, that YOU will sell him, CAUSE my GOD, into the hand of a woman.⁹³ And You, Cause, do not value horsepower,⁹⁴ and forever hate the arrogant kingdom. The plea of the poor YOU hear, the cry of the needy YOU listen and save.⁹⁵ Grace me and hear my prayer, and give ear to my plea, do not disregard my tears!⁹⁶ And grant a word in my mouth and counsel in my heart for establishing YOUR holy Temple, so that all the nations will know that YOU are the living GOD and there is no god but YOU.

And when Judith finished praying to the CAUSE this prayer and petition, she stood from the place where she had bowed down to the CAUSE, from bending on her knees and her palms spread to heaven.⁹⁷ And she called her maid and came to her palatial house, and removed her widow's clothes⁹⁸ and sackcloth from upon her. And she washed her body and rubbed herself with oil of myrrh and braided the braids of her hair and set a crown on her head. And she wore expensive gilt clothes and engraved jewelry and crescents and earrings and rings. And she beautified herself with all women's cosmetics and her twenty-four ornaments,⁹⁹ and

אָנָּא יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה לְמַעַנְךָ אִם-לֹא לְמַעַנֵּנוּ:
חַרְבָם תָּבוֹא בְלִבָּם וְקִשְׁתוֹתֵם תִּשְׁבְּרֶנָּה:
וְלִצֹר הַצּוֹרֵר הָרַע הַזֶּה אֶל־פּוֹרְנִי הַמִּלֵּךְ
קִדְמָה פָּנָיו הִכְרִיעָהוּ וְיִלְכַּד בְּפַח-עֵינָיו
לְאַהֲב אוֹתִי וְתַחֲלֶהוּ בַּחֲלֵי הַחֶשֶׁק בִּי: וְתֵן
בְּנַפְשִׁי חֲזָק לְמֵאוּסוֹ וּבִידֵי כָח וְאֵל
לְהַשְׁמִידוֹ: יִפְּלוּ בְּמַכְמָרֵי רָשָׁעִים יַחַד אֲנָכִי
עַד-אַעֲבֹר: וַיְהִי-זֶה זִכָּר לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל בִּי
תִּמְכַּר אוֹתוֹ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי בִיד אִשָּׁה: וְאַתָּה
יְהוָה לֹא בְּגִבּוֹרֶת הַסּוּס תִּחַפֵּץ וּמַלְכוּת זָדוֹן
לְעוֹלָם שְׂנֵאתָ: שׁוֹנֵעַת עֲנִיִּים אַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע
צַעֲקַת הַדָּל תִּקְשִׁיב וְתוֹשִׁיעַ: חֲנִנִי וְשִׁמְעַ
תְּפִלָּתִי וְשׁוֹעֲתִי הַאֲזִינָה אֶל-דַּמְעָתִי
אֶל-תַּחֲרֹשׁ: וְתֵן דְּבַר בְּפִי וְעֲצָה בְּלִבִּי לְקִיּוֹם
בֵּית מִקְדָּשְׁךָ לְמַעַן יֵדְעוּ כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם כִּי-אַתָּה
אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים וְאַיִן זולָתְךָ אֱלֹהִים:

וַיְהִי | כְּכַלּוֹת יְהוּדִית לְהִתְפַּלֵּל אֶל-יְהוָה אֵת
כָּל-הִתְפַּלָּה וְהִתְחַנָּה הַזֹּאת וַתִּקַּם
מִן-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁתַּחֲוֹתָה שָׁמָּה לַיהוָה
מִכְרַע עַל-בִּרְכֶּיהָ וְכַפֶּיהָ פְּרוּשׁוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם:
וַתִּקְרָא אֶת-שִׁפְחָתָהּ וַתָּבֵא אֶל-הֵיכַל בֵּיתָהּ
וַתִּסֹּר בְּגָדֶיהָ אֲלֻמְנוֹתָהּ וְהֶשֶׁק מֵעָלֶיהָ:
וַתִּרְחֹץ אֶת-גּוּפָהּ וּמִשְׁחָה עֲצָמָה בְּשֶׁמֶן
הַמֶּזֶר וַתְּקַלַּע אֶת-קְלָעוֹת שַׁעְרוֹתֶיהָ וַתִּשֶׂם
כֶּתֶר עַל-רֹאשָׁהּ: וַתִּלְבַּשׁ בְּגָדִים יְקָרִים
מְזֻהָבִים וְתִכְשִׁיטִים חֲרִיטִים וְשִׁהְרוֹנִים

89 From the Avinu Malkenu litany

90 Psalm 37:15

91 Psalm 17:13

92 Psalm 141:10

93 Judges 4:9

94 Psalm 147:10

95 From the Sephardic rite of the Nishmat Kol H'ai liturgy

96 Psalm 39:13

97 I Kings 8:54

98 Genesis 38:14

99 A reference to a midrash of the twenty-four ornaments of a bride, also found in Midrash Tanhuma Ki Tisa 16:2