



An Outline of Judith

All quotes from the New Revised Standard Version

- 1) Assyria vs. Israel (1:1-7:32)
 - a) Nebuchadnezzar's Offensive (1:1-3:10)
 - i) Intro: sets the stage (1:1-16):
 - (1) Nebuchadnezzar's offensive against King Arphaxad of the Medes in Ecbatana (1-6)
 - (2) Nebuchadnezzar calls on other nations, but they ignored and humiliated him (7-11)
 - (3) Five years after he began warring against Arphaxad, he won a summary victory against Arphaxad and Ecbatana (12-16)
 - ii) Discussion in Nebuchadnezzar's palace sending Holofernes to take revenge on the whole region (2:1-13)
 - iii) Holofernes put down the rebellion (2:14-27)
 - iv) Surrender (2:28-3:7)
 - v) Holofernes destroys the people's gods anyway, according to orders (3:8)
 - vi) Holofernes and his army arrive outside Judah (3:9-10)
 - b) Cut to Israel (4:1-15)
 - i) Background; historical context: "recently returned from exile" (4:1-3)
 - ii) Israel's defenses (4:4-15)
 - (1) Military strategy: hilltops, food stores, mountain passes (4:4-8)
 - (2) Entreating God for help (4:9-15)
 - c) Cut to Holofernes (5:1-6:11)
 - i) Holofernes learns about Israel's preparations and asks for more information (5:1-4)
 - ii) Achior of Ammon tells more about Israel and its history (5:5-6:11)
 - (1) Introduction (5:5)
 - (2) History of Israel (5:6-19)
 - (3) Summary: if Israel is unfaithful, they are vulnerable; if they are faithful, Holofernes has no hope (5:20-21)
 - iii) Holofernes gets defensive (5:22-6:4)
 - iv) Holofernes punishes Achior (6:5-6:11)

- d) Cut to the Israelites (6:12-21)
 - i) Israelites rescue Achior; he gives them information about Holofernes' intent (6:12-17)
 - ii) The Israelites are afraid and entreat God again (6:18-21)
- e) Battle preparations against Bethulia (7:1-32)
 - i) Holofernes' troops get into position (7:1-3)
 - ii) Israelites are afraid (7:4-5)
 - iii) Holofernes' troops strategize and further prepare for the battle (7:6-18)
 - iv) Israelites are afraid, and getting thirsty (7:19-22)
 - (1) The Israelites beg Uzziah to surrender (7:23-29)
 - (2) Uzziah agrees, after the people wait five more days (7:30-32)
- 2) Judith saves Israel; defeats Assyria (8:1-16:25)
 - a) Introduction of Judith (8:1-8)
 - b) Judith has a better plan (8:9-36)
 - i) Judith protests against Uzziah and the people's plan, and calls them to courage, faith and thankfulness (8:9-27)
 - ii) Uzziah praises her wisdom, defends the people's idea, and asks for Judith's help (8:28-31)
 - iii) Judith offers her help through a secret plan (8:32-36)
 - c) Judith prepares herself to enact her plan—all they know is that she's leaving the city that night with her maid (9:1-10:10)
 - i) Prayer (9:1-14)
 - ii) Getting on her disguise; packing a bag with food and dishes (10:1-5)
 - iii) Taking her leave (10:6-10)
 - d) Judith enacts her plan (10:11-13:9a)
 - i) Judith and her maid are "captured"—she says they are "fleeing" and that she has valuable info for Holofernes; the captors notice her "beauty" (10:11-17)
 - ii) Judith at Holofernes' camp (10:18-13:9a)
 - (1) Guards' banter (10:18-19)
 - (2) At Holofernes' tent (10:20-12:4)
 - (a) Description of the scene (10:20-23)
 - (b) Holofernes reassures Judith (11:1-4)
 - (c) Judith reassures Holofernes; offers herself as Holofernes' spy and tip-off (11:5-19)
 - (d) Holofernes enamored with Judith and her message (11:20-23)
 - (e) Holofernes offers Judith food; she refuses (12:1-4)
 - (3) Judith is faithful to prayer and purification (12:5-9)
 - (4) The banquet (12:10-13:9a)
 - (a) Holofernes invites Judith to a banquet intended to seduce her (12:10-15)

- (b) Judith prepares for and attends the banquet, at which Holofernes drinks himself into a stupor (12:16-20)
- (c) The act (13:1-9a)
 - (i) The attendants leave Judith and drunken, passed-out Holofernes alone (13:1-4a)
 - (ii) Judith prays about what to do (13:4b-5)
 - (iii) Judith beheads Holofernes and hides the body (13:6-9a)
- e) Back to Bethulia (13:9b-20)
 - i) Judith and her maid flee (13:9b-10)
 - ii) Judith and her maid announce themselves to the people of Bethulia; a celebration of God who worked through Judith ensues (13:11-20)
- f) The final battle: setup and completion (14:1-15:8)
 - i) Judith's instructions for the final battle (14:1-5)
 - ii) Re-telling the story to Achior, who converts (14:6-10)
 - iii) Defeating the Assyrians (14:11-15:8)
 - (1) Preparations (14:11-12)
 - (2) The Assyrians find Holofernes headless (14:13-16)
 - (3) They realize what Judith did (14:17-19)
 - (4) Confusion ensued among the Assyrians (15:1-3)
 - (5) Israelites are widely triumphant (15:4-8)
- g) Widespread praise for Judith (15:9-10)
- h) Judith receives the booty taken from Holofernes (15:11)
- i) Judith leads a celebration (15:12-16:20)
 - i) The women dance; the men parade behind (15:12-13)
 - ii) Judith leads everyone in a thanksgiving song to God (15:14-16:17)
 - iii) More worship and celebration, including an offering (16:18-20)
- j) And they all lived happily ever after (16:21-25)

