

From the Apocrypha of the 1537 Matthew Bible

Susanna

This Apocryphal book is only one chapter long. It has been prepared in print-ready format, with the marginal notes on the right-hand side of odd-numbered pages, and the left side of even-numbered pages.

For the best reading experience, print out double sided and bind on the left.

The Story of

Susanna

Which is the 13th chapter of Daniel after the Latin

Chapter 1

There dwelt a man in Babylon called Joacim. ²He took a wife whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Chelcias. She was a very fair woman, and such a one as feared God. ³Her father and her mother also were godly people, and had taught their daughter according to the law of Moses. ⁴Now Joacim her husband was a great, rich man, and had a beautiful orchard adjoining his house. And the Jews commonly resorted to him because he was a man of reputation among them.

⁵That same year, there were appointed two judges, men such as the Lord speaks of: All the wickedness of Babylon comes from the elders; that is, from the judges who seem to rule the people. ⁶These men came often to Joacim's house, and all such people has had anything to do with the law came there to them.

⁷Now when the people returned again in the afternoons, Susanna would go into her husband's orchard to walk. ⁸The elders seeing this – that she went in daily and walked – burned with lust for her. ⁹Yea, they were almost out of their wits, and cast down their eyes so that they would not see heaven nor remember that God is a righteous judge. ¹⁰For they were both wounded with the love of her. Neither one told the other of his affliction; ¹¹and for shame they did not tell her of their inordinate lust, that they desired to have to do with her. ¹²Yet they laid wait for her ardently from day to day, so that they might (at the least) have a sight of her.

¹³And the one said to the other, Up, let us go home; for it is time for the mid-day meal. ¹⁴So they went their ways from her. When they returned again, they came across each other. Asking why between themselves, the one told the other of his wicked lust. Then they appointed a time when they might catch Susanna alone.

¹⁵It happened also that they spied out a convenient time, when she

Ex 2:5
2Sam 11:2

went forth to walk (as her manner was) and no one was with her except two maids. And she was thinking to wash herself in the garden, for it was a hot season. ¹⁶And there was not one person there except the two elders, who had hidden themselves to watch her.

¹⁷So she said to her maids, Go and fetch me oil and soap, and shut the orchard door so that I may wash myself.

¹⁸And they did as she bid them and shut the orchard door, and went out themselves at a back door, to fetch the things that she had said. But Susanna did not know that the elders lay there hidden within.

¹⁹Now, when the maids had gone out, the two elders got up and ran upon Susanna, saying, ²⁰Now the orchard doors are shut, so that no one can see us! We are in love with you. Therefore, consent to us, and lie with us. If you will not, we will bring a testimony against you, that there was a young fellow with you, and that is why you sent your maids away from you.

²²Susanna groaned and said, Alas, I am in trouble on every side! If I follow your mind, it will be my death, and if I do not consent to you, I cannot escape your hands. ²³Well, it is better for me to fall into your hands without doing this deed than to sin in the sight of the Lord.

²⁴And with that, she cried out with a loud voice. The elders also cried out against her. ²⁵Then someone ran to the orchard door and forced it open. ²⁶And when the servants of the house heard the cry in the orchard, they rushed in at the back door to see what the matter was. ²⁷And when the elders told them, the servants were greatly ashamed, because there was never such a report made of Susanna.

²⁸On the next day, the people assembled to Joacim her husband. And the two elders came also, full of mischievous imaginations against Susanna, to bring her to death. And they spoke thus before the people: ²⁹Send for Susanna the daughter of Chelcias, Joacim's wife!

And immediately they sent for her. ³⁰So she came with her father and mother, her children, and all her kindred. ³¹Now, Susanna was a refined person, and marvellously fair of face. ³²Therefore the wicked men said to take off the cloths from her face (for she was covered), so that at the least they could be satisfied by her beauty. ³³Then her friends – yea, and all who knew her – began to weep.

Lev 24:14

³⁴These two elders stood up in the midst of the people, and laid their hands upon Susanna's head. ³⁵She was weeping and looking up towards heaven, for her heart had a sure trust in the Lord. ³⁶And the elders said, As we were walking in the orchard alone, this woman came in with her two maids, whom she sent away from her and barred the orchard doors. ³⁷With that, a young fellow who was hidden there came out to her and lay with her. ³⁸As for us, we stood in a corner of the orchard. And when we saw this wickedness, we ran to her, ³⁹and perceived that they had meddled together. But we could not hold him, for he was stronger than we. Thus he opened the door and got away. ⁴⁰Now, when we seized this woman, we asked her who this young fellow was. ⁴¹But she would not tell us. This is the matter, and we are

witnesses of the same.

The common people believed the two men because they were the elders and judges of the people, and so they condemned her to death.

⁴²Susanna cried out with a loud voice and said, O Everlasting God, searcher of secrets, you know all things before they come to pass!

Heb 4:12-13

⁴³You know that they have borne false witness against me! And behold, I must die, although I never did any such things as these men have maliciously invented against me.

⁴⁴And the Lord heard her voice. ⁴⁵For when she was led forth to death, the Lord raised up the spirit of a young child whose name was Daniel, ⁴⁶who cried with a loud voice, I am clean from this blood!

2Sam 3:28
Ac 20:26-27

⁴⁷Then all the people turned towards him and said, What do these words mean, which you have spoken?

⁴⁸Daniel stood in the midst of them and said, Are you such fools, O ye children of Israel, that you cannot discern? You have here condemned a daughter of Israel to death, and know not the truth of it!

⁴⁹Go and sit in judgment again, for they have spoken false witness against her.

⁵⁰And so the people turned back in all haste. And the elders (that is, the principal heads) said to him, Come and sit down here among us, and make known to us this matter, seeing God has given you as great honour as an elder.

⁵¹And Daniel said to them, Put these two apart one from another, and then I will hear them.

⁵²When they were put apart one from another, he called one of them and said to him, O thou old, cankered villain, who has practiced your wickedness for so long! The evil deeds that you have done before are now come to light. ⁵³For you have given false judgments; you have oppressed the innocent and let the guilty go free, whereas yet the Lord says, The innocent and righteous, see that you slay not. ⁵⁴Well then, if you saw her, tell me: under what tree did you see them talking together?

Ex 23:7
Pr 17:15

He answered, Under a mulberry tree.

⁵⁵And Daniel said, Very well now, your lie is upon your own head. Lo, the messenger of the Lord has received the sentence from him, to cut you in two.

⁵⁶Then he put him aside and called for the other, and said to him, O thou seed of Canaan, but not of Judah! Beauty has deceived you, and lust has subverted your heart. ⁵⁷Thus have you dealt before with the daughters of Israel; and they (for fear) consented to you. But the daughter of Judah would not abide your wickedness. ⁵⁸Now tell me then, under what tree did you catch them speaking together?

He answered, Under a pomegranate tree.

⁵⁹Then said Daniel to him, Very well, now your lie is also upon your head. The messenger of the Lord stands waiting with the sword to cut you in two, and to slay you both.

⁶⁰With that, all the whole multitude gave a great shout and praised God, who always delivers those who put their trust in him. ⁶¹And they

Ps 17:1-2

De 19:18-
19.
Pr 19:5

came upon the two elders (whom Daniel had convicted with their own mouth, that they had given false witness) and dealt with them as they would have done with their neighbour. ⁶²Yea, they did according to the law of Moses, and put them to death. Thus the innocent blood was saved that same day.

⁶³Then Chelcias and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Joacim her husband and all the kindred, that there was no dishonour found in her. ⁶⁴From that day forth, Daniel was had in great reputation in the sight of the people.

~~The end of the story of Susanna~~

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