

THE HISTORY OF SUSANNA, set apart from the beginning of *Daniel*, because it is not in Hebrew, as neither the narration of *Bel and the Dragon*.

¹ THERE dwelt a man in Babylon, called Joacim:
² and he took a wife, whose name *was* Susanna,
the daughter of Chelcias, a very fair *woman*,
and one that feared the Lord. ³ Her parents
also *were* righteous, and taught their daughter
according to the law of Moses. ⁴ Now Joacim
was a great rich *man*, and had a fair garden
joining unto his house: and to him resorted the
Jews; because he was more honourable than all
others. ⁵ The same year were appointed two *of*
the ancients of the people *to be* judges, such as
the Lord spake of, that wickedness came from
Babylon from ancient judges, who seemed to
govern the people. ⁶ These kept much at Joacim's
house: and all that had any suits in law came
unto them. ⁷ Now when the people departed
away at noon, Susanna went into her husband's
garden to walk. ⁸ And the two elders saw her
going in every day, and walking; so that their lust
was inflamed toward her. ⁹ And they perverted
their own mind, and turned away their eyes, that
they might not look unto heaven, nor remember
just judgments. ¹⁰ And albeit they both were
wounded with her *love*, yet *durst* not one shew
another his grief. ¹¹ For they were ashamed
to declare their lust, that they desired to have

to do with her. ¹² Yet they watched diligently from day to day to see her. ¹³ And the one said to the other, Let us now go home: for it is dinner time. ¹⁴ So when they were gone out, they parted the one from the other, and turning back *again* they came to the same place; and after that they had asked one another the cause, they acknowledged their lust: then appointed they a time both together, when they might find her alone.

¹⁵ And it fell out, as they watched a fit time, she went in as before with two maids only, and she was desirous to wash herself in the garden: for it was hot. ¹⁶ And there was no body there save the two elders, that had hid themselves, and watched her. ¹⁷ Then she said to her maids, Bring me oil and washing balls, and shut the garden doors, that I may wash me. ¹⁸ And they did as she bade *them*, and shut the garden doors, and went out *themselves* at privy doors to fetch the *things* that she had commanded them: but they saw not the elders, because they were hid. ¹⁹ Now when the maids were gone forth, the two elders rose up, and ran unto her, saying, ²⁰ Behold, the garden doors are shut, that no *man can* see us, and we are in love with thee; therefore consent unto us, and lie with us. ²¹ If *thou wilt* not, we will bear witness against thee, that a young man was with thee: and therefore thou didst send away *thy* maids from thee. ²² Then Susanna sighed, and said, I *am* straited on every side: for if I do this *thing*, it is death unto me: and if I do *it* not, I cannot escape your hands. ²³ It is better for me

to fall into your hands, and not do *it*, than to sin in the sight of the Lord. ²⁴ With that Susanna cried with a loud voice: and the two elders cried out against her. ²⁵ Then ran the one, and opened the garden door. ²⁶ So when the *servants* of the house heard the cry in the garden, they rushed in at a privy door, to see what was done unto her. ²⁷ But when the elders had declared their matter, the servants were greatly ashamed: for there was never such a report made of Susanna.

²⁸ And it came to pass the next day, when the people were assembled to her husband Joacim, the two elders came *also* full of mischievous imagination against Susanna to put her to death; ²⁹ and said before the people, Send for Susanna, the daughter of Chelcias, Joacim's wife. And so they sent. ³⁰ So she came with her father and mother, her children, and all her kindred. ³¹ Now Susanna was a very delicate *woman*, and beauteous to behold. ³² And *these* wicked *men* commanded to uncover her *face*, (for she was covered) that they might be filled with her beauty. ³³ Therefore her friends and all that saw her wept. ³⁴ Then the two elders stood up in the midst of the people, and laid *their* hands upon her head. ³⁵ And she weeping looked up towards heaven: for her heart trusted in the Lord. ³⁶ And the elders said, As we walked in the garden alone, this *woman* came in with two maids, and shut the garden doors, and sent the maids away. ³⁷ Then a young man, who *there* was hid, came unto her, and lay with her. ³⁸ Then we that stood in a corner of the garden, seeing

this wickedness, ran unto them. ³⁹ And when we saw them together, the man we could not hold: for he was stronger than we, and opened the door, and leaped out. ⁴⁰ But having taken this *woman*, we asked who the young man was, but she would not tell us: these *things* do we testify. ⁴¹ Then the assembly believed them, as *those that were* the elders and judges of the people: so they condemned her to death.

⁴² Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, O everlasting God, that knowest the secrets, and knowest all *things* before they be: ⁴³ thou knowest that they have borne false witness against me, and behold, I *must* die; whereas I never did such *things* as these *men* have maliciously invented against me. ⁴⁴ And the Lord heard her voice. ⁴⁵ Therefore when she was led to be put to death, the Lord raised up the holy spirit of a young youth, whose name was Daniel: ⁴⁶ who cried with a loud voice, I *am* clear from the blood of this *woman*. ⁴⁷ Then all the people turned them towards him, and said, What *mean* these words that thou hast spoken? ⁴⁸ So he standing in the midst of them, said, *Are ye* such fools, ye sons of Israel, *that* without examination or knowledge of the truth ye have condemned a daughter of Israel? ⁴⁹ Return again to the place of judgment: for they have borne false witness against her. ⁵⁰ Wherefore all the people turned again in haste, and the elders said unto him, Come, sit down among us, and shew *it* us, seeing God hath given thee the honour of an elder. ⁵¹ Then said Daniel unto them, Put

these *two* aside one far from another, and I will examine them. ⁵² So when they were put asunder one from another, he called one of them, and said unto him, O *thou* that art waxen old in wickedness, now thy sins which thou hast committed aforetime are come *to light*: ⁵³ for thou hast pronounced false judgment, and hast condemned the innocent, and hast let the guilty go free; albeit the Lord saith, The innocent and righteous shalt thou not slay. ⁵⁴ Now then, if thou hast seen her, tell *me*, Under what tree sawest thou them companying together? Who answered, Under a mastick tree. ⁵⁵ And Daniel said, *Very* well; thou hast lied against thine own head; for *even* now the angel of God hath received the sentence of God to cut thee in two. ⁵⁶ So he put him aside, and commanded to bring the other, and said unto him, O *thou* seed of Canaan, and not of Juda, beauty hath deceived thee, and lust hath perverted thine heart. ⁵⁷ Thus have ye dealt with the daughters of Israel, and they for fear companied with you: but the daughter of Juda would not abide your wickedness. ⁵⁸ Now therefore tell me, Under what tree didst thou take them companying together? Who answered, Under a holm tree. ⁵⁹ Then said Daniel unto him, Well; thou hast also lied against thine own head: for the angel of God waiteth with the sword to cut thee in two, that he may destroy you. ⁶⁰ With that all the assembly cried out with a loud voice, and praised God, who saveth them that trust in him. ⁶¹ And they arose against the two elders, (for Daniel had convicted

them of false witness by their own mouth;) ⁶² and according to the law of Moses they did unto them in such sort as they maliciously intended to do to *their* neighbour: and they put them to death. Thus the innocent blood was saved the same day. ⁶³ Therefore Chelcias and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Joacim her husband, and all the kindred, because there was no dishonesty found in her. ⁶⁴ From that day forth was Daniel had in great reputation in the sight of the people.

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Language: English

2020-12-20

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 21 Feb 2024 from source
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