

THE HISTORIE OF

191, 20, 40, 50, 60

Sufanna, which some ioyne to the end of Daniel,
and make it the 13. chap.

*1 The two gouerners are taken with the loue of Susanna.
19 They take her alone in the garden 20 They sollicite
her to wickednes 21 She choseth rather to obey
God, though it be to the danger of her life 22 She is
accused 23 Daniel doeth deliuer her. 24 The gouerners
are put to death.*

1 HERE dwelt a mā in Babylon called Ioacim,
2 And he toke a wife, whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Helcias, a verie faire woman, and one that feared God.

3 Her father and her mother also were godlie people, & raught their daughter according to the Law of Moses.

4 Now Ioacim was a great riche man; and had a faire garden ioyning vnto his house, and to him resorted the Lewes, because

he was more honorable then all others.

5 The same yere were appointed two of the anciēts of the people to be iudges, such as the Lord speaketh of, that the iniquitie came from Babylon, & frō the anciēt iudges, which seemed to rule y^e people.

6 These hanted Ioacims house, & all suche as had anie thing to do in the Law, came thither vnto them.

7 Now when the people departed away at noone, Susanna went into her housbands garden to waike.

8 And the two Elders sawe her that she wēt in daily and walked, so that their lust was inflamed towarde her.

9 Therefore thei turned away their ^a mīde, & cast downe their eyes, y^e thei shulde not se heauen, nor remēbre iuste iudgements.

^a To wit, from God.

Ttt.ii.

Sufanna.

- 10 And albeit thei bothe were wouided with her loue, yet durst not one shewe another his grief.
- 11 For they were ashamed to declare their lust, that they desired to haue to do wth her.
- 12 Yet they watched diligently from day to day to se her.
- 13 And the one said to the other, Let vs go now home, for it is diner time.
- 14 So they went their way, and departed, one from another: yet they returned againe, and came into the same place, and after that they had asked one another the cause, thei acknowledged their lust: thē appointed they a time bothe together whē they might finde her alone.
- 15 Now when they had spied out a conuenient time, that she went in, as her maner was, with two maides onely, and thought to wash her self in the garden (for it was an hote season)
- 16 And there was no bodie there, saue the two Elders that had hid them selues, and watched for her:
- 17 She said to her maides, Bring me oyle & sope, and shut the gardē dores, that I may wash me.
- 18 And they did as she bade them, and shut the garden dores, and went out them selues at a backe dore, to fet the thing that she had commanded them: but they sawe not the Elders, because they were hid.
- 19 Now whē the maides were gone forth, the two Elders rose vp & ranne vnto her, saying,
- 20 Beholde, the garden dores are shut, that no man can se vs, & we burne in loue with thee: therefore consent vnto vs, and lye with vs.
- 21 If thou wilt not, we wil beare witnes against thee, that a yong mā was with thee, and therefore thou didest send away thy maides from thee.
- 22 Then Sufanna sighed, and said, I am in trouble on euerie side: for if I do this thīg, it is death vnto me: & if I do it not, I can not escape your hands.
- 23 It is better for me to fall into your hāds, and not do it, then to sinne in the sight of the Lord.
- 24 With that Sufanna cryed with a loude voyce, and the two Elders cryed out against her.
- 25 Then ranne the one, and opened the garden dore.
- 26 ¶ So whē the seruants of the house heard the crye in the garden, they rushed in at the backe dore, to se what was done vnto her.
- 27 But when the Elders had declared their matter, the seruants were greatly ashamed: for there was neuer suche a reporte made of Sufanna.
- 28 On the morow after, came the people to Ioacim her housband, & the two Elders came also, ful of mischieuous imaginaciō against Sufanna, to put her to death,
- 29 And said before the people, Send for Sufanna the daughter of Helcias Ioacims wife. And immediatly they sent.
- 30 So she came with her father & mother, her children and all her kinred.
- 31 Now Sufanna was very tender, and faire of face.
- 32 And these wicked mē cōmanded to vncover her face (for she was couered) that thei might so be satisfied with her beautie.
- 33 Therefore they that were about her, and all they that knewe her, wept.
- 34 Thē the two Elders stode vp in the middes of the people, and layed their hands vpon her head,
- 35 Which wept and loked vp towarde heauen: for her heart trusted in the Lord.
- 36 And the Elders said, As we walked in the garden alone, she came in with two maides, whome she sent away from her, and shut the garden dores.
- 37 Then a yong man, which there was hid, came vnto her, and lay with her.
- 38 Then we which stode in a corner of the gardē, seing this wickednes, rāne vnto thē, and we sawe them as they were together,
- 39 But we colde not holde him: for he was stronger then we, and opened the dore, and leaped out.
- 40 Now when we had taken this woman, we asked her what yong man this was, but she wolde not tel vs: of these things are we witnesses.
- 41 Then the assemblie beleued them, as those that were the Elders and iudges of the people: so thei condēned her to death.
- 42 Then Sufanna cryed out with a loude voyce, and said, O euerlasting God, that knowest the secrets, and knowest all things afore they come to passe,
- 43 Thou knowest, that they haue borne false witnes against me, and beholde, I must dye, where as I neuer did suche thigs as these men haue maliciously inuented against me.
- 44 And the Lord heard her voyce.
- 45 ¶ Therefore when she was led to be put to death, the Lord raised vp his holie spirit of a yong childe, whose name was Daniel.
- 46 Who cryed with a loude voyce, I am cleane from the blood of this woman.
- 47 Thē all the people turned them toward him, and said, What meane these wordes, that thou hast spoken?
- 48 Thē Daniel stode in the middes of thē, and said, Are ye suche fooles, o Israelites, that without examination, or knowledge of the trueth, ye haue condemnēd a daughter of Israel?
- 49 Returne againe to iudgement: for they haue

haue borne false witness against her.

- 50 Wherefore the people turned againe in all haste, & the Elders said vnto him, Come, sit downe among vs, & shew it vs, seing God hath giuen thee the office of an Elder.
- 51 Then said Daniel vnto them, Put these two aside, one farre from another, and I will examine them.
- 52 So when they were put a sonder, one from another, he called one of them & said vnto him, O thou that art olde in a wicked life, now thy sinnes which thou hast committed afore time, are come to light.
- 53 For thou hast pronounced false iudgements, and hast condemned the innocent, and hast let the guiltie go free, albeit the Lord saith, * The innocent and righteous shalt thou not slay.
- 54 Now then, if thou hast sene her, tel me, vnder what tre sawest thou them companying together? Who answered, Vnder a lentilke tre.
- 55 Thē said Daniel, Verely thou hast lyed against thine owne head: for lo, the Angel of God hath receiued the sentence of God, to cut thee in two.
- 56 So put he him aside, & commanded to bring the other, & said vnto him, O thou scede of Chanaan, and not of Iuda, beautie hath disceiued thee, and lust hath subuerted thine heart.

57 Thus haue ye dealt with the daughters of Israel, and they for feare cōpanied with you: but the daughter of Iuda wolde not abide your wickednes.

58 Now therefore tel me vnder what tre didest thou take them cōpanying together? Who answered, Vnder a prime tree.

** Or, mistle tree.*

59 Then said Daniel vnto him, Verely thou hast also lyed against thine head: for the Angel of God waiteth with the sworde to cut thee in two, & so to destroie you bothe.

60 ¶ With that all the whole assemblie cryed with a loude voyce, and praised God, which saueth them that trust in him.

61 And they arose against the two Elders, (for Daniel had conuict them of false witness by their owne mouth)

62 * And according to the Law of Moyse they delt with them, as they delt wickedly against their neighbour, and put them to death. Thus the innocent blood was saved the same day.

*Deu 19, 19, 21
pron 19, 5.*

63 Therefore Helcias, and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Iocim her housband, and all the kindred, that there was no dishonestie founde in her.

64 From that day forthe was Daniel had in great reputacion in the sight of the people.

65 And King Astyages was laide with his fathers, and Cyrus of Persia reigned in his steade.

Exod. 22, 7.

Or, life.