

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Why chop up Daniel and hide it in an acrophya?

Second Subtitle: Re: Why chop up Daniel and hide it in an acrophya?

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(13:1) There dwelt a man in Babylon, called Joacim:

(13:2) And he took a wife, whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Chereb, and one that feared the Lord.

(13:3) Her parents also were righteous, and taught their daughter according to the commandments of the Lord.

(13:4) Now Joacim was a great rich man, and had a fair garden joining unto his house, whither he often resorted the Jews; because he was more honourable than all others.

(13:5) The same year were appointed two of the ancients of the people to be judges of the Lord's sake of, that wickedness came from Babylon from ancient judges, and from the people.

(13:6) These kept much at Joacim's house: and all that had any suits in law, came to them to be judged.

(13:7) Now when the people departed away at noon, Susanna went into her garden to walk.

(13:8) And the two elders saw her going in every day, and walking; so they came toward her.

(13:9) And they perverted their own mind, and turned away their eyes, that they might look upon her, and remember not the Lord, nor heaven, nor remember just judgments.

(13:10) And albeit they both were wounded with her love, yet durst not declare their lust.

(13:11) For they were ashamed to declare their lust, that they desired to have her.

(13:12) Yet they watched diligently from day to day to see her.

(13:13) And the one said to the other, Let us now go home: for it is dinner time.

(13:14) So when they were gone out, they parted the one from the other, but they both came to the same place; and after that they had asked one another the cause of their lust: then appointed they a time both together, when they might find her.

(13:15) And it fell out, as they watched a fit time, she went in as before to wash herself in the garden: for it was hot.

(13:16) And there was no body there save the two elders, that had hid themselves in the garden.

(13:17) Then she said to her maids, Bring me oil and washing balls, and I will wash my feet, and may wash me.

(13:18) And they did as she bade them, and shut the garden doors, and went out to fetch the things that she had commanded them: but they saw not Susanna, for she was hid.

(13:19) Now when the maids were gone forth, the two elders rose up, and came toward her.

(13:20) Behold, the garden doors are shut, that no man can see us, and we are alone: therefore consent unto us, and lie with us.

(13:21) If thou wilt not, we will bear witness against thee, that a young man came in unto thee, and therefore thou didst send away thy maids from thee.

(13:22) Then Susanna sighed, and said, I am straitened on every side: for I have no help unto me: and if I do it not I cannot escape your hands.

(13:23) It is better for me to fall into your hands, and not do it, than to be accused of a crime.

(13:24) With that Susanna cried with a loud voice: and the two elders cried out.

(13:25) Then ran the one, and opened the garden door.
(13:26) So when the servants of the house heard the cry in the garden, they ran to the door, to see what was done unto her.
(13:27) But when the elders had declared their matter, the servants were amazed: for there was never such a report made of Susanna.
(13:28) And it came to pass the next day, when the people were assembled, the two elders came also full of mischievous imagination against Susanna.
(13:29) And said before the people, Send for Susanna, the daughter of C... so they sent.
(13:30) So she came with her father and mother, her children, and all her kindred.
(13:31) Now Susanna was a very delicate woman, and beauteous to behold.
(13:32) And these wicked men commanded to uncover her face, (for she was thought to be filled with her beauty.
(13:33) Therefore her friends and all that saw her wept.
(13:34) Then the two elders stood up in the midst of the people, and laid hands upon her.
(13:35) And she weeping looked up toward heaven: for her heart trusted in the Lord.
(13:36) And the elders said, As we walked in the garden alone, this woman came unto us, and shut the garden doors, and sent the maids away.
(13:37) Then a young man, who there was hid, came unto her, and lay with her.
(13:38) Then we that stood in a corner of the garden, seeing this wickedness, we hid ourselves.
(13:39) And when we saw them together, the man we could not hold: for he was angry, and opened the door, and leaped out.
(13:40) But having taken this woman, we asked who the young man was, and he would not tell us: therefore these things do we testify.
(13:41) Then the assembly believed them as those that were the elders said, and they condemned her to death.
(13:42) Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, O everlasting God, thou knowest all secrets, and knowest all things before they be:
(13:43) Thou knowest that they have borne false witness against me, and that I never did such things as these men have maliciously invented against me.
(13:44) And the Lord heard her voice.
(13:45) Therefore when she was led to be put to death, the Lord raised up a young man whose name was Daniel:
(13:46) Who cried with a loud voice, I am clear from the blood of this woman.
(13:47) Then all the people turned toward him, and said, What meanest thou, Daniel, when thou hast spoken?
(13:48) So he standing in the midst of them said, Are ye such fools, ye simple men, that without examination or knowledge of the truth ye have condemned a daughter of Israel?
(13:49) Return again to the place of judgment: for they have borne false witness against me.
(13:50) Wherefore all the people turned again in haste, and the elders said unto Daniel, Shew us the things which thou hast seen among us, and shew it us, seeing God hath given thee the honour of an elder.
(13:51) Then said Daniel unto them, Put these two aside one far from another, and I will tell you the things which I saw.
(13:52) So when they were put asunder one from another, he called one of the elders, and said, O thou that art waxen old in wickedness, now thy sins which thou hast committed shall come to light.
(13:53) For thou hast pronounced false judgment and hast condemned the innocent, and the guilty go free; albeit the Lord saith, The innocent and righteous shalt thou not touch.
(13:54) Now then, if thou hast seen her, tell me, Under what tree sawest thou her?

together? Who answered, Under a mastick tree.

(13:55) And Daniel said, Very well; thou hast lied against thine own head, for God hath received the sentence of God to cut thee in two.

(13:56) So he put him aside, and commanded to bring the other, and said, Chanaan, and not of Juda, beauty hath deceived thee, and lust hath perverted thee.

(13:57) Thus have ye dealt with the daughters of Israel, and they for fear of the daughter of Juda would not abide your wickedness.

(13:58) Now therefore tell me, Under what tree didst thou take them come? He answered, Under an holm tree.

(13:59) Then said Daniel unto him, Well; thou hast also lied against thine own head, for God waiteth with the sword to cut thee in two, that he may destroy you.

(13:60) With that all the assembly cried out with a loud voice, and praised God for his trust in him.

(13:61) And they arose against the two elders, for Daniel had convicted them of their own mouth:

(13:62) And according to the law of Moses they did unto them in such sort as they intended to do to their neighbour: and they put them to death. Thus the king died the same day.

(13:63) Therefore Chelcias and his wife praised God for their daughter Sarsa and her husband, and all the kindred, because there was no dishonesty found in her.

(13:64) From that day forth was Daniel had in great reputation in the sight of the king.