

Translation of Susanna 34-35

(34) Then [καί] the elders and judges got up and put their hands on her head, (35) but her mind was confident* in the Lord her God. So she looked up and cried out in her thoughts: “Lord, the eternal God who knows everything before it happens, you know that I did not do the things about which these lawless men are wronging me.” Then [καί] the Lord heard her request.

* The pluperfect ἐπεποιθει (from πείθω) might be translated “had been persuaded.” But πείθω (with a dative object or a similar prepositional phrase) can mean “believe” or “trust.” The idea here, then, is that Susanna had already (in the past time of the story) come to trust God.

- Notice how the similar-sounding verbs emphasize the contrast between Susanna's cry (ἐκλαυσεν) of faith and the weeping or lamenting (ἐκλαιουσιν) of Susanna's allies in 33.
- Notice how short and punchy the final clause is after the long, complicated clauses that preceded it.
- Notice the heavy use of καί as a connector between main clauses, reminiscent of the “biblical” (Semitic) style of the Septuagint.