



WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT

2020  
5  
SESSION

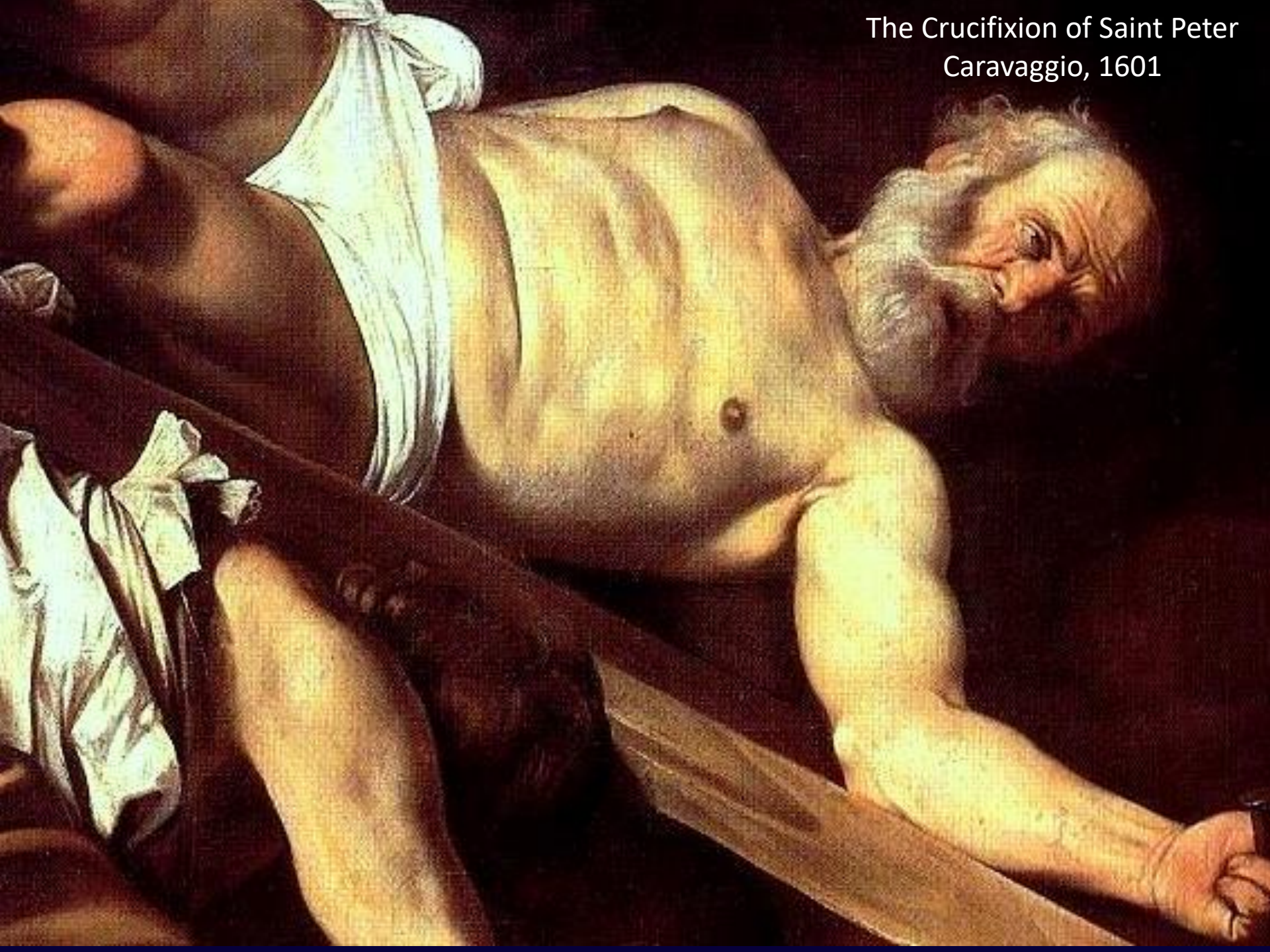
WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

The Second Epistle of  
Peter

The Crucifixion of Saint Peter  
Caravaggio, 1601



The Crucifixion of Saint Peter  
Caravaggio, 1601



The Denial of Saint Peter  
Caravaggio, 1610





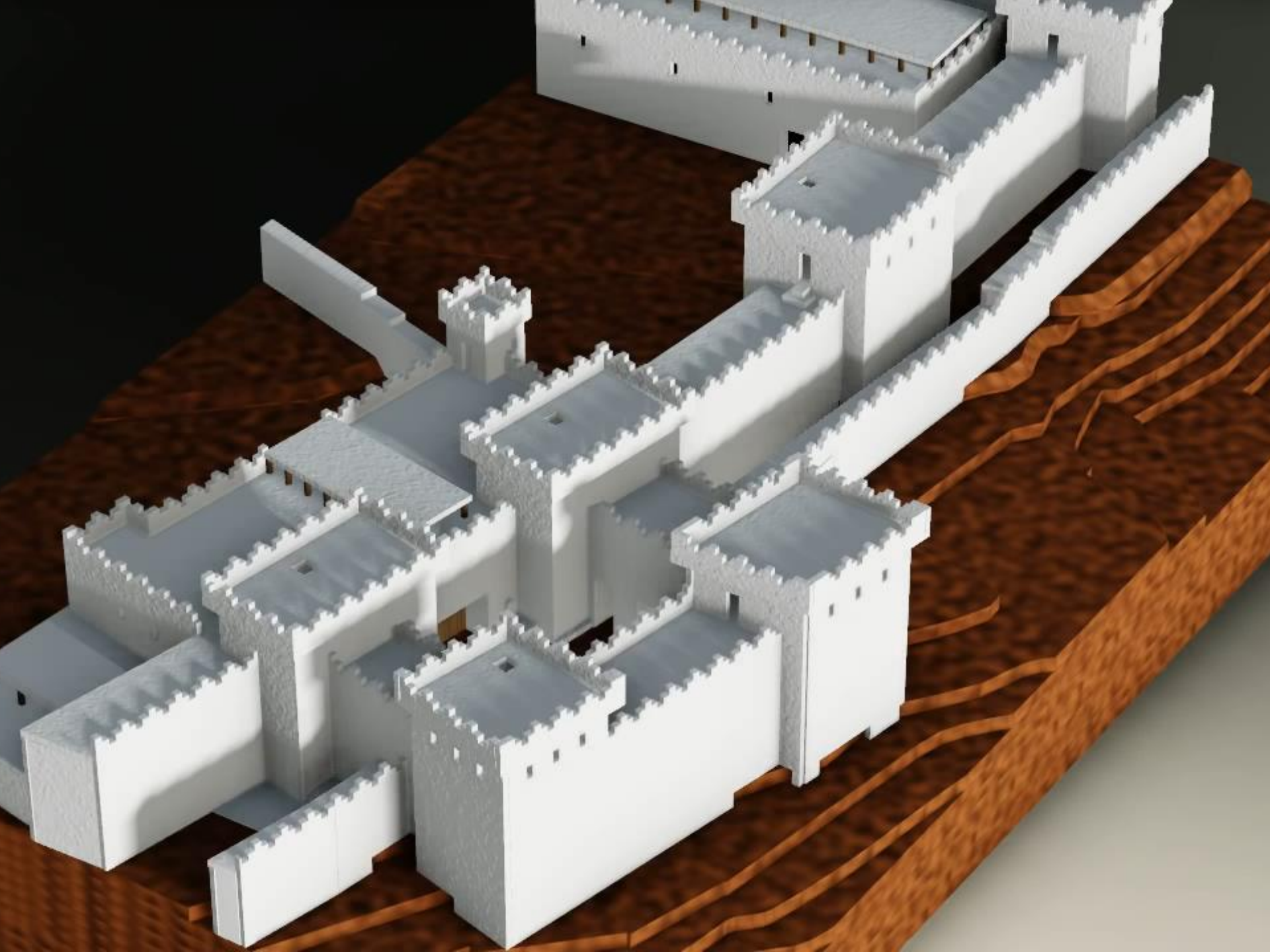
**WHO IS THIS  
COMPLEX MAN?**

## Simeon (the reed), son of Jona

- Born in Bethsaida (John 1:44), son of Jona/Jonah (Mat. 16:7), and brother of Andrew.









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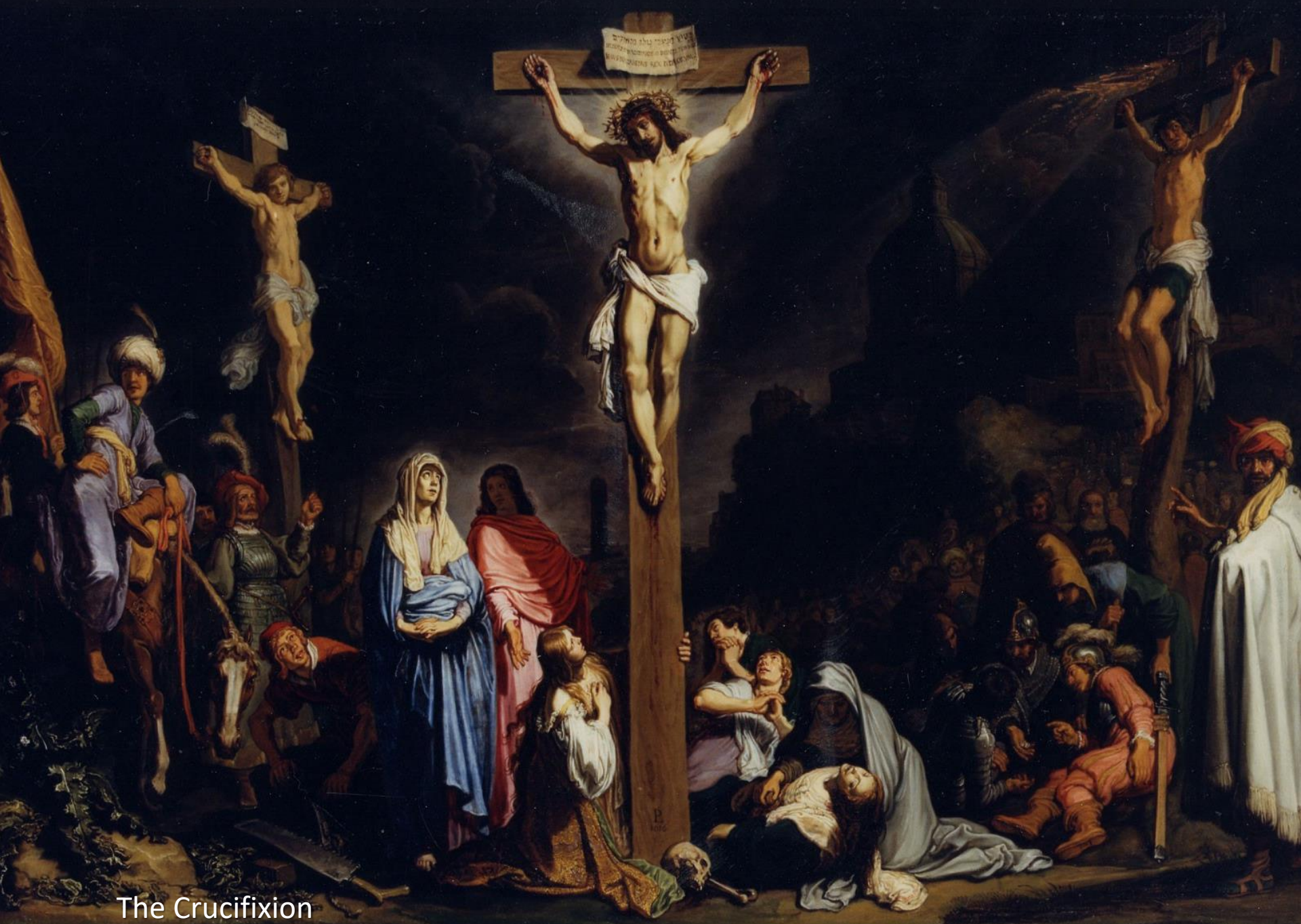




Christ Calling the Apostles  
Edward Armitage, 1869

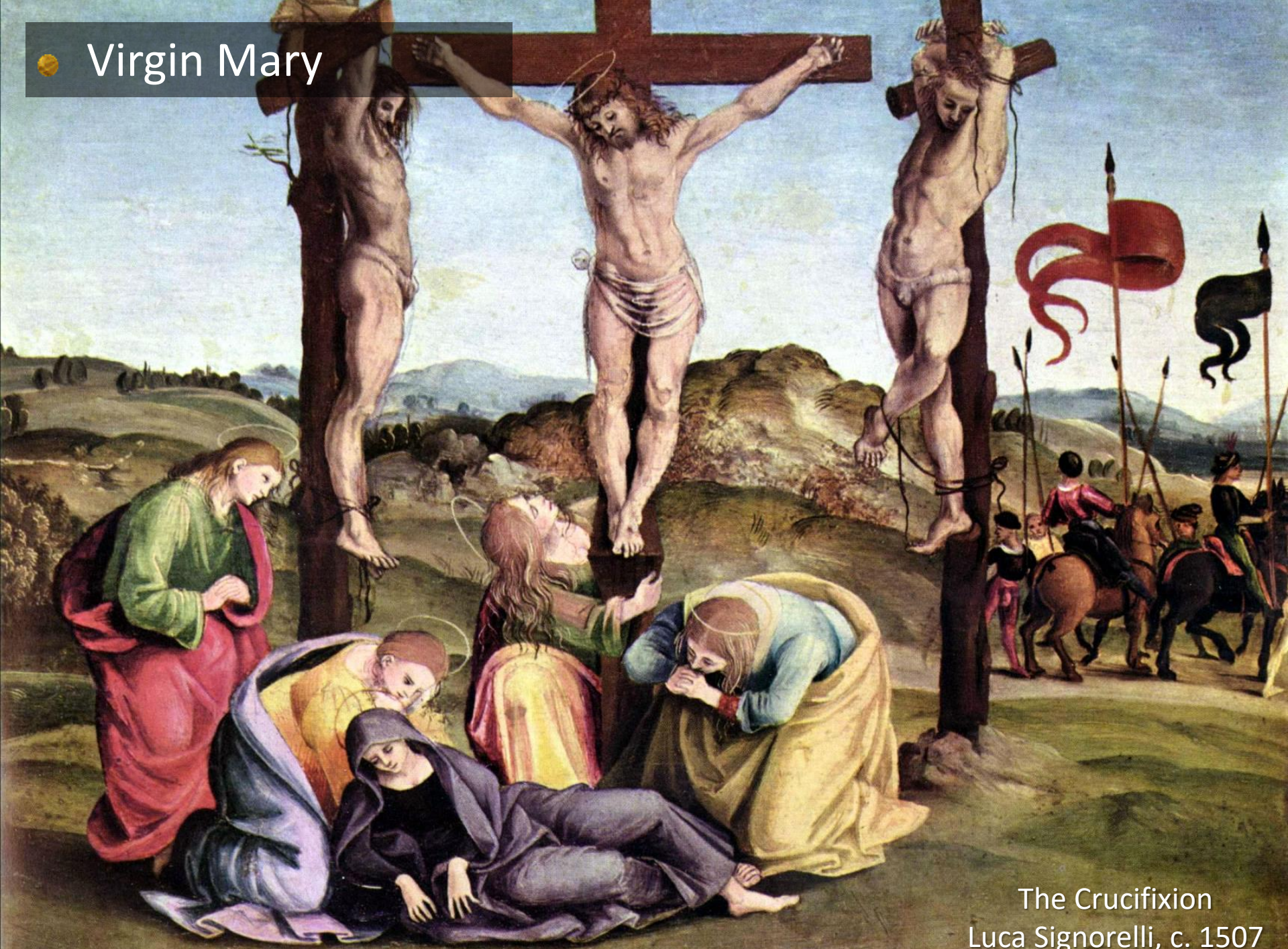


Christ meeting the wife and sons of Zebedee  
Paolo Veronese, c. 1580



The Crucifixion  
Unknown, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Century

● Virgin Mary



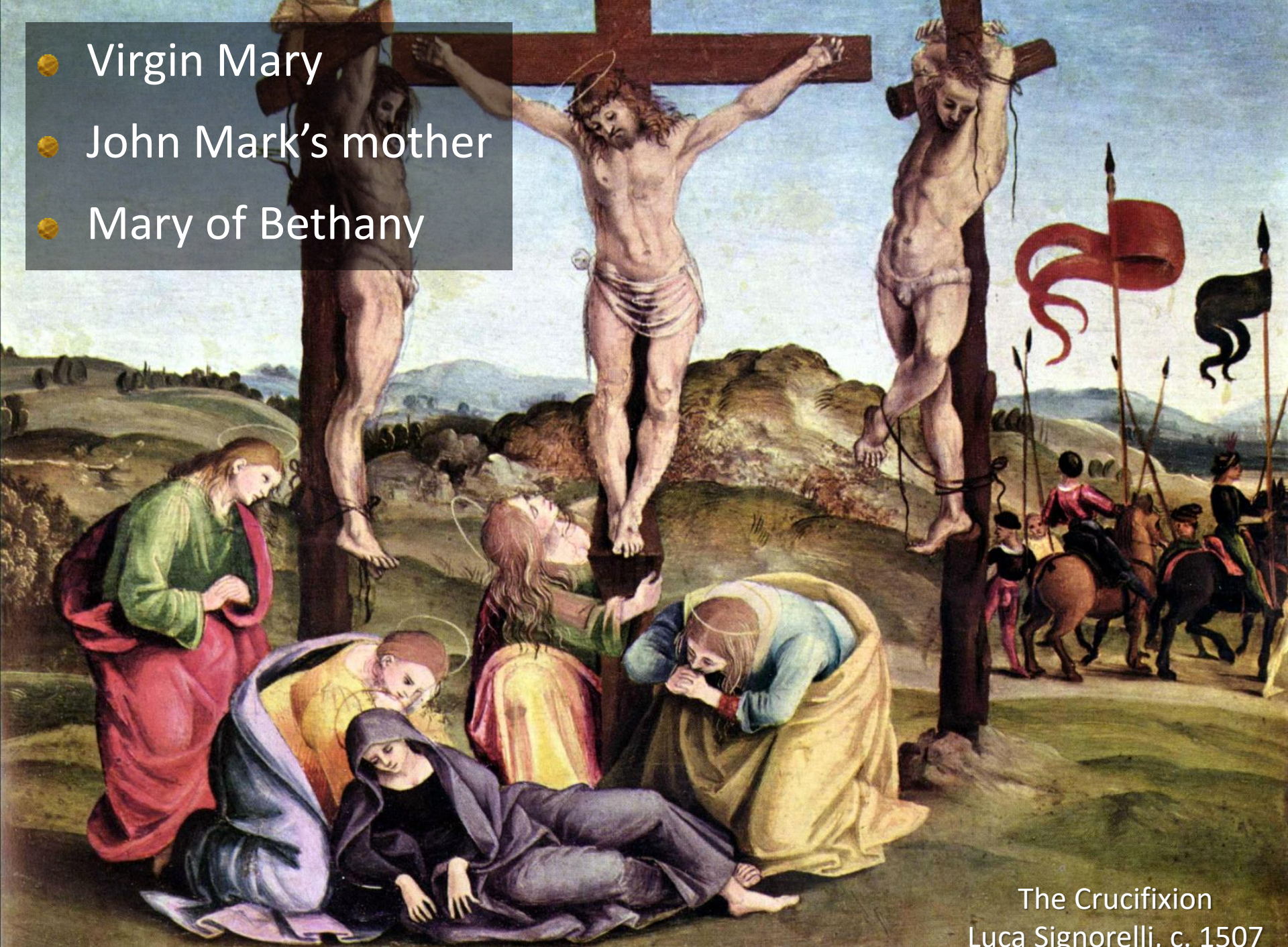
The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

- Virgin Mary
- John Mark's mother



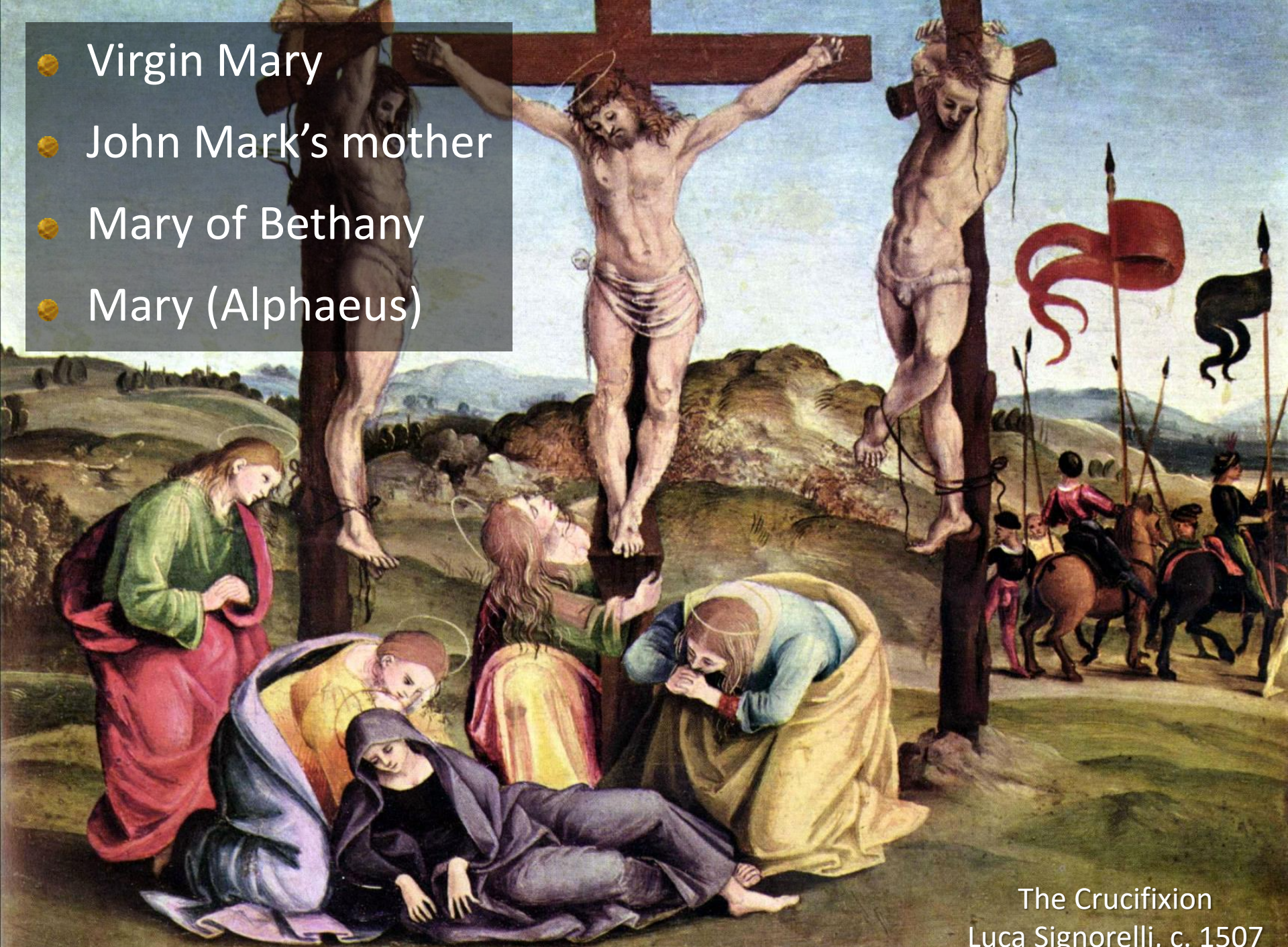
The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

- Virgin Mary
- John Mark's mother
- Mary of Bethany



The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

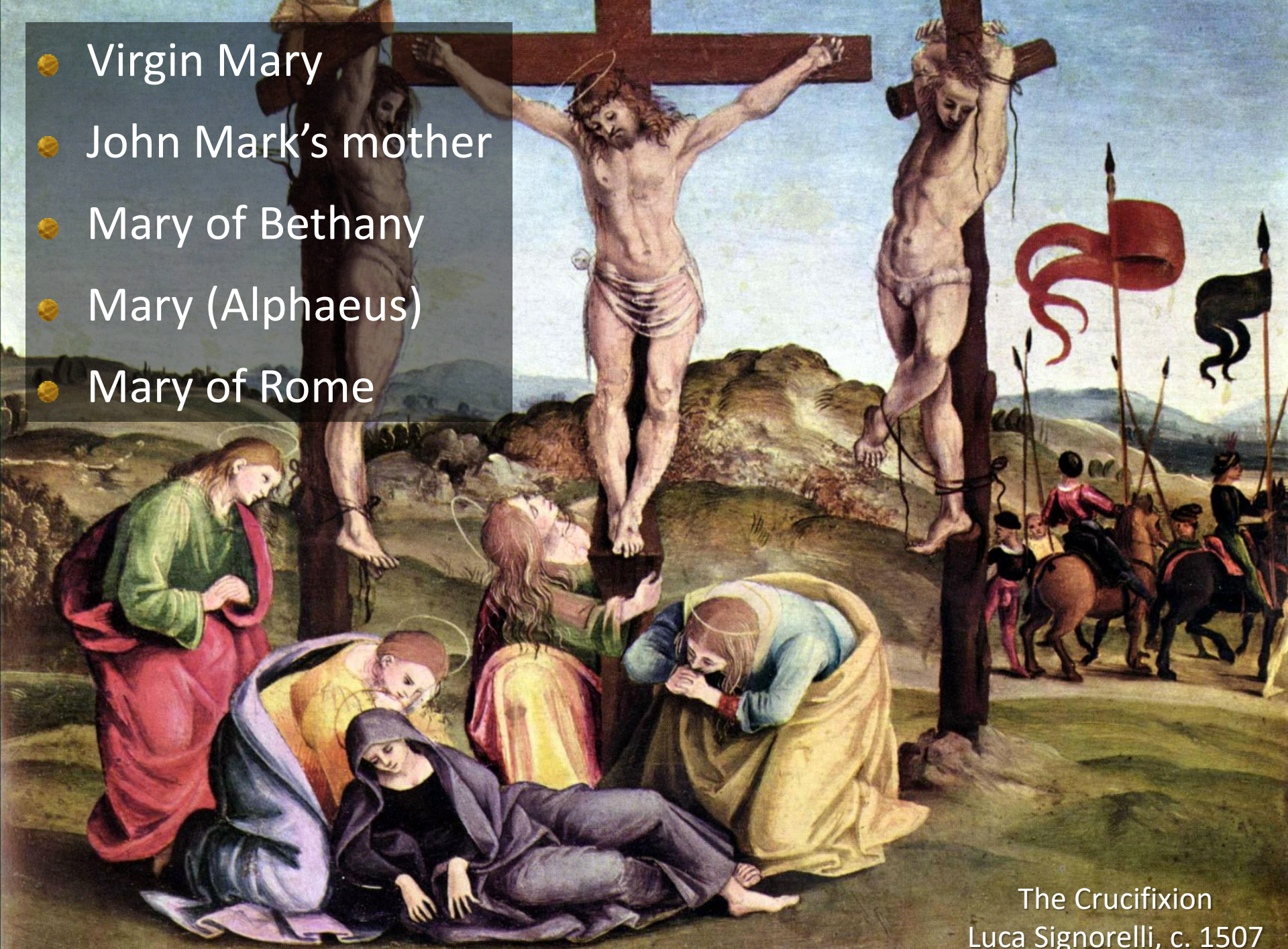
- Virgin Mary
- John Mark's mother
- Mary of Bethany
- Mary (Alphaeus)



The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

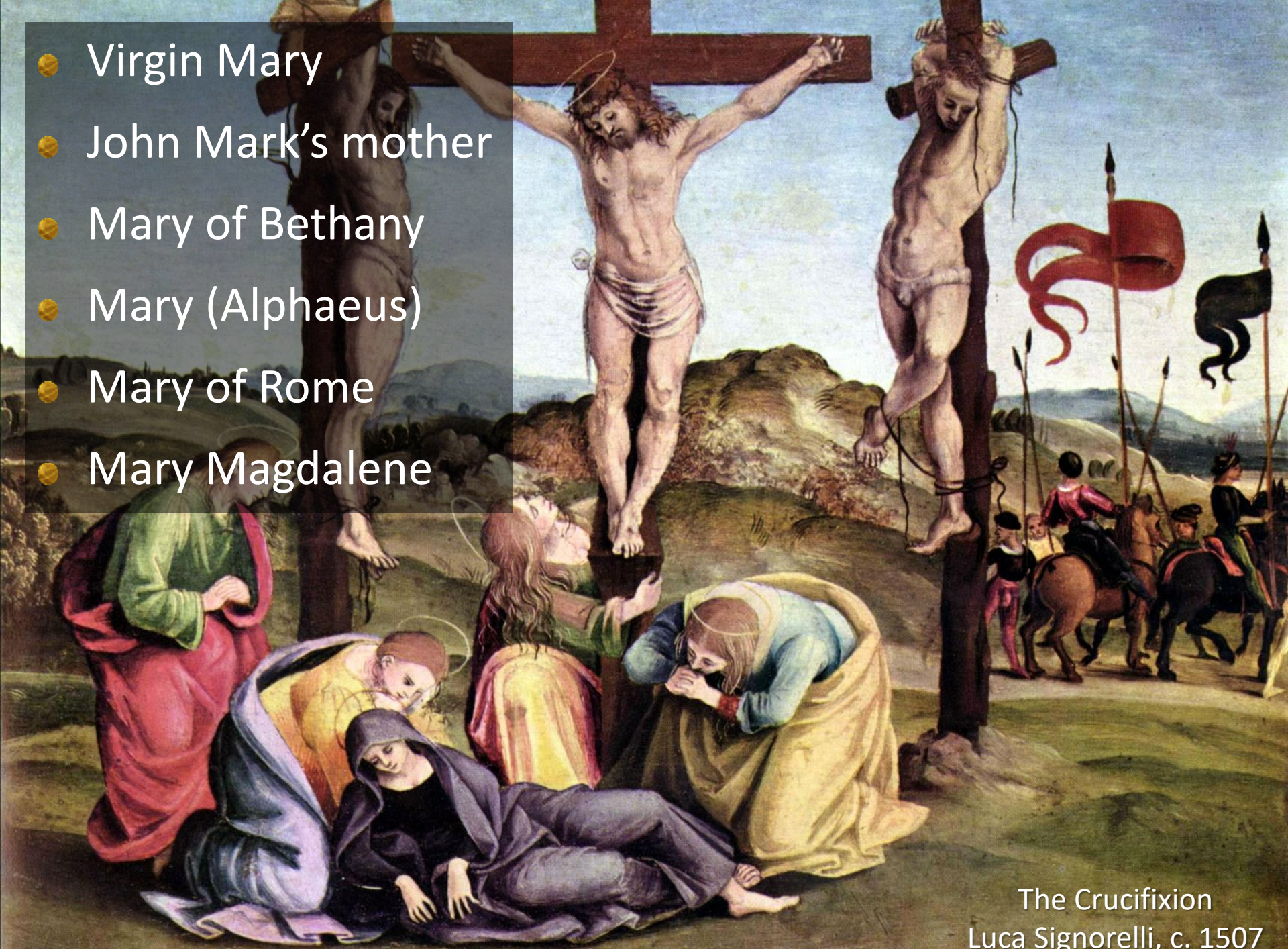


- Virgin Mary
- John Mark's mother
- Mary of Bethany
- Mary (Alphaeus)
- Mary of Rome



The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

- Virgin Mary
- John Mark's mother
- Mary of Bethany
- Mary (Alphaeus)
- Mary of Rome
- Mary Magdalene

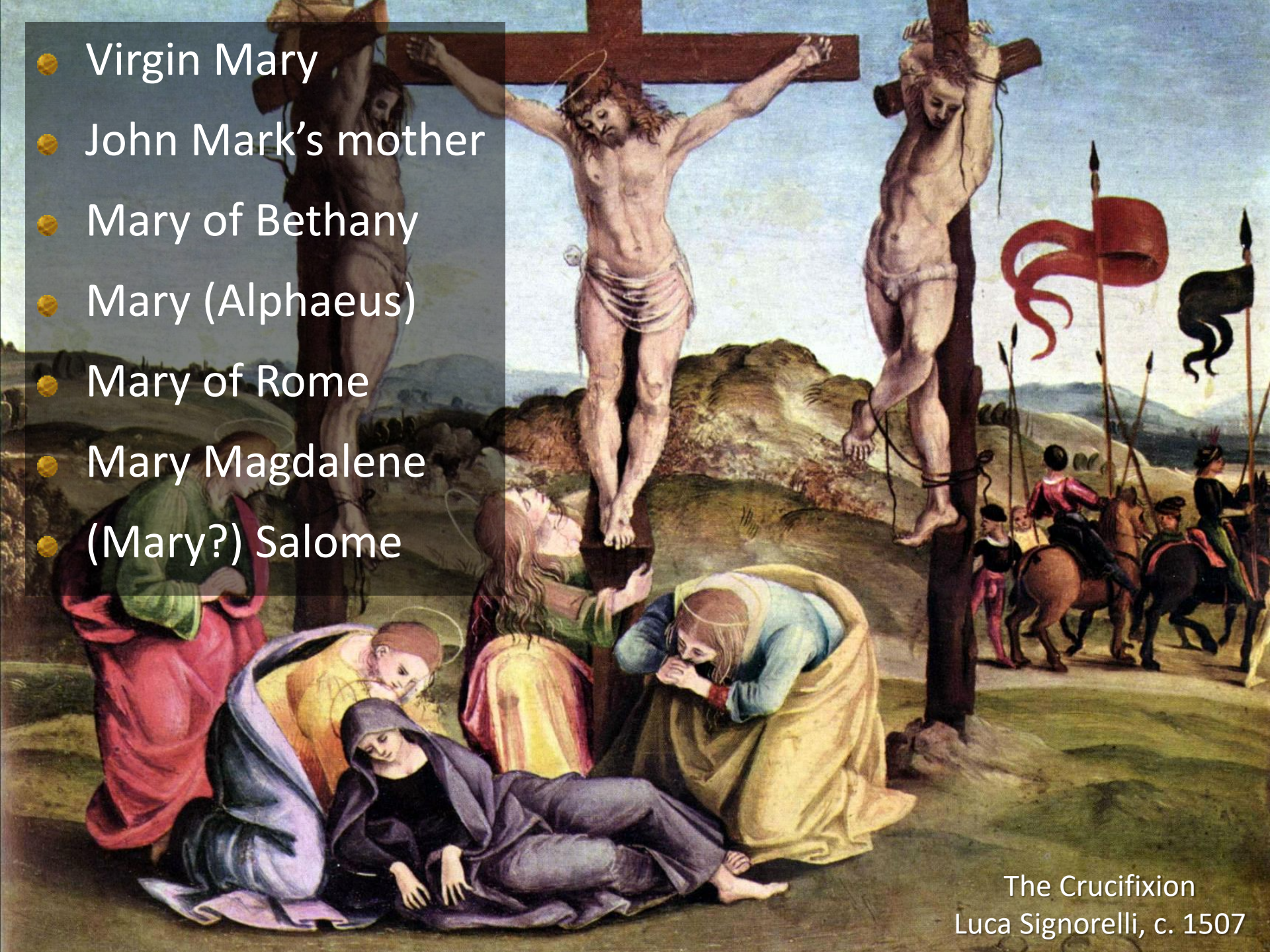


The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

Magdalena penitente  
Domenico Tintoretto, 1598-1602  
(Musei Capitolini, Roma)



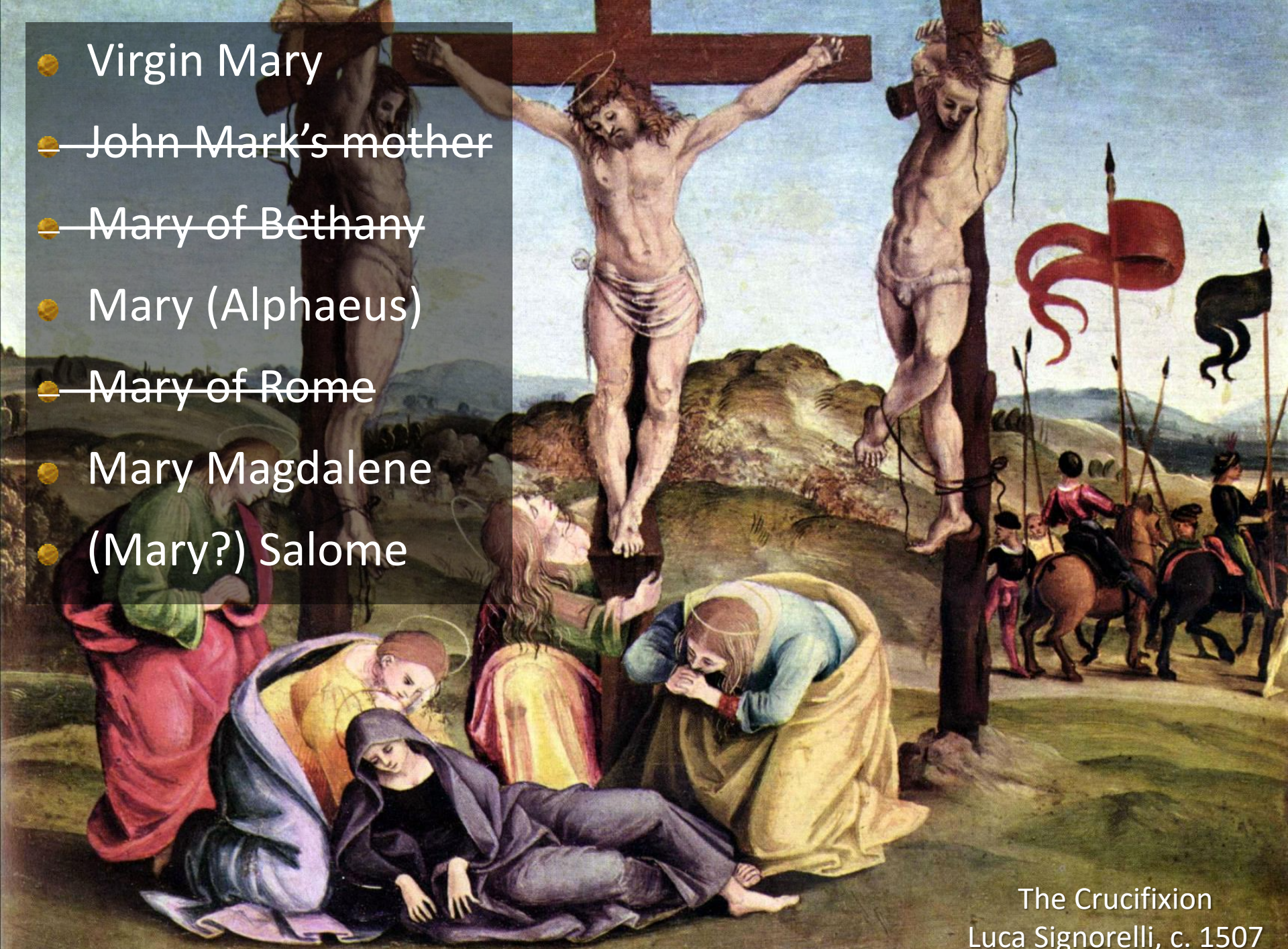
- Virgin Mary
- John Mark's mother
- Mary of Bethany
- Mary (Alphaeus)
- Mary of Rome
- Mary Magdalene
- (Mary?) Salome



The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507



- Virgin Mary
- ~~John Mark's mother~~
- ~~Mary of Bethany~~
- Mary (Alphaeus)
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The Crucifixion  
Luca Signorelli, c. 1507

## Isaiah Chapter 53

- Yeshua is my name יֵשׁוּעַ שְׁמִי
- His Signature מַחְתִּימוֹ
- Messiah מָשִׁיחַ
- Nazarene נָזִיר
- The Disciples לְמַדְרִים אֵנָּה
- Galilee גַּלִּילָה

# Isaiah Chapter 53

- Yeshua is my name יֵשׁוּעַ שְׁמִי
- His Signature מַחְתִּימוֹ
- Messiah מָשִׁיחַ
- The Disciples לְמִדְרִים אֲנִי
- Peter כְּפֶה
- Matthew מַתְתִּי
- John יוֹחָנָן
- Andrew אַנְדְּרִי
- Philip פִּילִיפּ
- Thomas תּוֹמָא
- James יַעֲקֹב
- James יַעֲקֹב
- Nazarene נָזִיר
- Galilee גַּלִּיל
- Simon שִׁמְעוֹן
- Thaddaeus תָּדִי
- Matthias מַתִּיָּה
- Mary מְרִיָּם
- Mary מְרִיָּם
- Mary מְרִיָּם
- Salome שְׁלֹמִית
- Joseph יוֹסֵפ



Holy Women at Christ's Tomb  
Annibale Carracci, c. 1590

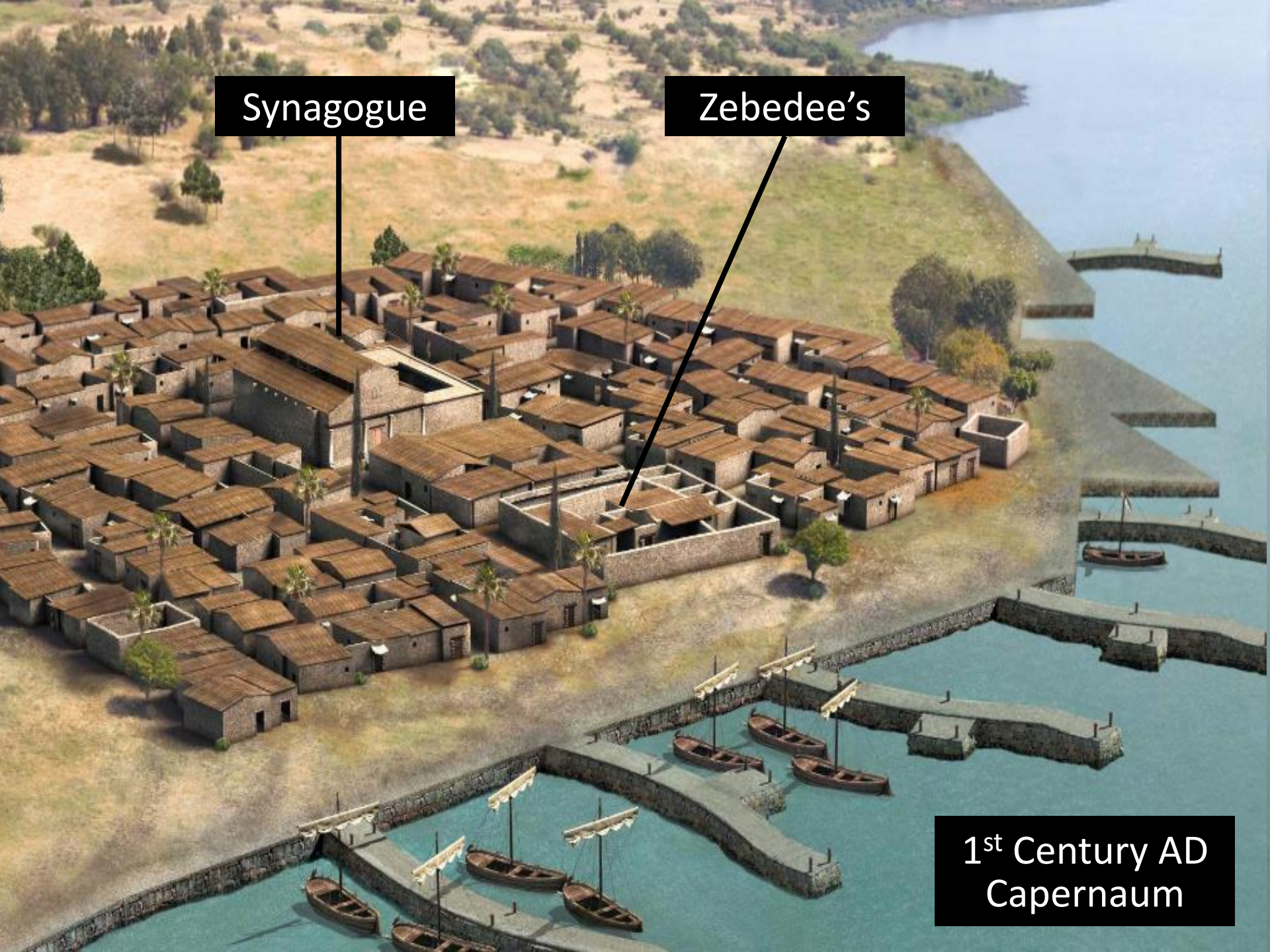


1<sup>st</sup> Century AD  
Capernaum

Synagogue

Zebedee's

1<sup>st</sup> Century AD  
Capernaum



Synagogue

Zebedee's

21<sup>st</sup> Century AD  
Capernaum









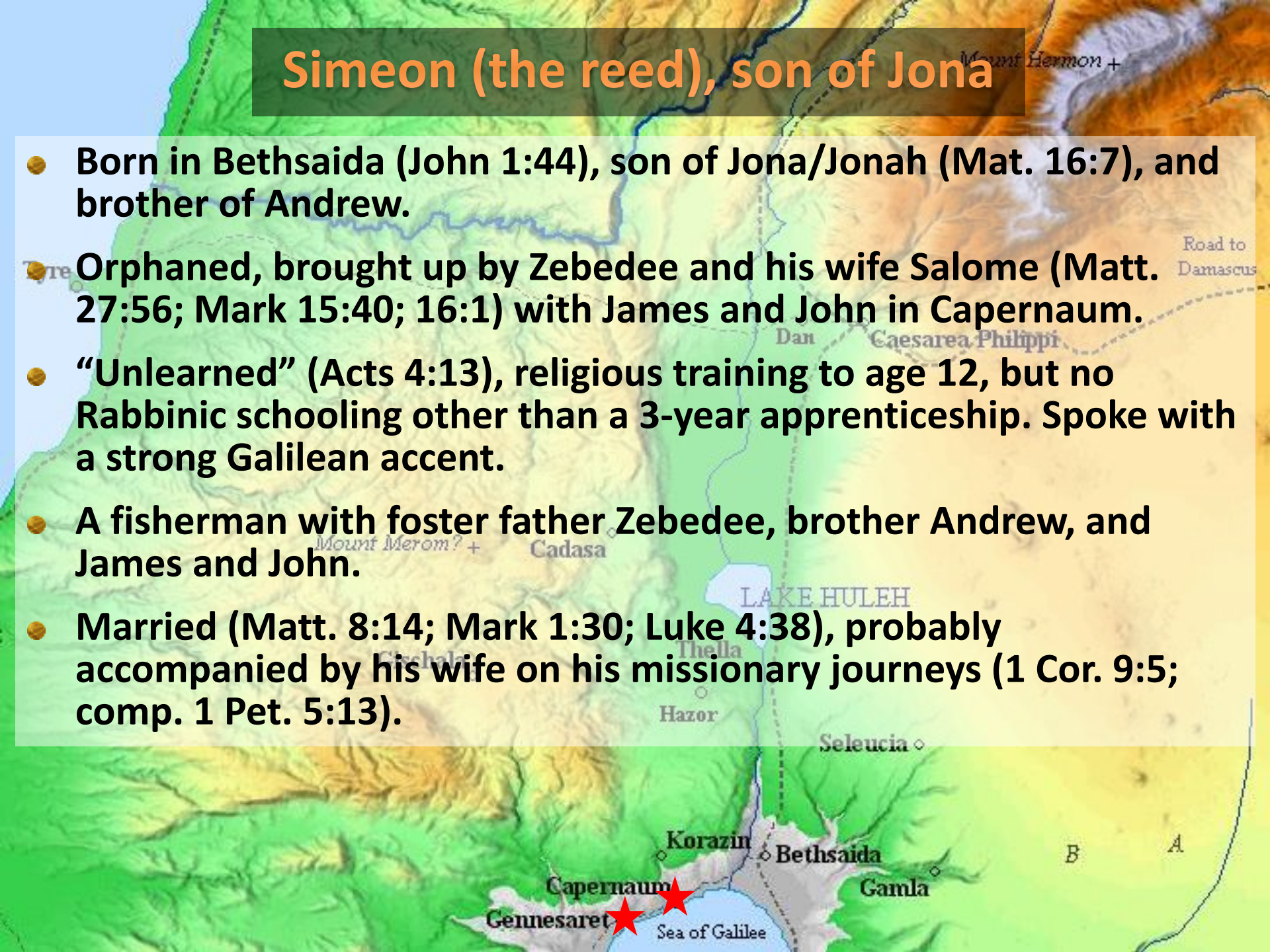






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- “Unlearned” (Acts 4:13), religious training to age 12, but no Rabbinic schooling other than a 3-year apprenticeship. Spoke with a strong Galilean accent.
- A fisherman with foster father Zebedee, brother Andrew, and James and John.
- Married (Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38), probably accompanied by his wife on his missionary journeys (1 Cor. 9:5; comp. 1 Pet. 5:13).





*Miki Kauri*





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- A fisherman with foster father Zebedee, brother Andrew, and James and John.
- Married (Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38), probably accompanied by his wife on his missionary journeys (1 Cor. 9:5; comp. 1 Pet. 5:13).
- A strong personality, impulsive and violent, he was full of vigour and had a boisterous temper, often putting his foot in this mouth.
- A man’s man, Simon was a natural leader.



The Calling of St. Peter and St. Andrew  
Bernardo Strozzi, c. 1640

# Peter's three-year apprenticeship

- Born again and followed Jesus.
- He was given the title Cephas (Aramaic) [Petros, Gk.]
- His Mother in law was healed
- His boat was used as a pulpit
- He walked on water (for a bit)
- He was first to declare Jesus the Messiah
- He denied Jesus three times
- He repented
- He entered the sepulchre first
- He became a leader among the 12



# Cephas/Petros (the rock), Disciple of Jesus

- Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus (John 1:40-42).
- Back fishing, fish surround his boat as Jesus appears and an awe-struck Simon immediately becomes a devoted disciple (Luke 5:8).
- Becomes a fisher of men (Matt. 4:19) in stormy seas (Matt. 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:13-16), and more prominent in Jesus' life.
- Issues profession of faith at Capernaum (John 6:66-69) and again at Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-20). Rebuked afterwards (Matt. 16:21-23; Mark 8:31-33).
- With James and John at the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-13). Rebuked by God (Matt. 17:5).
- At Jesus' request, caught a fish for temple tax (Matt. 17:24-27).
- Sent with John to prepare a place in Jerusalem (Luke 22:7-13).

# PETER'S PATHWAY



## John 13:36-38

- <sup>36</sup> Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”
- Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.”
- <sup>37</sup> Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”
- <sup>38</sup> Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.

## John 21:18-19

- Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. <sup>18</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.” <sup>19</sup> This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

## 2 Peter 1:14

- <sup>13</sup> Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, <sup>14</sup> knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. <sup>15</sup> Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

continue to do

den

ou, I appeal as a  
s of Christ's suf-  
will share in the  
be shepherds of  
our care, serving  
e you must, but  
s God wants you  
ney, but eager to  
those entrusted to  
o the flock. <sup>4</sup>And  
appears, you will  
ry that will never

ne way be submis-  
older. All of you,  
mility toward one

oud  
ne humble." <sup>8</sup>

therefore, under  
he may lift you up  
our anxiety on him  
u.  
d alert. Your ene-  
ound like a roaring  
e to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist  
faith, because you  
ers throughout the  
e same kind of suf-

## 2 Peter

**1** Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of  
Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness  
of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have  
received a faith as precious as ours:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be yours in abundance  
through the knowledge of God and of Jesus  
our Lord.

### *Making One's Calling and Election Sure*

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us every-  
thing we need for life and godliness through  
our knowledge of him who called us by his  
own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he  
has given us his very great and precious  
promises, so that through them you may  
participate in the divine nature and escape  
the corruption in the world caused by evil  
desires.

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort  
to add to your faith goodness; and to good-  
ness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup>and to knowledge, self-

ries when we told you about the power  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, because  
we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he  
received honor and glory from God the Father  
when the voice came to him from the  
Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son,  
whom I love; with him I am well pleased."  
<sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice when he came  
from heaven when we were with him on the  
sacred mountain.

<sup>19</sup>And we have the word of the prophets  
made more certain, and you will do well to  
pay attention to it, for you are living in a  
dark place, and the day will come when the  
light will shine in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>For you must understand that  
no prophecy of Scripture came about by the  
own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy  
had its origin in the will of man,  
spoke from God as they were carried  
by the Holy Spirit.

### *False Teachers and Their Destruction*

## KEY POINT

Peter had been a courageous but careless Christian:

- He rushed in when he should wait;
- He slept when he should pray;
- He talked when he should listen.

But through God's grace, Peter learned his lesson, and we can, too.

KEY THEME

# Spiritual knowledge

2 Peter

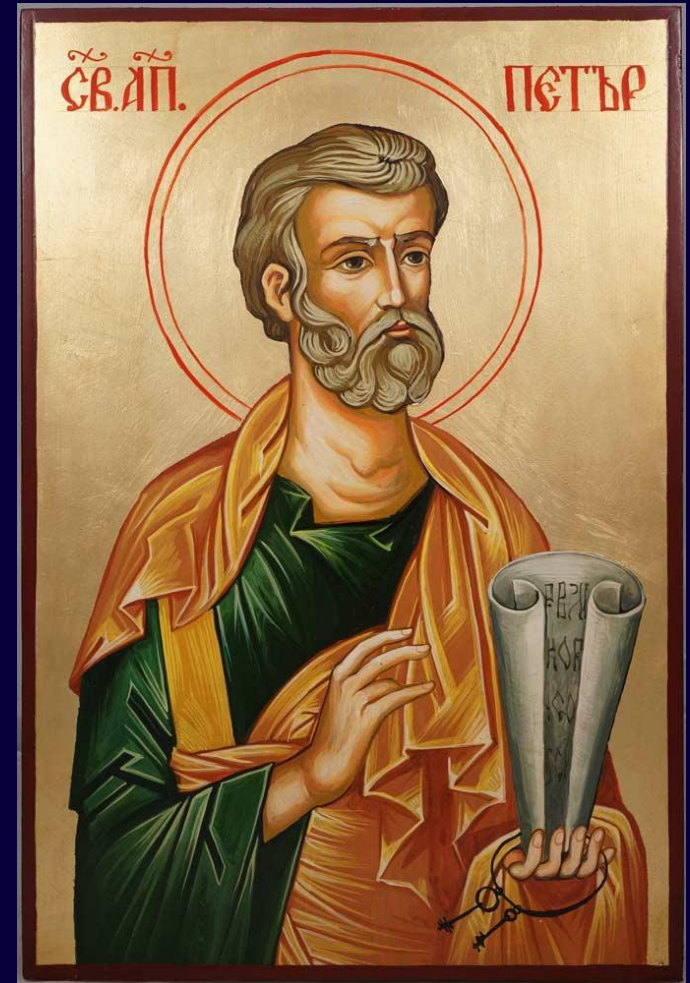
KEY VERSE

<sup>3</sup> as His divine power  
has given to us  
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through the knowledge of  
Him who called us  
by glory and virtue,

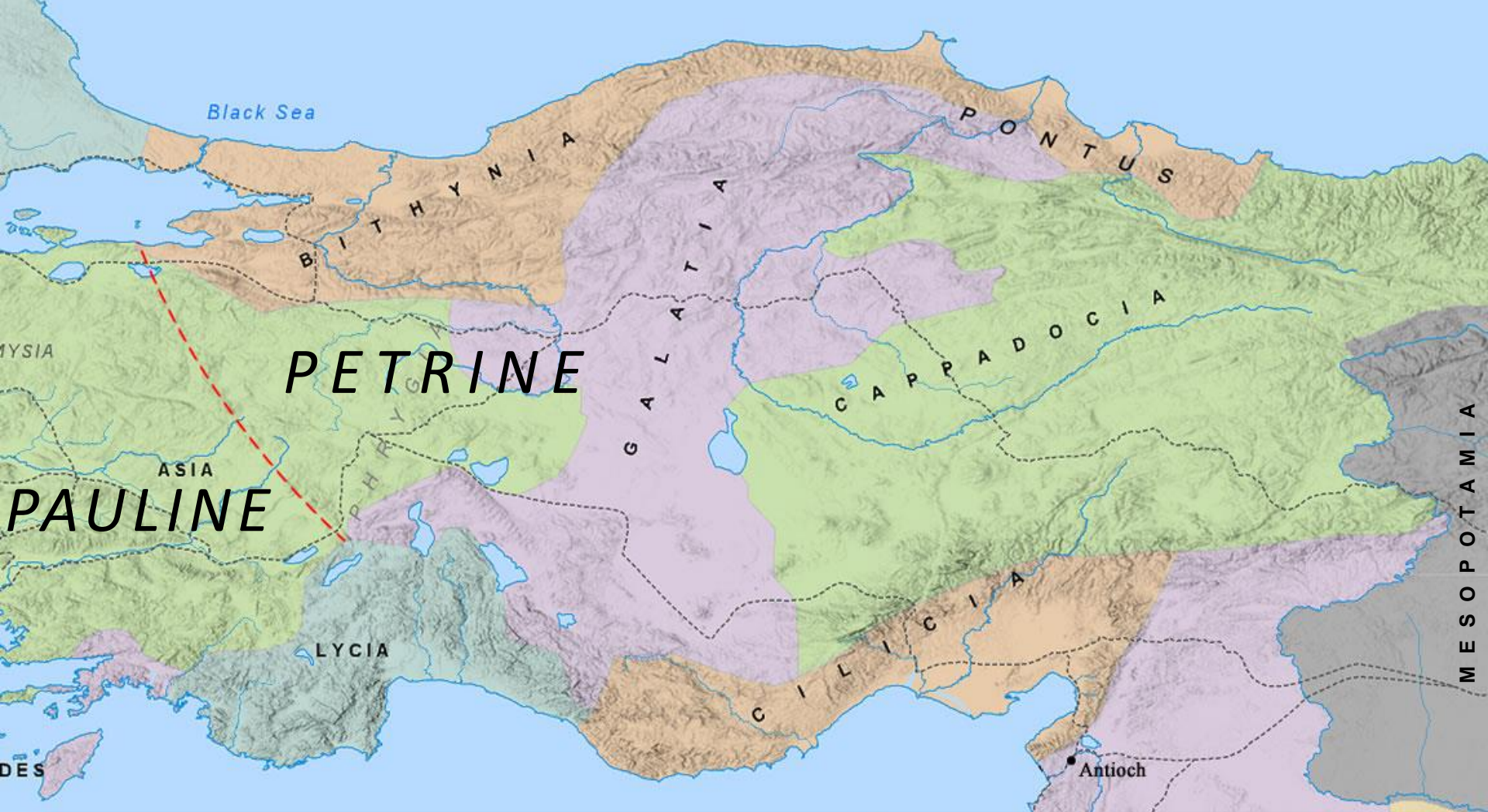
2 Peter 1:3

# Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ

- Simon (original name); Cephas (“stone”, Aramaic title given by Jesus), Peter (*Petros*, Greek version of Cephas).
- c. 1 AD - Born Bethsaida (John 1:44)
- c. 25 AD - Married (Mark 1:30)
- c. 29 AD – Fisherman with his father and brother Andrew; later with Zebedee.
- “Unlearned” (Acts 4:13), meaning he had no formal religious schooling (other than a 3-year apprenticeship).
- A leading apostle called to minister to the Jews (Galatians 2:1-10). Writing these letters was part of his ministry.
- c. 64 AD - John Mark (“Mark, my son” 1 Peter 5:13) wrote the Gospel of Mark which was *probably* the gospel according to Peter.



Simon Peter



“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims (*sojourners*) of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.” **(1 Peter 1:1-2)**

## Scholarship

- A papyrus fragment, 7Q5, found in Cave 7 at Qumran appears to be part of Mark's Gospel, comprising 6:52-53. A tiny fragment (only 2 cm), 7Q10, found in the same cave has on it 6 letters in two lines which could come only from 2 Peter 1:15.



- Some scholars believe that 2 Peter might have been a cover letter to Mark's Gospel sent to the Qumran community shortly before the Jewish War began in AD 68 when the cave was closed.
- Like all “second” epistles, it is corrective: it is the prophet or exhorter who speaks. In his final message just prior to his martyrdom, Peter gives us some specific warnings concerning the oncoming apostasy that will sweep over Christendom.

- Written shortly after his first letter, this was probably written after Paul's death, somewhere between AD 64-68; Peter mentions "all his (Paul's) epistles" as being in circulation already.
- This epistle has had a rough passage through the centuries. It was considered second-class Scripture by Luther, rejected by Erasmus, and regarded with hesitancy by Calvin, but nowhere did doubts about the letter's authorship take the form of rejection.
- Despite some scholastic controversies by the 4th century, the letter was well accepted throughout most of the world.
- Despite its acceptance when many people who could authenticate it were still alive, including John Mark the scribe (amanuenses) and the Apostle John, modern scholars today who practice higher criticism tend to doubt that Peter was the author of this letter.



# Outline

## **EXPLANATION: THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

(2 Peter Chapter 1)

- The gift of knowledge—1:1–4
- The growth in knowledge—1:5–11
- The ground of knowledge—1:12–21

## **EXAMINATION: THE FALSE TEACHERS**

(2 Peter Chapter 2)

- Their condemnation—2:1–9
- Their character—2:10–17
- Their claims—2:18–22

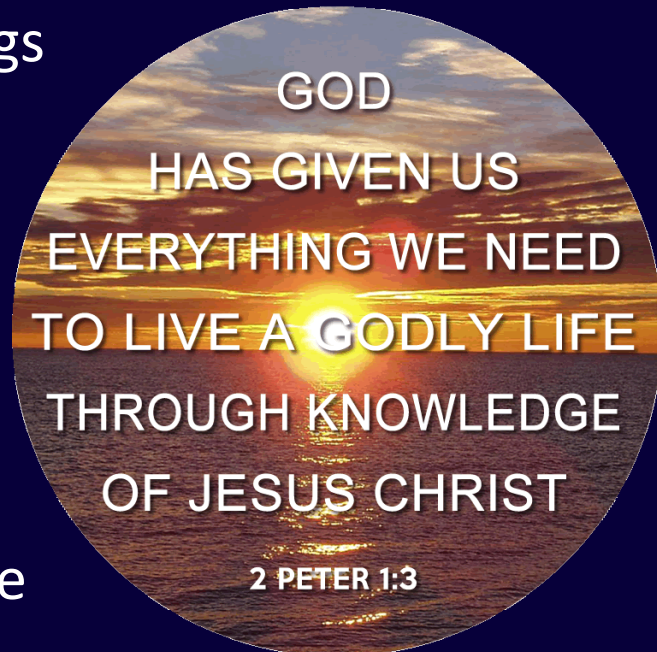
## **EXHORTATION: THE TRUE BELIEVER**

(2 Peter Chapter 3)

- Be mindful—3:1–7
- Be not ignorant—3:8–10
- Be diligent—3:11–14
- Beware—3:15–18

## 2 Peter 1

- <sup>1</sup> Simon Peter, a **bondservant** and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have obtained like **precious faith** with us by the  
righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
- <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God  
and of Jesus our Lord,
- <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things  
that *pertain* to life and godliness, through  
the knowledge of Him who called us by  
glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been  
given to us exceedingly great and  
precious promises, that through these  
you may be **partakers of the divine nature**,  
having escaped the corruption *that is* in the  
world through lust.



## Fruitful Growth in Faith

- <sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,
- <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,
- <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.



2 Peter 1:5-7

# FRUIT OF FAITH



01

● **Diligence:** a stewardship term

02

● **Virtue:** more than merely chastity; it is really valour.

03

● **Knowledge:** there can be no growth without spiritual understanding.

04

● **Temperance:** self-control (see Acts 24:25; Gal 5:23). In contrast with false teachers.

05

● **Patience:** endure without complaint.

06

● **Godliness:** God-likeness; true piety.

07

● **Charity:** love (see Gal 5:6; 1 Cor 13).

8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ἀργός (*argos*, translated “barren”) means lazy or idle.

9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

τυφλός (*typhlos*, shortsighted); spiritually blind.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- **Calling** – God calls sinners to repentance and salvation.
- **Election** – God chooses sinners to be saved (by His grace, not their merits).
- **Make sure** – a classical Greek term for a warranty deed.
- **Stumble** (fall)- trip up, suffer a reversal (temporary mishap)

## Peter's Approaching Death

<sup>12</sup> For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

- We all need regular reminding to help keep us focused.

<sup>13</sup> Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent [**physical body**], to stir you up by reminding *you*, <sup>14</sup> knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

-Peter predicts his own death (NOT a supernatural prophecy).

- The image of the earthly body as a tent fits well with his address to them as “sojourners” on a pilgrimage.

<sup>15</sup> Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

ἐξοδος (*exodus*, decrease) an exit, departure, departure from life

## The Trustworthy Prophetic Word

<sup>16</sup> *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables* when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, *but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

The background of the lower half of the slide features a silhouette of a hill with three crosses on top. The crosses are of varying heights, with the tallest one in the center. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the lower part of this image.

2 PETER 1:16

WE DID NOT FOLLOW CLEVERLY INVENTED STORIES  
WHEN WE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE POWER AND COMING OF OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST, BUT WE WERE EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY.



# Peter's two great eyewitness experiences

## The declaration of the building of the Church

(Matthew 16:13-20)

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT

**I AM**

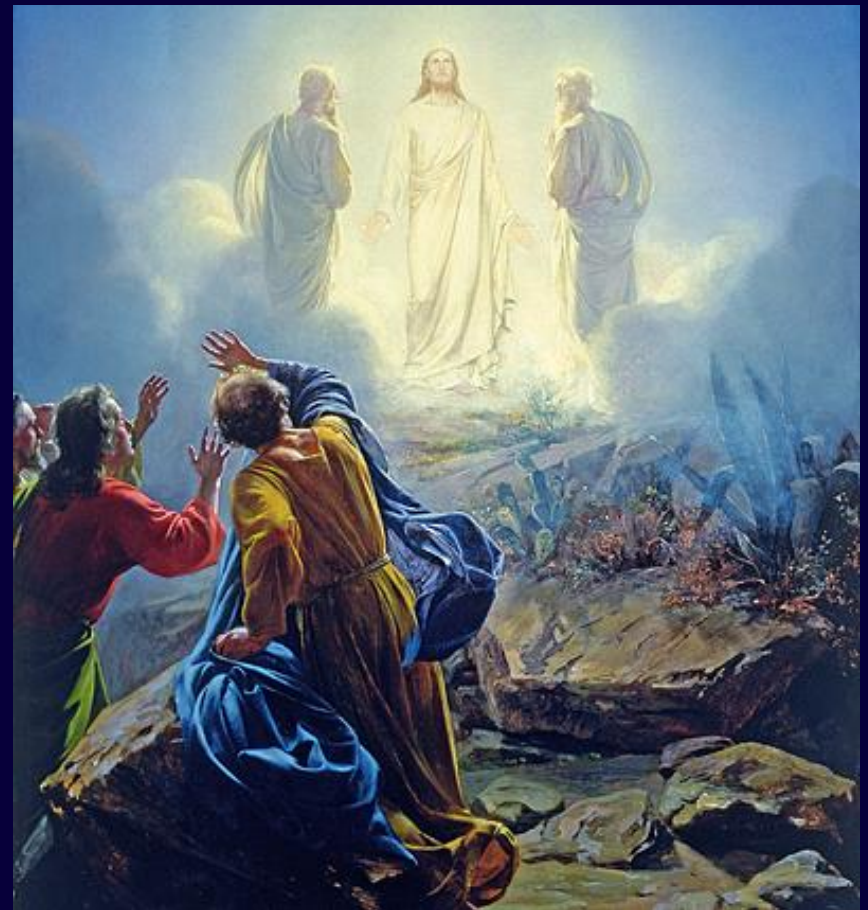
### Peter's Confession

"You are the Christ,  
the Son of the living God."



## The Transfiguration of Christ

(Matthew 17:1-13)



"Transfiguration of Christ" by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1890)

# The declaration of the building of the Church

(Matthew 16:13-20)

- 13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”
- 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
- 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
- 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter [*Petros = loose stone*], and on this rock [*petra = bedrock; massive living rock*] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT

I AM

# The Disciples' view while Jesus spoke - then



The Gates of Hell   The Temple of Pan   Niches for idols

# The Disciples' view while Jesus spoke - now



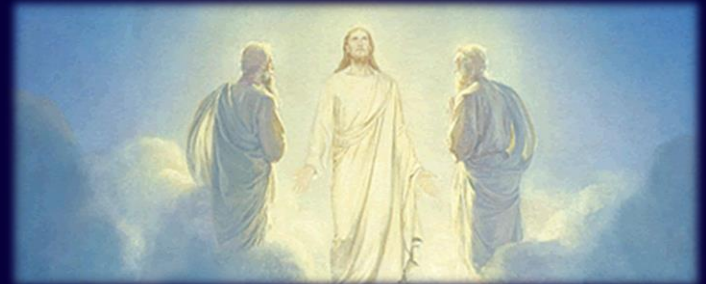
**The Gates of Hell    The Temple of Pan    Niches for idols**



# The Transfiguration of Christ

(Matthew 17:1-13)

- <sup>1</sup> Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; <sup>2</sup> and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
- <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" <sup>6</sup> And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.
- <sup>9</sup> Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."
- <sup>10</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
- <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.



17 For He received from God the Father honour and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And **we heard this voice** which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so **we have the prophetic word confirmed** [a more sure word of prophecy (KJV)], which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

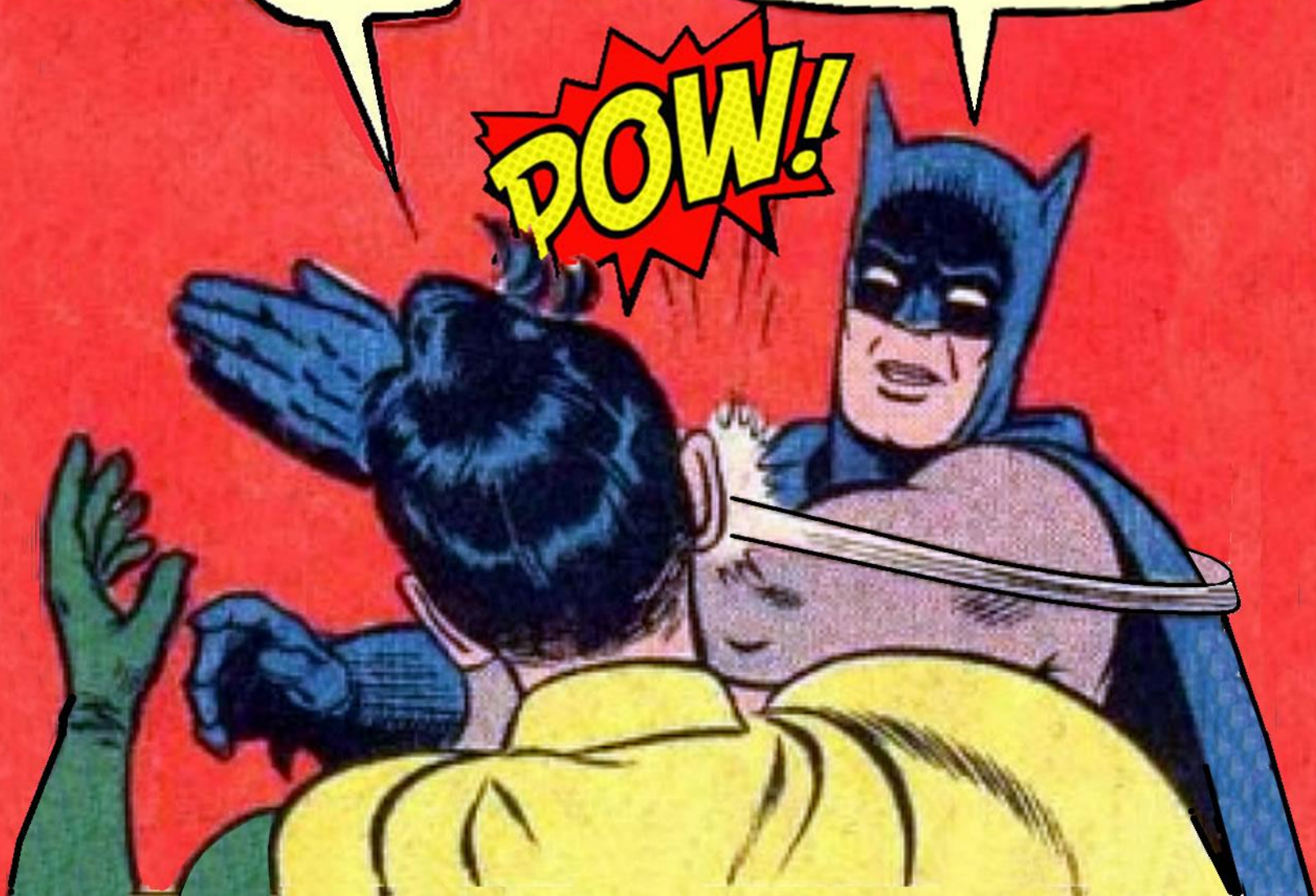
20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Knowing this first,  
**that no prophecy  
of the Scripture is  
of any private  
interpretation.**

WELL, WHAT I  
THINK THIS BIBLE  
VERSE MEANS IS...  
OWW!

NO PROPHECY OF  
SCRIPTURE IS OF  
ANY PRIVATE  
INTERPRETATION!

**POW!**



# Outline

## **EXPLANATION: THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

(2 Peter Chapter 1)

- The gift of knowledge—1:1–4
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## **EXAMINATION: THE FALSE TEACHERS**

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## **EXHORTATION: THE TRUE BELIEVER**

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- Beware—3:15–18

## 2 Peter 2

- <sup>1</sup> But there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

An ordained scholar was asked to give a conference paper on “Paul’s views of justification.” He presented a paper that superbly presented the truth of the gospel and justification by faith alone.

“I didn’t know you believed that,” a friend said to him after the meeting.

“I **don’t** believe it,” the liberal pastor replied. “They didn’t ask me for *my* views of justification. They asked for Paul’s!”

BEWARE  
OF **FALSE**  
PROPHETS  
**FALSE**  
TEACHERS  
**DESTRUCTIVE**  
HERESIES

# BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS

- A false teacher is not someone who teaches false doctrine out of ignorance.
- Per 1 Peter, false teachers **know the truth but teach lies**:
  1. to promote themselves
  2. to get financial gain (1 Pet 2:3,14)
  3. to live in sin to please themselves (1 Pet 2:10,13-14, 18-19)
  4. to use deceptive means (1 Pet 2:1,3)
  5. to twist the Word of God to suit their fancies.

- 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

“And many shall follow their pernicious **[immoral, lustful, debauched, shameless, wanton, insolent]** ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” (KJV)

- 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

“And through covetousness shall they with feigned **[πλάστος, plastos, counterfeit, fabricated]** words make merchandise of **[abuse, enslave, buy/sell]** you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.” (KJV)

## Doom of False Teachers

- <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare the **angels who sinned**, but cast *them* down to **hell** and delivered *them* into **chains of darkness**, to be **reserved for judgment**;

Genesis 6:1-4

Luke 16:19-31

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Angels who sinned         | Fallen angels, “Sons of God”,<br>בני האלהים; see Jude 1:6-7          |
| Hell (ταρταρώω, Tartarus) | Per Homer, a region as far below Hades as Hades was below the earth. |
| Chains of darkness        | As per fallen angels in Jude 1:6                                     |
| Reserved for judgement    | Great White Throne Judgement, see also Jude 1:6                      |



## Doom of False Teachers

- <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup> and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Genesis 6:1-4

Luke 16:19-31

Genesis 6:1-7

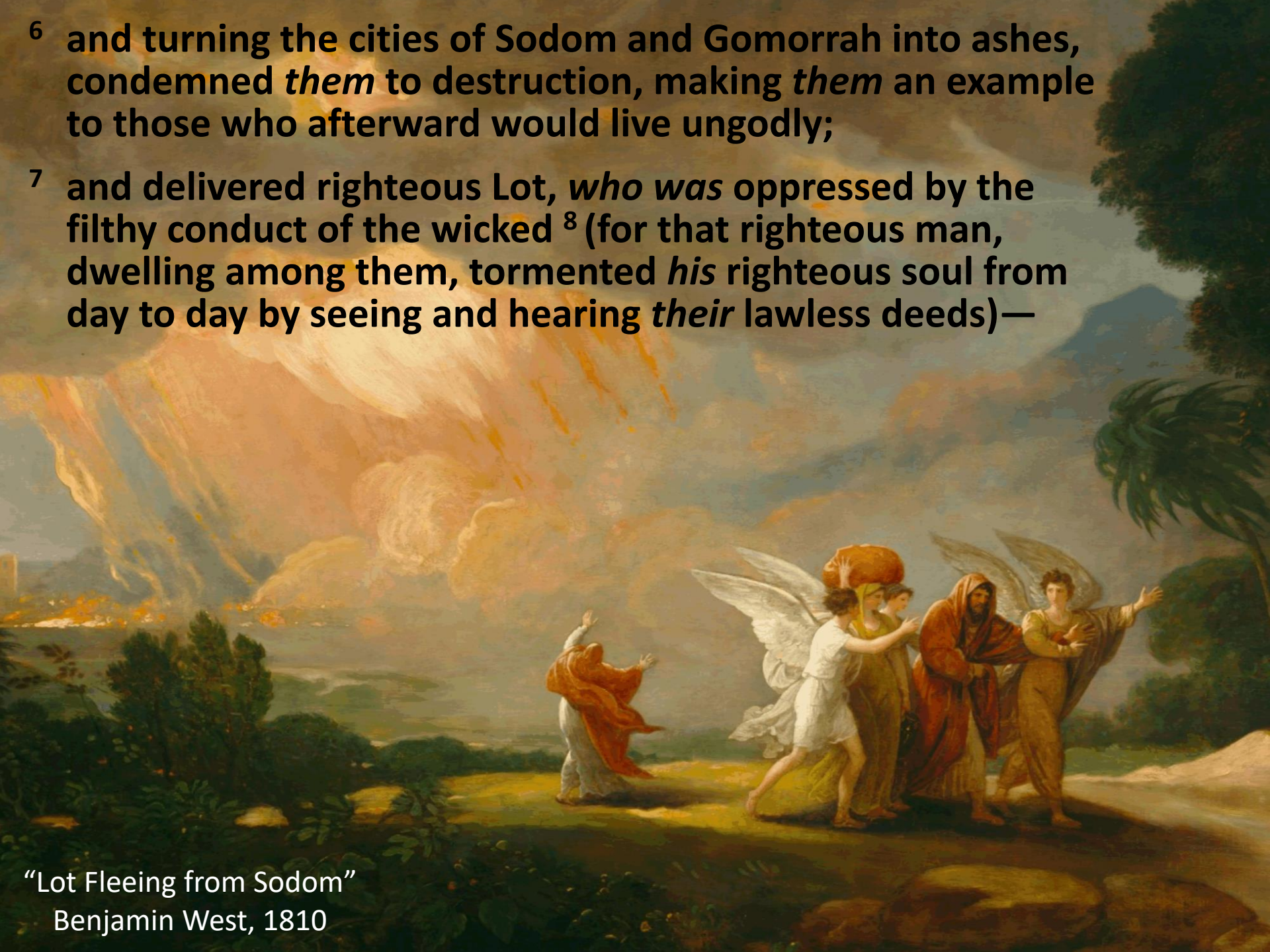
Genesis 6:8-8:16



Noah was a preacher (herald, proclaimer) of righteousness.

His very life must have been a testimony.

- <sup>6</sup> and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;
- <sup>7</sup> and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)—



“Lot Fleeing from Sodom”  
Benjamin West, 1810

<sup>9</sup> *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, <sup>10</sup> and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority, presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of **dignitaries**,

CAUTION

As in Jude, many English translations deliberately mistranslate the Greek δόξα *doxa* as *human* dignitaries rather than *celestial* **dignities**.

<sup>11</sup> whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

"The Burning of Sodom", Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, 1857

## Depravity of False Teachers

- <sup>12</sup> But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, <sup>13</sup> *and* will receive the wages of unrighteousness, *as* those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime.



"Drum II"  
Peter Howson OBE  
1998

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*They are spots and blemishes,* carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, <sup>14</sup> having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, *and are* accursed children.



THE WOLF FOUND THAT SHEPHERD'S CLOTHING WORKED EVEN BETTER.

<sup>15</sup> They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; <sup>16</sup> but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

Numbers 22-24

Num. 22:22-33



The Chronicles of Nuremberg, 1493

- 17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness [*mists* – KJV] of darkness forever.
- 18 For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.

### How do they attract followers?

1. They eloquently present and promote themselves and their false doctrines.
2. They appeal to the base appetites of the old nature.
3. They appeal to new believers who have “very recently escaped” from their old ways.



- 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

### **What sins enslave the false teachers?**

1. They were in bondage to money (2 Peter 2:3, 14).
2. They were also in bondage to fleshly lust (2 Peter 2:10, 14).
3. They were also enslaved by pride (2 Peter 2:10–12).



**To be enslaved to oneself is  
the heaviest of all servitudes.**

---

Lucius Annaeus Seneca  
4 B.C. - A.D. 65



# DANGER

The next two verses,  
2 Peter 2:20-21, have  
divided churches over the  
question:

**“Can you lose your  
salvation?”**



- <sup>20</sup> For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.
- <sup>21</sup> **For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

<sup>22</sup> But it has happened to them according to the true proverb (26:11): “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”



**“So can a person lose their salvation?”**



**“So can a person lose their salvation?”**

**“How do I know that I am saved?”**

**and**

**“Can I continue to live in sin once saved?”**

## **“How do I know that I am saved?”**

1. Confess “Jesus is Lord” (Romans 10:9-10)
2. Confess your sins directly to Christ and be forgiven and cleansed of them (1 John 1:9)
3. Repent and turn away from sin (2 Cor. 7:10)
4. Do\* the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21) and bear\* ‘good’ fruit (Matt. 3:8, John 15:1-8)

\*Aorist tense: “continue to” do and bear.

# “Can I continue to live in sin once saved?”

**NO! By no means!** (Romans 6:1-2, 15)

1. Can't serve two masters (Matt. 6:24)
2. Slave to sin or obedience (Rom. 6:15-23)
3. Live\* in sin as Satan's child (1 John 3:7-10)
4. Live\* in sin to go to hell! (Matt. 7:21-23)
5. **If you slip you have an advocate** (1 John 2:1)

\*"Live in sin" means to deliberately, knowingly and habitually practice sin.

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## 2 Peter 3

### God's Promise Is Not Slack

- <sup>1</sup> Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),
- <sup>2</sup> that you may be mindful of the words **which were spoken before** by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,  
  
Paul was sent to uncircumcised; Peter to the circumcised (Gal 2:7).
- <sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”

<sup>5</sup> For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,  
<sup>6</sup> by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.



“The Flood with Noah's Ark”  
Jan Brueghel, 1601

<sup>5</sup> For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,  
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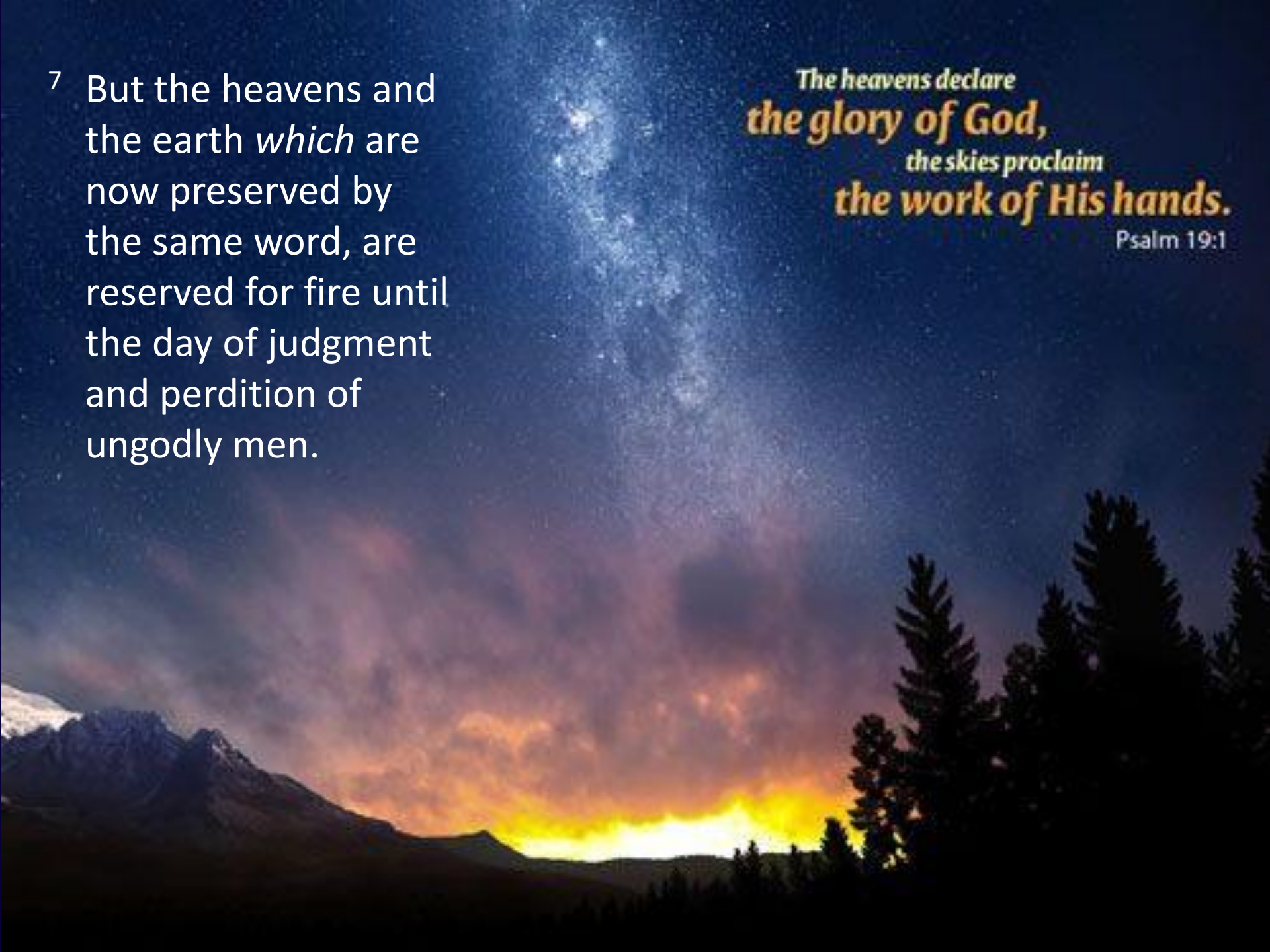
“The Flood with Noah's Ark”  
Jan Brueghel, 1601



7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The heavens declare  
**the glory of God,**  
the skies proclaim  
**the work of His hands.**

Psalms 19:1



<sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

With the  
*Lord* a day  
*is like a*  
thousand  
years  
and a thousand  
years  
are like a day.  
2 Peter 3 vs.8

A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.

**Psalms 90:4**

9 **The Lord is not slack**  
concerning *His* promise, as  
some count slackness, but  
is **longsuffering** toward us,  
not willing that any should  
perish but that all should  
come to repentance.





# The Day of the Lord

- <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
- <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?



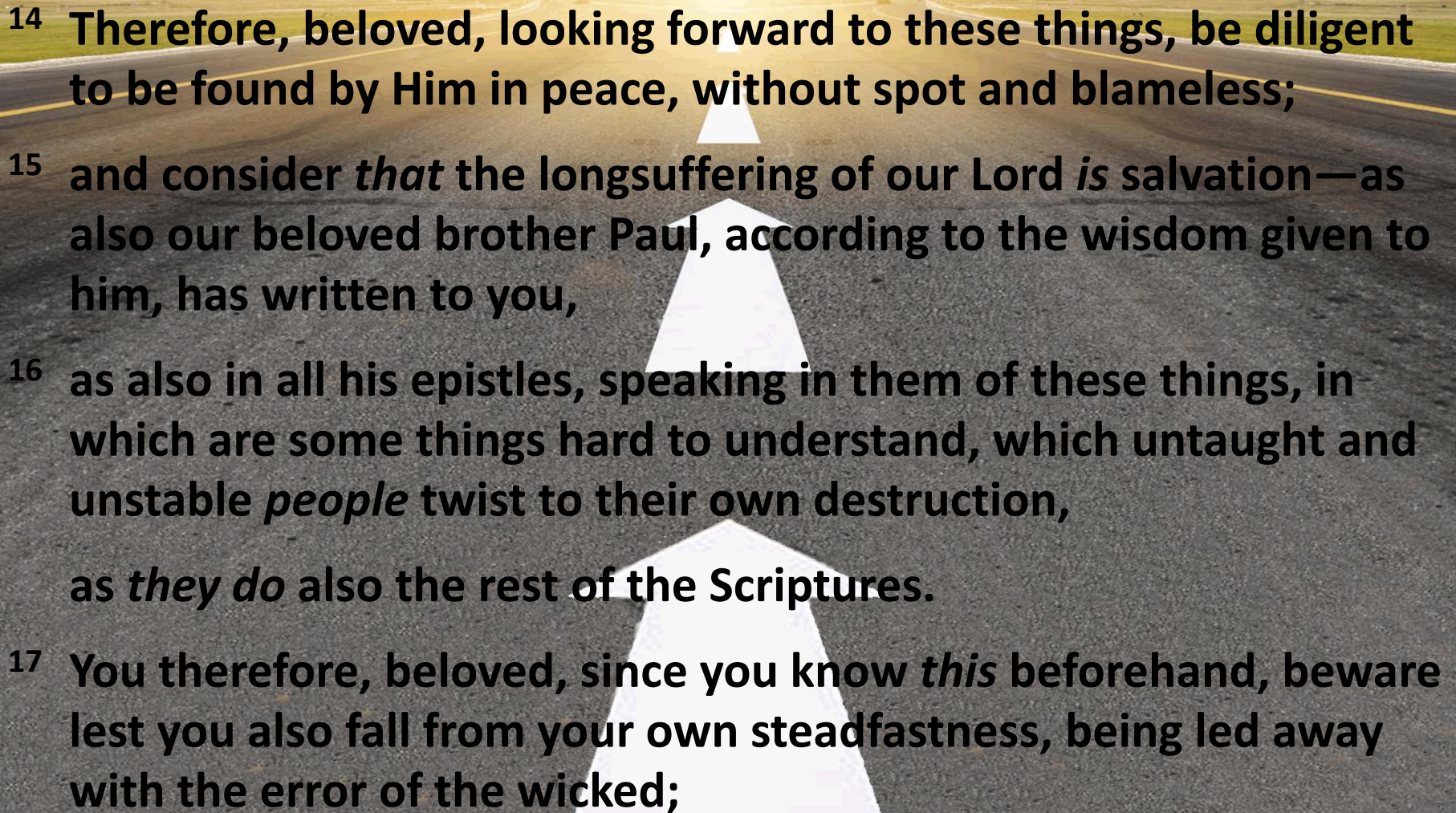
<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

This sinful world will be destroyed,

**NEVERTHELESS**

we are waiting for new heavens  
and a new earth in which  
righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3: 13

- 
- 14** Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;
- 15** and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
- 16** as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.
- 17** You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

<sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and  
knowledge of our Lord and  
Saviour Jesus Christ.



To Him  
Be the  
Glory

**To Him be the glory** both  
now and forever. Amen.

# Big ideas in the book of 2 Peter

God's power  
has given  
believers  
everything they  
need to live  
godly lives.

False teachers  
threaten the  
faithfulness of  
believers.

Jesus will return!  
Believers can  
prepare for  
that day by living  
faithful lives.

If someone who  
made as many  
headstrong  
mistakes as  
Peter can be  
saved, anyone  
can be!

Suffering  
isn't  
enjoyable,  
but it can be  
a blessing.