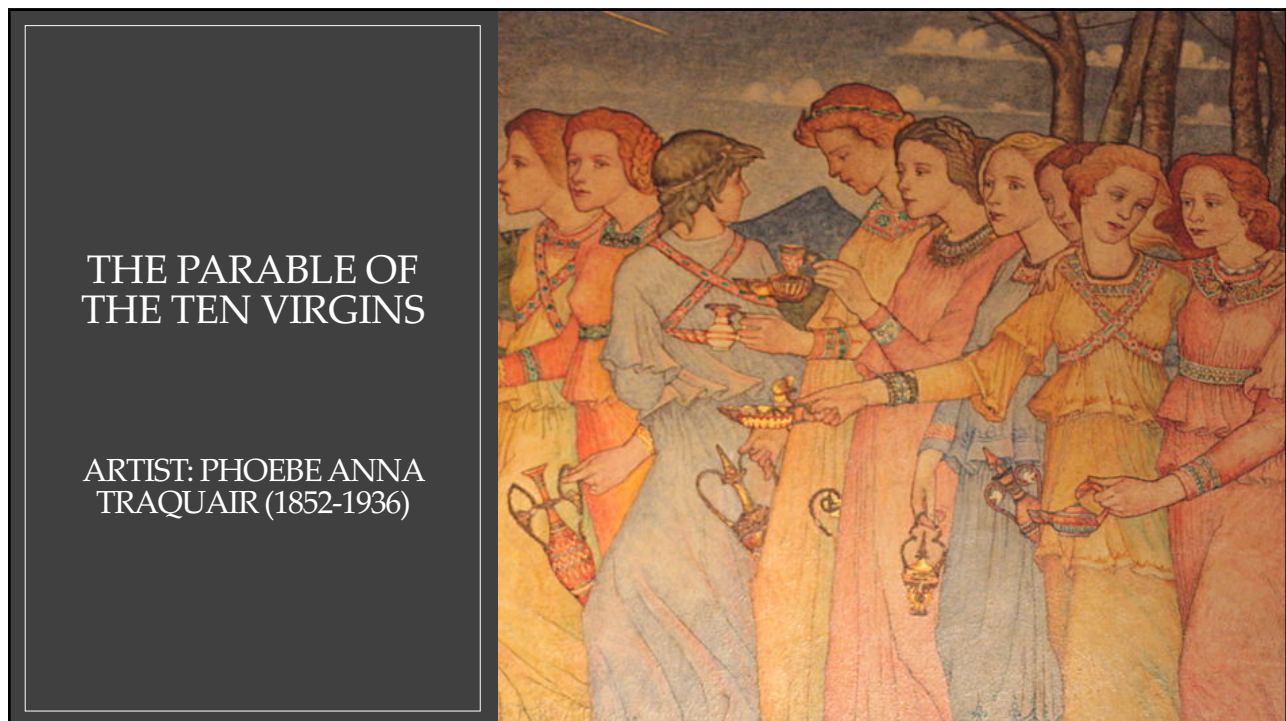


1



2



THE *BUOYING* POWER OF CHRIST

- Buoy (noun): an anchored float that serves as a navigation mark to show reefs or other hazards. It acts as a guide, beacon or signal.
- Buoy (verb): to keep someone or something afloat, to cause to rise to or remain at a high level. (Origin of word: 'signal' or 'to float'.)

3



FOCUS

- Christ
- Prophecy
- Biblical Role Models

*"Adoration of the
Magi", Andrea
Mantegna
(1431-1506)*

4



CHRIST

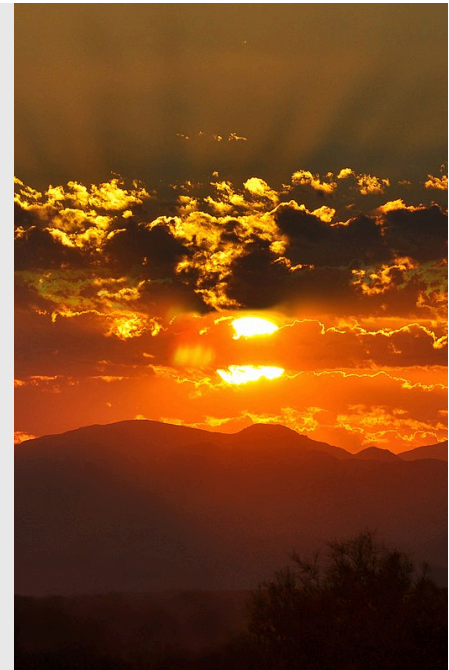
- Christ from 'christos' (Greek) for 'anointed one'; "Messiah" in Hebrew
- Dual nature long contemplated (Jesus and Christ, human/divine)

"The Good Shepherd", stained glass

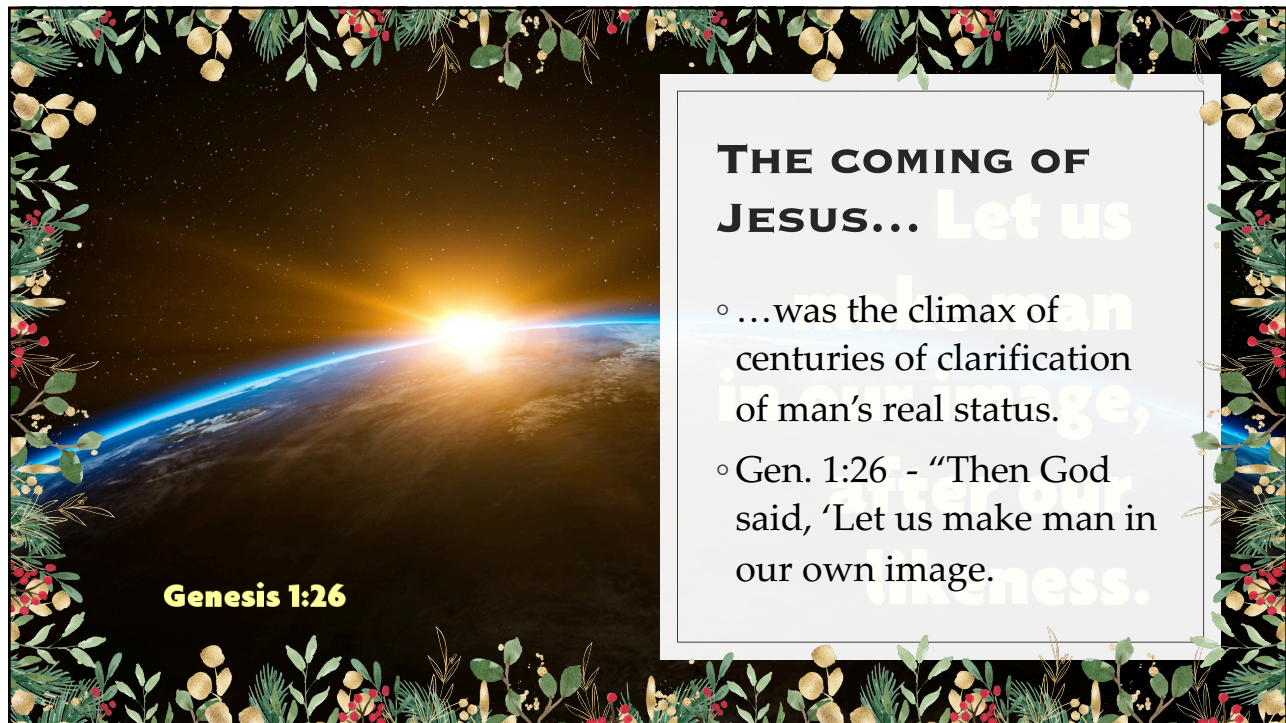
5

CHRIST JESUS' DUAL NATURE

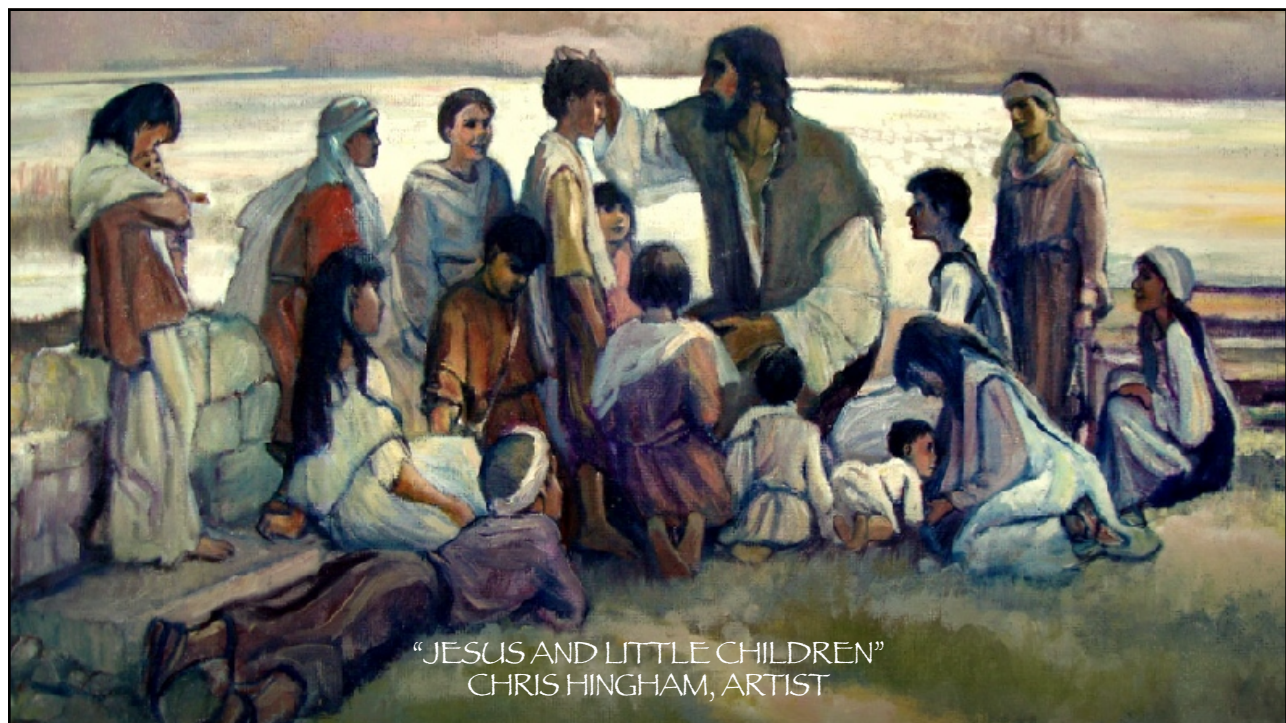
- "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man" (John 3:13).
- "I am the bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).
- "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).



6



7



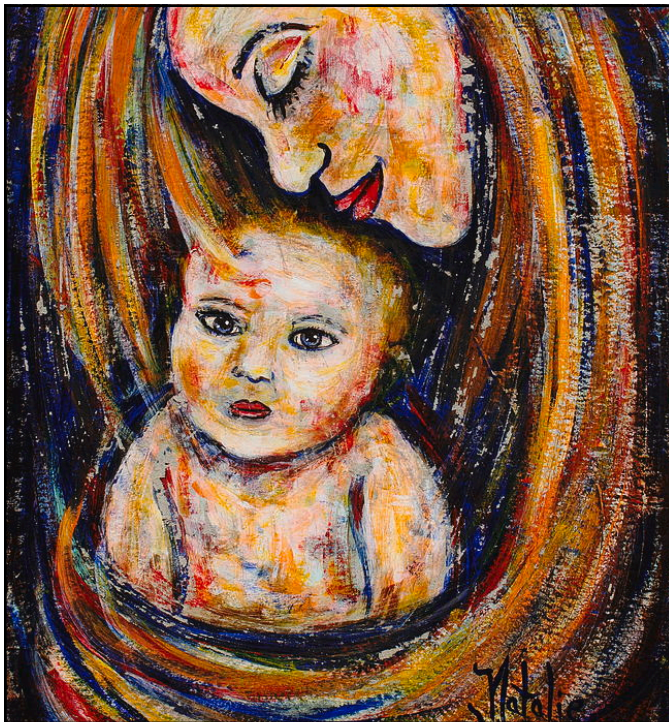
8



GOD AS FATHER

- "O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand." Isa. 64:8
- Conception by the Holy Spirit - "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above." John 19:11

9



GOD AS MOTHER

"Listen to me, descendants of Jacob, all you who remain in Israel.

I have cared for you since you were born. Yes, I carried you before you were born."

Isa. 46:3

"Mother's love", Natalie Holland

10



CONCEPTION IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

"You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above."

John 19:11

11



UNPARALLELED RECORD OF HEALING

- "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (among us).
Matt. 10:7
- "For in him we live, and move, and have our being." (Paul -Acts 17:28)

"The Leper", Ron DiCianni

12



THE LIVING CHRIST

- "Since therefore the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death." (Heb 2:14,15).
- "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12

13



14

PROPHECY

Biblical prophecy shows that God has always been in charge, always communicating His/Her love for all of us.

- Anticipating the Messiah = the expectation of good



15



THE PROPHET MICAH – FORETOLD WHERE THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me" (Micah 5:2).

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem",
Carol Shell Cantrell*

16

DEUTERONOMY PROPHECY

- "I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him" (Deut. 18:18).

"Moses", Marc Chagall



17



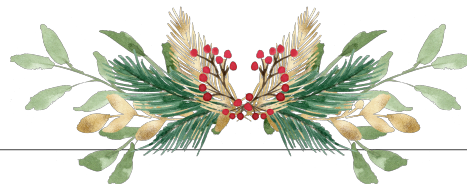
ZECHARIAH PROPHECY

- "Listen to me, O Jeshua the high priest, and all you other priests. You are symbols of things to come. Soon I am going to bring my servant, the Branch" (Zech. 3:8).

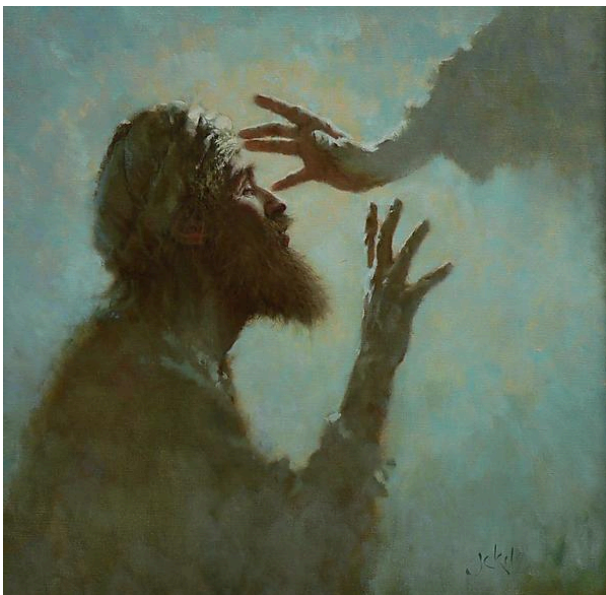
18

ISAIAH PROPHECY

"The Lord
Himself will
give you a sign:
Behold, the
virgin will
conceive and
bear a son, and
shall call his
name
Immanuel"
(Isa. 7:14).



19



THE MESSIAH'S WORK

"And when he comes, he will
open the eyes of the blind
and unplug the ears of the
deaf. The lame will leap like
a deer, and those who cannot
speak will sing" (Isa 35:5,6).

20



**IMPORTANCE
OF BIBLICAL
PROPHECY TO
JESUS**

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).

*“Christ at Emmaus”
Rembrandt*

21

**THE MATHEMATICAL
PROBABILITY OF
JESUS FULFILLING 8
OLD TESTAMENT
PROPHECIES**



22



23



24



EARLIEST FRESCO OF MAGI (350 CE)

FROM CAPELLA
GRAECA,
CATACOMB OF
PRISCILLA, ROME

25



MAGI (GREEK) -- SAGES OR ASTROLOGERS

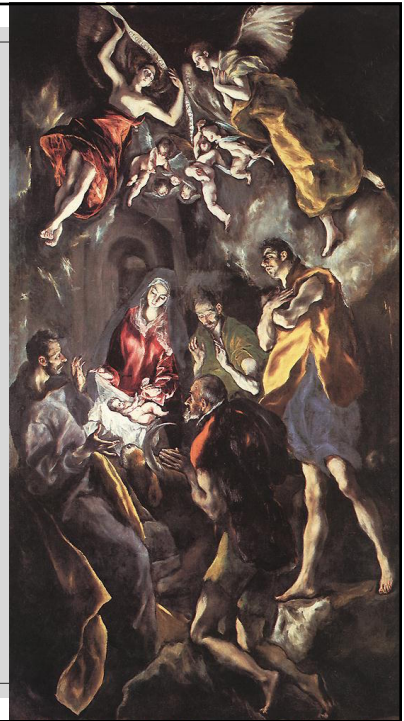
“All nations will
come to your light;
mighty kings will
come to see your
radiance” (Isa.
60:3).

*Procession of the
Magi, Benozzo
Gozzoli (1459-1461)*

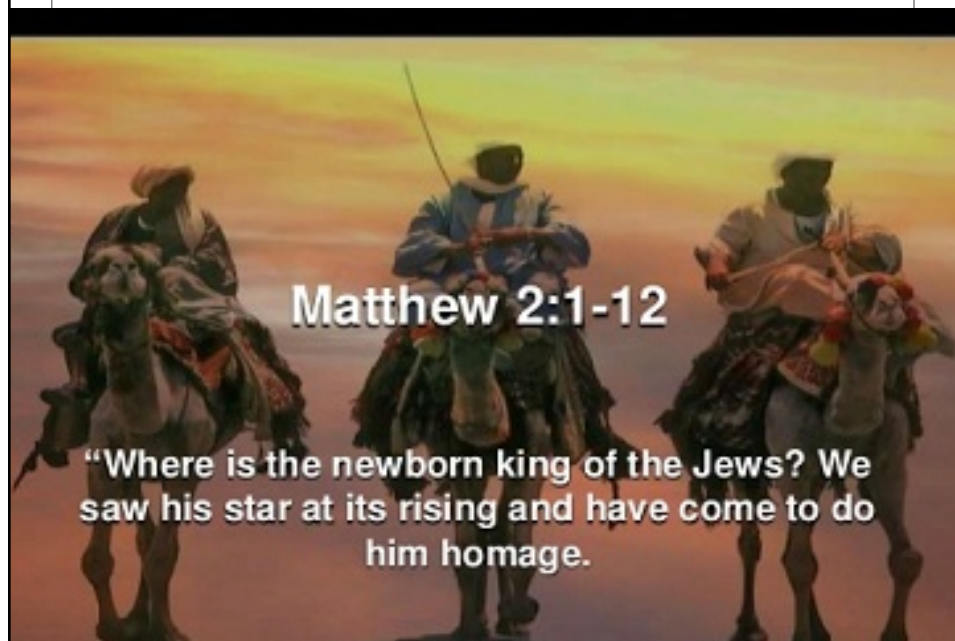
26

MATTHEW & LUKE – ONLY 2 GOSPELS WITH BIRTH STORIES

Matthew – "Adoration of the Magi," 1609, Rubens (below)
Luke – "Adoration of the Shepherds," 1612, El Greco (side)



27



MATTHEW'S MAGI

- Jesus is the royal heir; Christ's kingdom = the Kingdom of Heaven.

28



HONORING CHRIST

- Accord with deep respect and esteem.
- To revere, venerate
- "I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works" (Ps. 145:5).
- "Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands" (Ps 8:5, 6).

29

SHEPHERDS IN THE 1ST CENTURY CE

- Role models in **watchfulness**
- Provided basics the sheep needed
- Guarded against thieves and wolves
- Rescued when in danger
- Carried the young ones when needed
- Counted each animal nightly as they passed under their hand.

"The Lost Sheep", Alfred Soord (1868-1915)



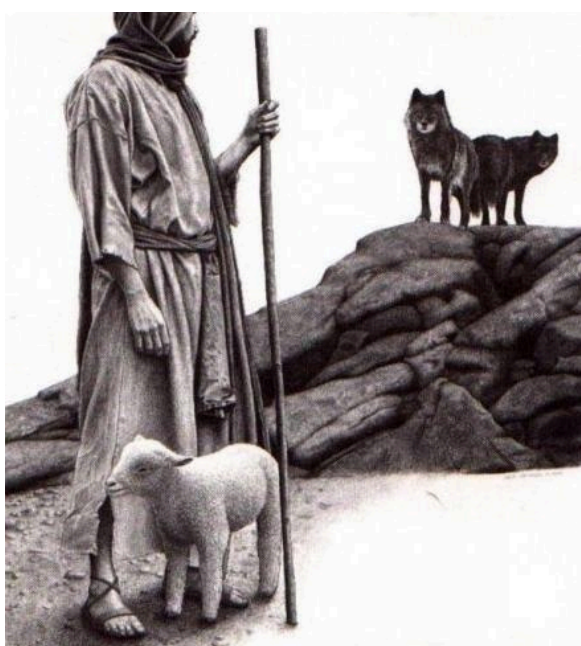
30



SHEPHERDS IN LUKE 2:8-12

There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger" (*The Message*).

31



SHEPHERD LESSONS:

- Watch thought, not just sheep
- This keeps the 'wolves' (whatever tries to devour our joy, well-being) at bay.



32

SIMEON – LUKE 2:25-35

"The man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel" ("the prayerful expectancy of help")...

Simeon embodies
EXPECTANCY

*"Simeon in the Temple, 1659,
Rembrandt*



33

QUESTION TO ASK OURSELVES:

How can I more actively express
the spiritual quality of
expectancy in daily life?

What does it mean for you that
God keeps his promises, sends
His Christ to save and buoy us?



34



ANNA – LUKE

2:36-38

- "She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day (Luke 2:36)
- Anna embodies
DEVOTION

"Simeon and Anna in the Temple"
(1629), Rembrandt

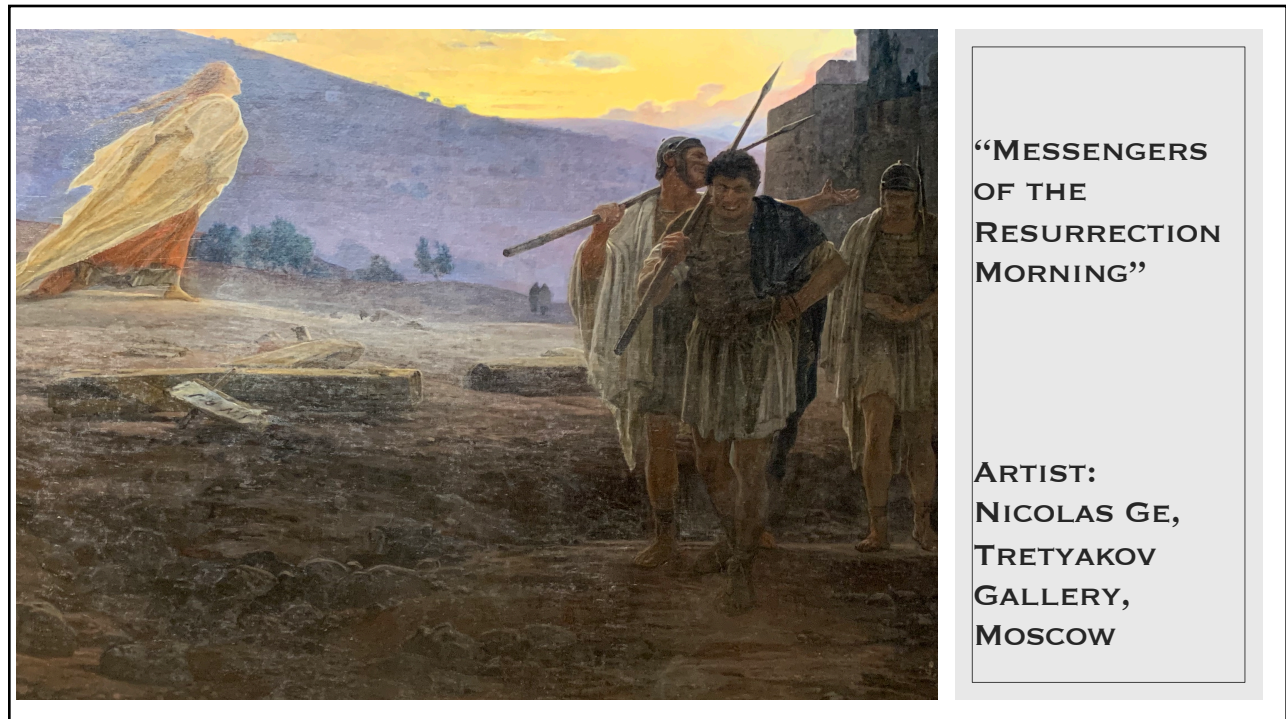
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"RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL"

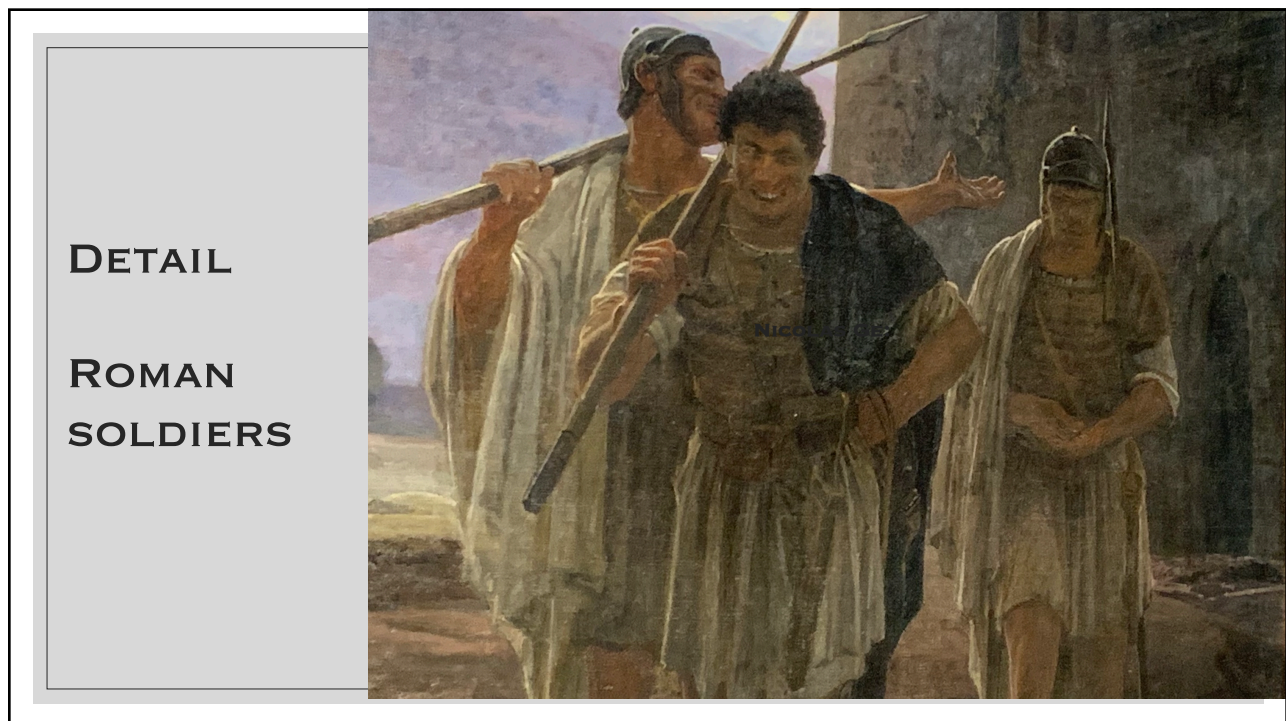
REMBRANDT



36



37



38

DETAIL

**MARY
MAGDALENE**



39



**MESSENGERS
OF THE
RESURRECTION
MORNING**

NICOLAS GE

40