

Christ's Emancipation of Women

From their
Cultural Background & Baggage

Lynne Hilton Wilson



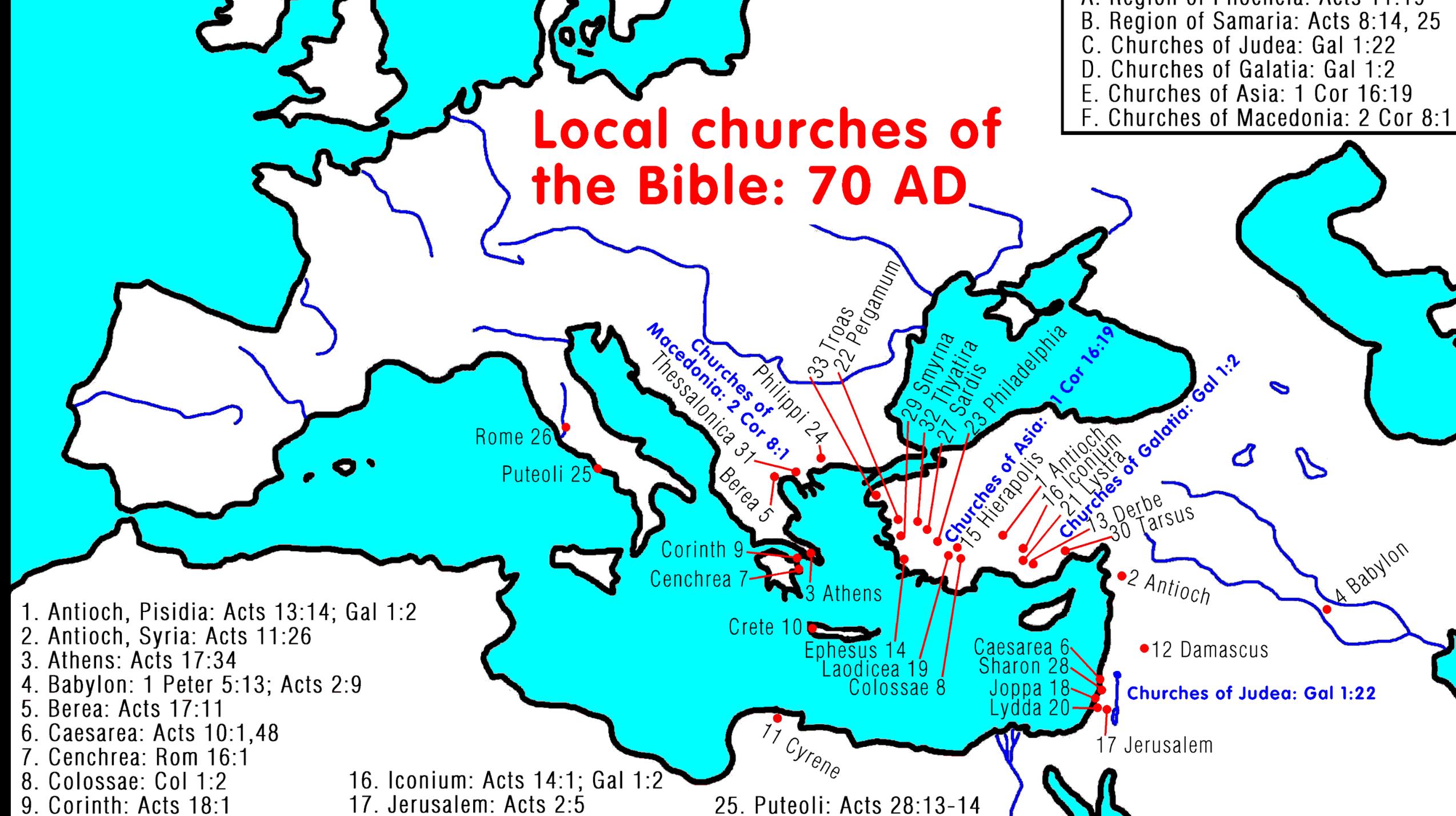
Jesus



Families

- A. Region of Phoenicia: Acts 11:19
- B. Region of Samaria: Acts 8:14, 25
- C. Churches of Judea: Gal 1:22
- D. Churches of Galatia: Gal 1:2
- E. Churches of Asia: 1 Cor 16:19
- F. Churches of Macedonia: 2 Cor 8:1

Local churches of the Bible: 70 AD



- 1. Antioch, Pisidia: Acts 13:14; Gal 1:2
- 2. Antioch, Syria: Acts 11:26
- 3. Athens: Acts 17:34
- 4. Babylon: 1 Peter 5:13; Acts 2:9
- 5. Berea: Acts 17:11
- 6. Caesarea: Acts 10:1,48
- 7. Cenchrea: Rom 16:1
- 8. Colossae: Col 1:2
- 9. Corinth: Acts 18:1

- 16. Iconium: Acts 14:1; Gal 1:2
- 17. Jerusalem: Acts 2:5

- 25. Puteoli: Acts 28:13-14

Rome 26
Puteoli 25

Churches of Macedonia: 2 Cor 8:1
Thessalonica 31

Philippi 24

33 Troas
22 Pergamum

Churches of Asia: 1 Cor 16:19
29 Smyrna
32 Thyatira
27 Sardis
23 Philadelphia

Churches of Galatia: Gal 1:2
15 Hierapolis
16 Antioch
21 Iconium
21 Lystra

13 Derbe
30 Tarsus

Corinth 9
Cenchrea 7
3 Athens

Crete 10
Ephesus 14
Laodicea 19
Colossae 8

Caesarea 6
Sharon 28
Joppa 18
Lydda 20

• 12 Damascus

Churches of Judea: Gal 1:22

17 Jerusalem

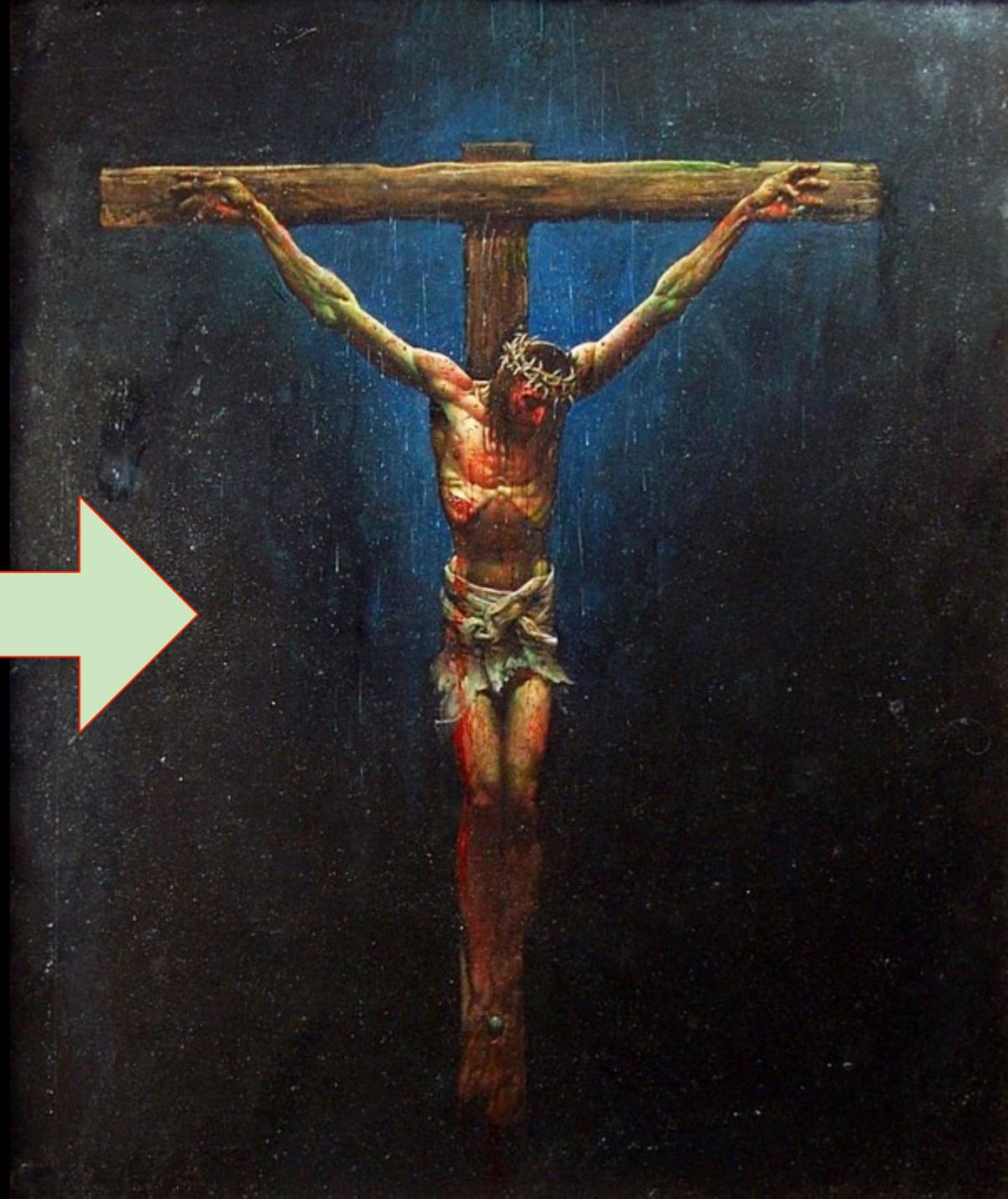
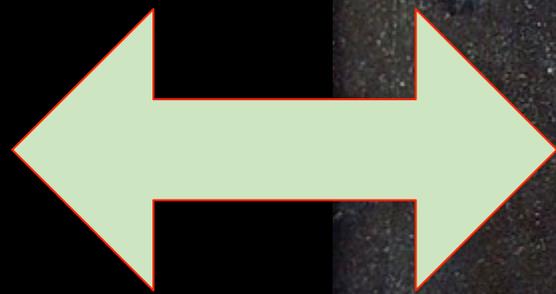
4 Babylon

Late Second Temple (160 BC - AD 70)









**Christ sowed
spiritual and social seeds**







“... took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.”

(Luke 8:54; Matt 9:25; Mark 5:41)

Women as Witnesses:

Mary



Elizabeth





Salome

Sister of Mary

Mary wife of Chuza

Mary mother of James

Mary

Mary Magdalene

Joanna

Susanna



1. Segregation

2. Communication

3. Responsibility

4. Dress

5. Witness



*Women's
Cultural
Segregation*



***Cultural Background
and Baggage***

“they should not mingle”

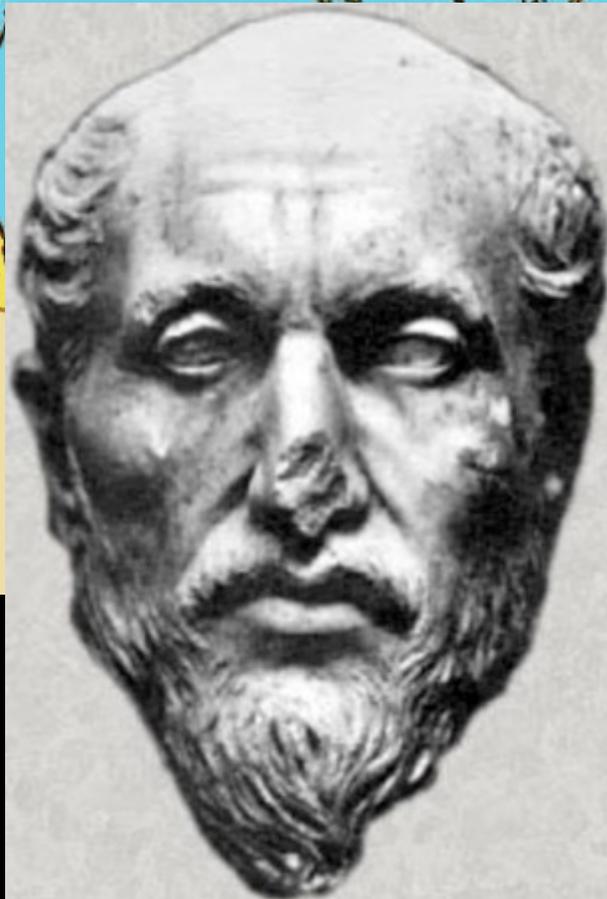


“Of the woman came
the beginning of sin,
and through her
we all die”

(Ben Sira, 25:4)



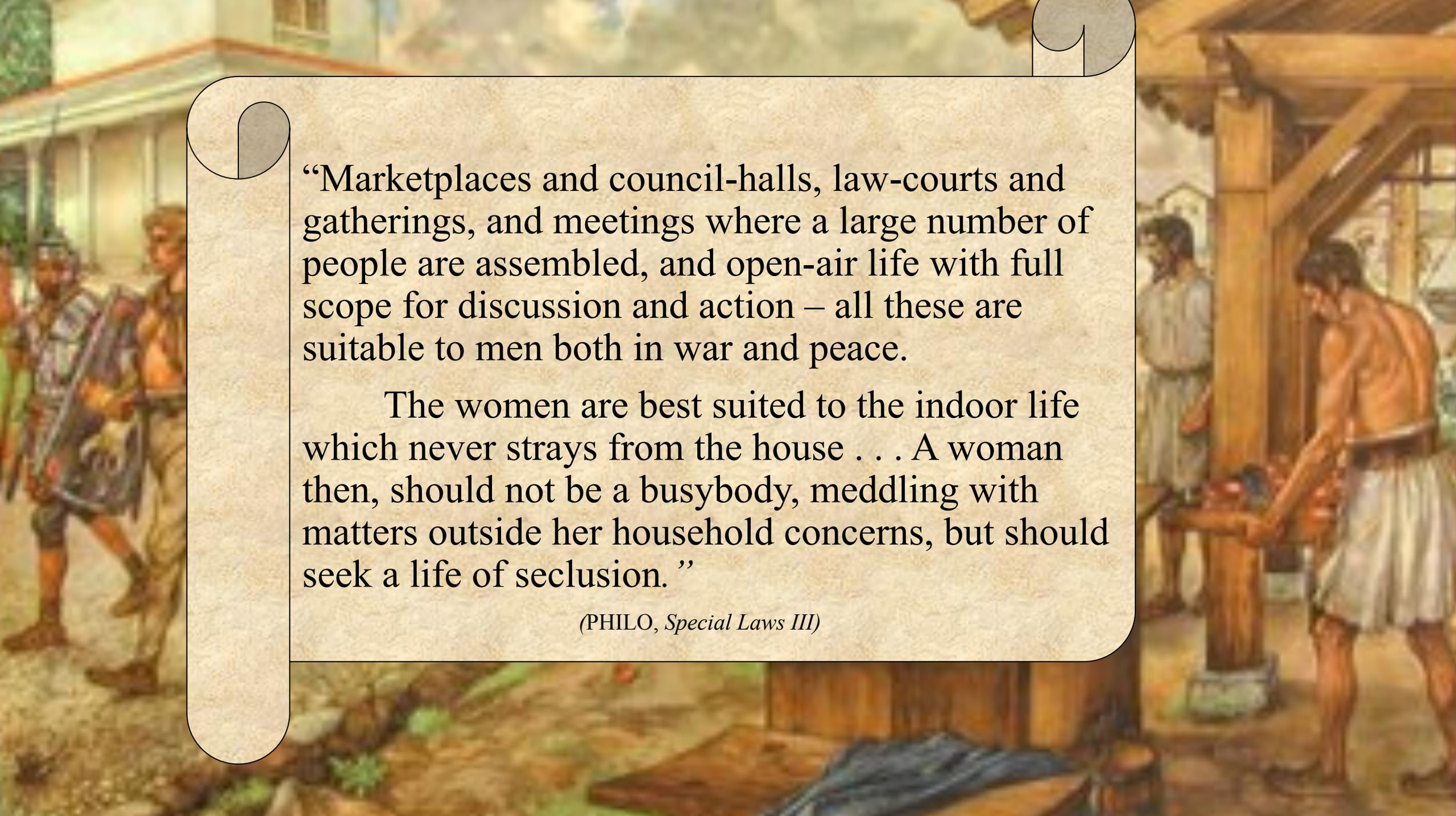
ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT



Philo of Alexandria



(20 BC - AD 50)



“Marketplaces and council-halls, law-courts and gatherings, and meetings where a large number of people are assembled, and open-air life with full scope for discussion and action – all these are suitable to men both in war and peace.

The women are best suited to the indoor life which never strays from the house . . . A woman then, should not be a busybody, meddling with matters outside her household concerns, but should seek a life of seclusion. ”

(PHILO, *Special Laws III*)

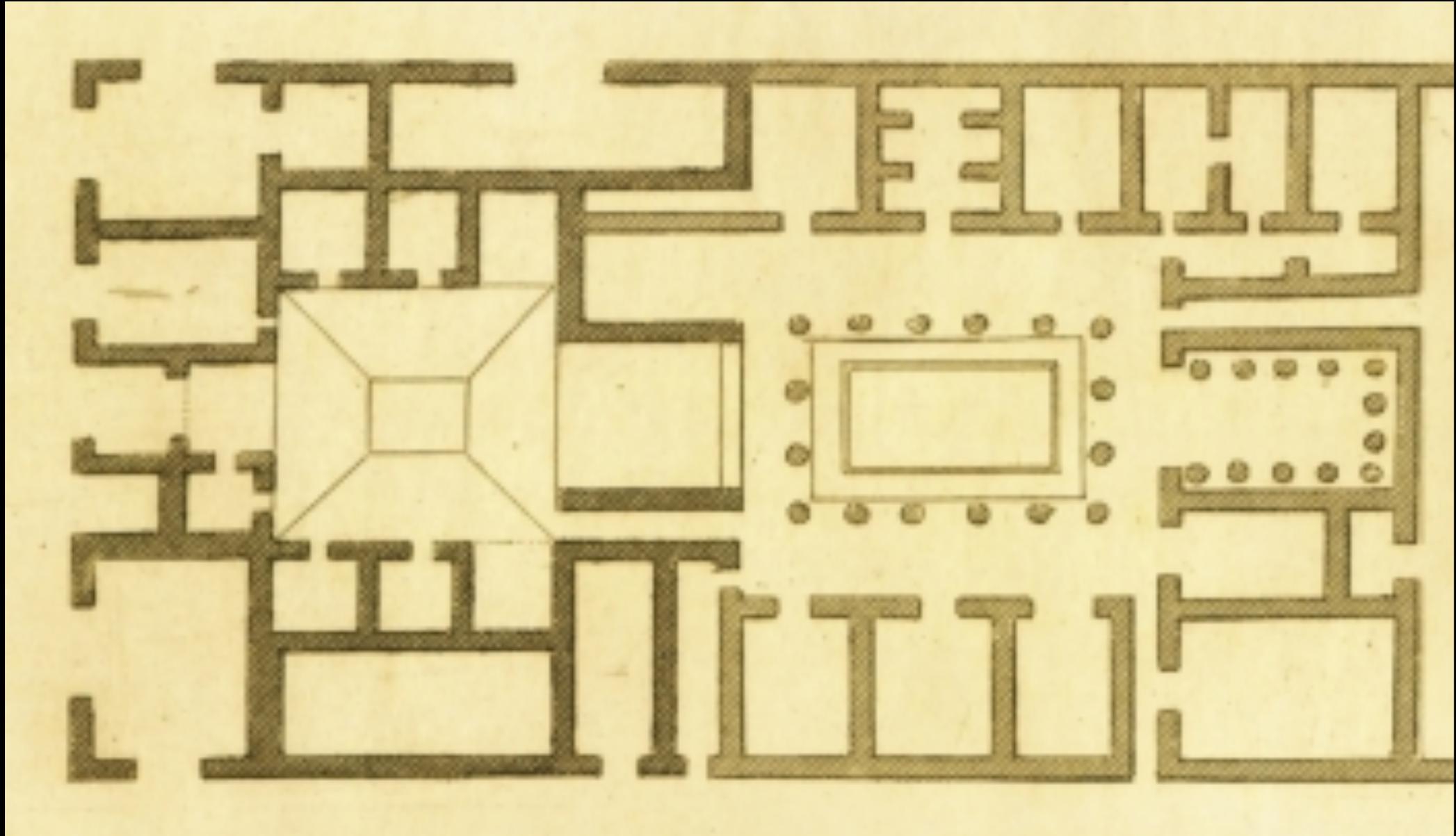


90-95% Jewess Peasants

“ . . . a woman that returned from
the harvest . . . or from
olive-picking
or from the vintage”

(Mishnah, Yebamoth, 15.2).

Segregation at Home





“[Women] were always kept in seclusion and did not even appear at the house-door, and their unmarried daughters, who were limited to the women's quarter, who *for modesty's sake shunned the eyes of men*, even their closest relatives

Synagogue



Court of the Women





“... lest she make thee a laughingstock to thine enemies, and a byword in the city, and a reproach among the people, and make thee ashamed before the multitude”

(Ben Sira, 42:11)



- * Fear
- * Demean
- * Anxiety
- * Hurt
- * Distrust

- * Comply
- * Intimidation

- * Unequal
- * Stunted



*Women's
Cultural
Segregation*

*

*Changed
by Christ's
Inclusion*





Feed and taught
5,000/4,000 + +
(Mt 14:21; 15:38)

Refuted those
who removed
women and
children
(Mk 10:13-14)

Encouraged
women stay and
learn in the same
room as men
(Luke 7:38-40)



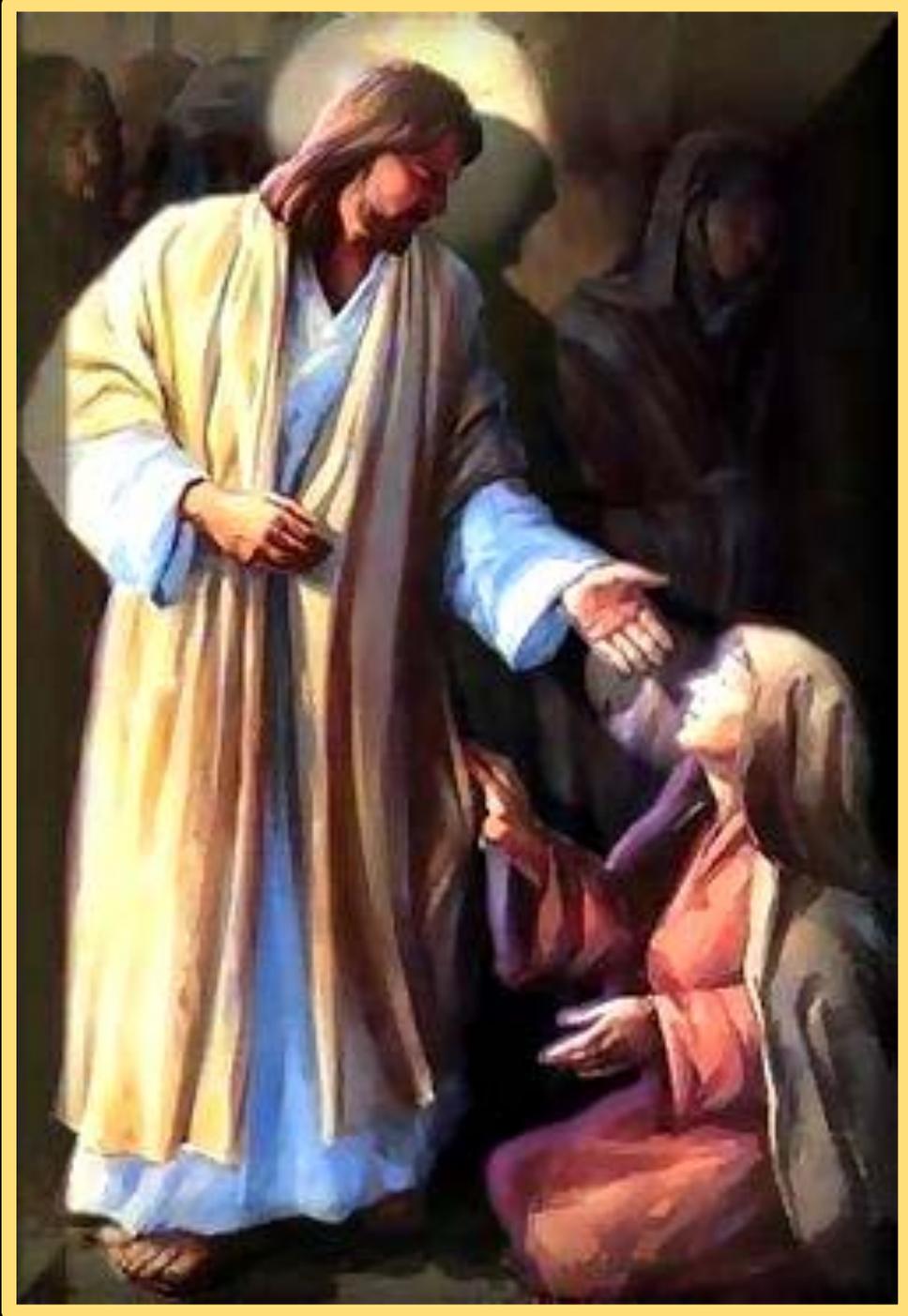
Mark 10:13-14; Matthew 15:23, 38

Matt 9:19-22
Mark 5:24-34
Luke 8:43-48



Leviticus 15:19-28
Deuteronomy 24:1
Ezekiel 36:17-18





“If I may touch but his
clothes, I shall be
whole”

(Matthew 9:21; Mark 5:28)



Luke 8:43-44

“... she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately”

(Luke 8:47)

“Your faith has
brought you salvation
... Go in peace”

(Luke 8:47-48, ABT)



2. Communication

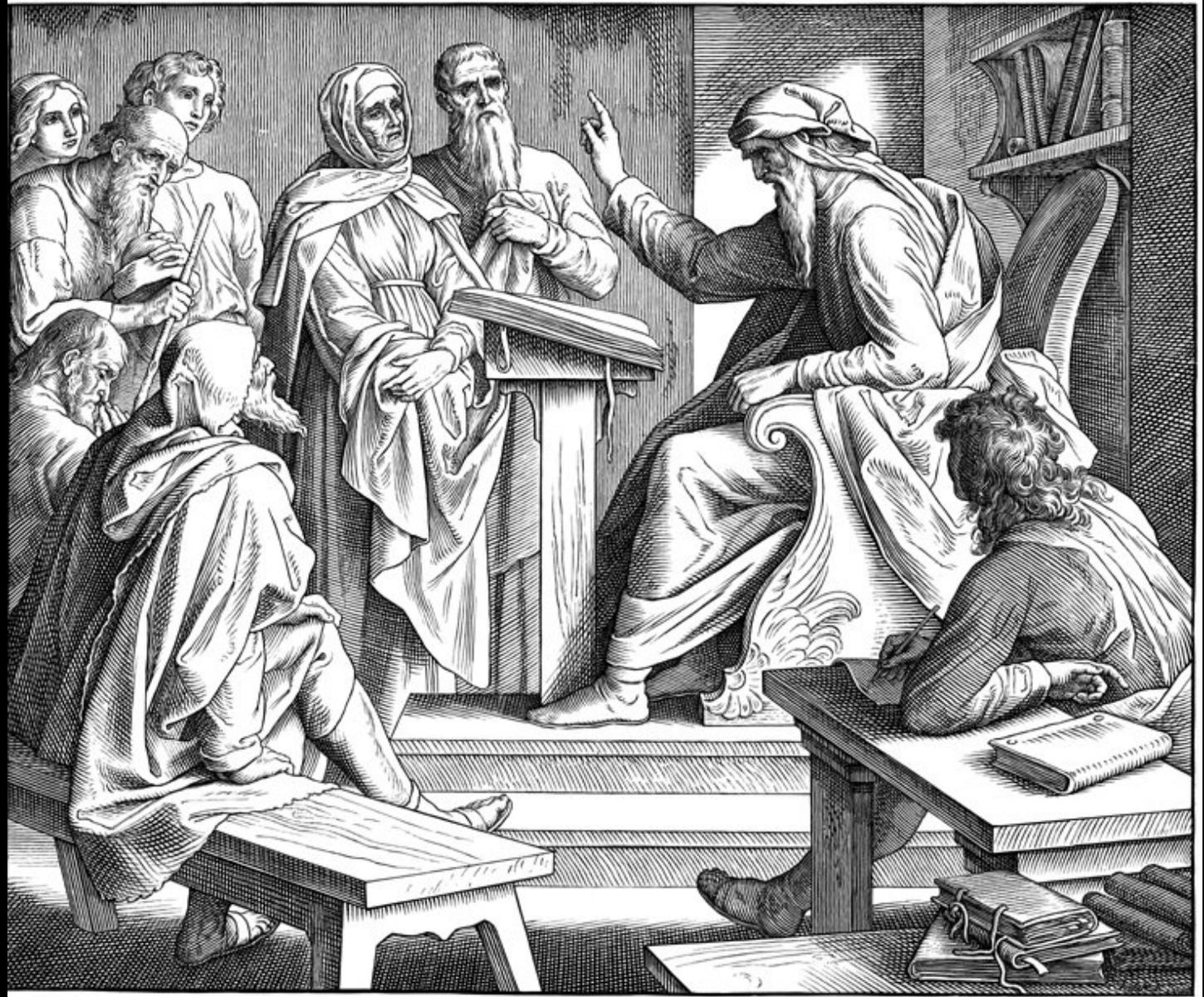
Greco-Roman-Judaic
Cultural Background
and Baggage

“Talk not much with
womankind . . .
they said this of a man’s own
wife how much more of his
fellow’s wife!”

(Mishnah, Avoth 1.5)

“A silent wife is a gift from the Lord; her restraint is more than money can buy”

(Ecclesiasticus, 26:14-15)



“He that talks much with womankind brings evil upon himself and neglects the study of the Law and at the last will inherit Gehenna [hell]”

(Mishnah, Avoth 1:5)

“We have not found that the Almighty spoke to a woman except Sarah”

(Jerusalem Talmud, ySotah. 7.1, 21b)

Christ's Emancipation of Women





Aware of Women's Needs

“Daughters of
Jerusalem, weep not
for me, but weep for
yourselves, and for
your children.”

(Luke 23:28)

**SAMARITAN
WOMAN
JOHN 4:6**



John 4:9

“How is it that
thou, being a
Jew, askest
drink of me,
which am a
woman . . .”





“If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (John 4:10)



“... The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14)



Taught Women How to Worship

“True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth ...”

(John 4:19-23)



“I that speak
unto thee
am He”

(John 4:26)





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1. Segregation

2. Communication

3. Responsibilities

4. Dress

5. Witness





“All we [men] can expect from them [women] is that they bring up our children and keep us from sin”

(Babylonian Talmud, *Yebamoth*, 63a)

Jewess' Responsibilities



Grind flour

Bake bread

Wash clothes

Cook food

Nurse her child

Make her husband's bed

Prepare his cup

Work in wool

“... If she brings one servant with her, she need not grind”

(Mishnah, Ketuboth, 5:5).

Mishnah, Ketuboth, 5:5

“Idleness leads to unchastity. . . . Idleness leads to lowness of spirit”

Philo, Genesis, I.29

A husband, “delighting in his mater-like authority,
is to be respected for his pride:

but the woman, being in the rank of a servant,
is praised for assenting to a life of communion”

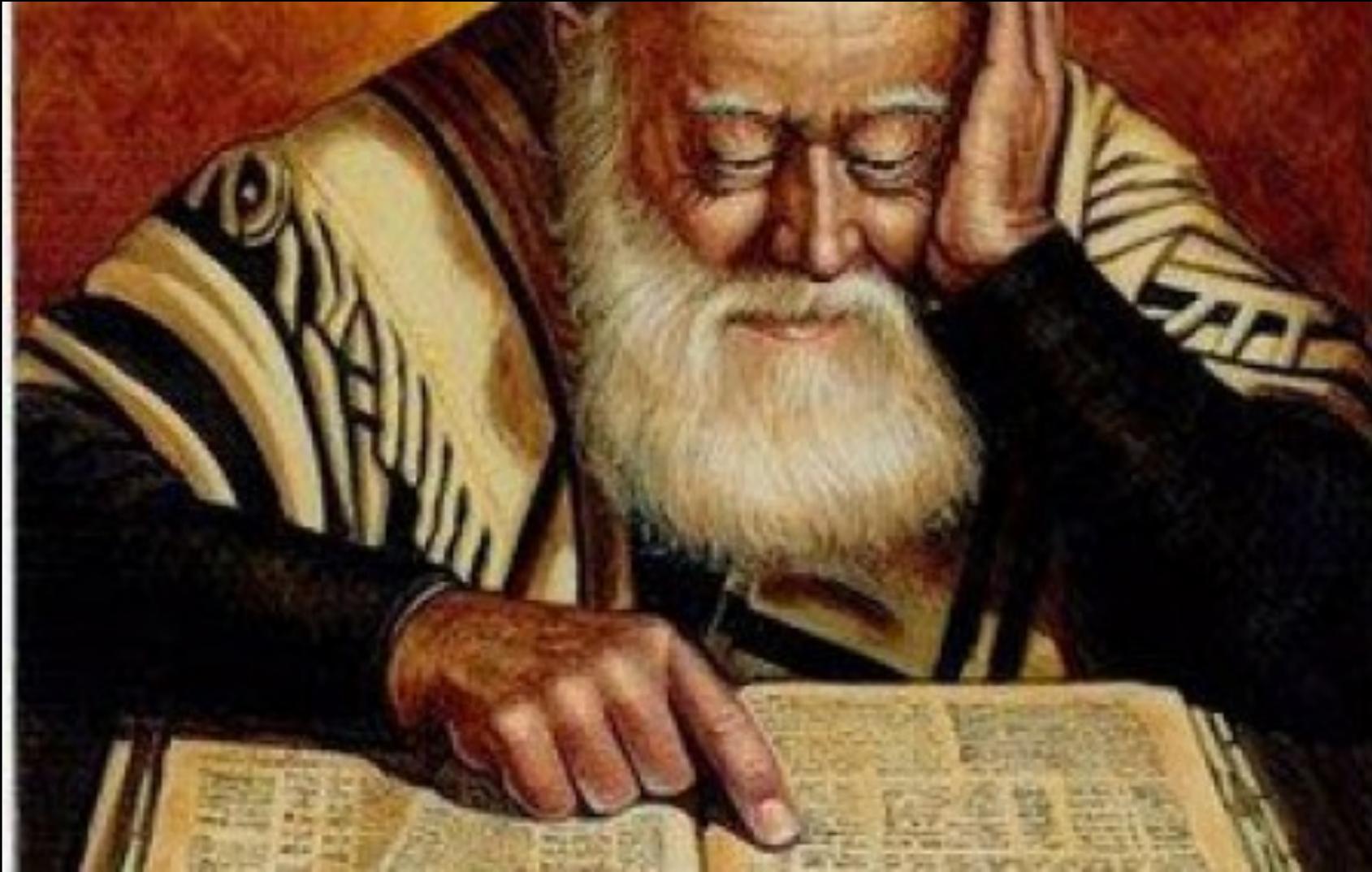
Ben Sira, Ecclesiasticus, 36:26

“He that possesseth a good wife, beginneth a possession”

len . . . “because he weakly submitted to the counsel of his wife”



“Better is the iniquity of a man, than a woman doing a good turn, and a woman bringing shame and reproach.”



Ben Sira 42:14



Josephus

“ . . . For says the Scripture,
‘A woman is inferior to her
husband in all things.’”



“THE anomaly of women is worked out ... by assigning her to a man’s domain.”

Women are “sanctified through the deeds of men”

(Antiquities of the Jews, I.1.4)

Changed by Jesus

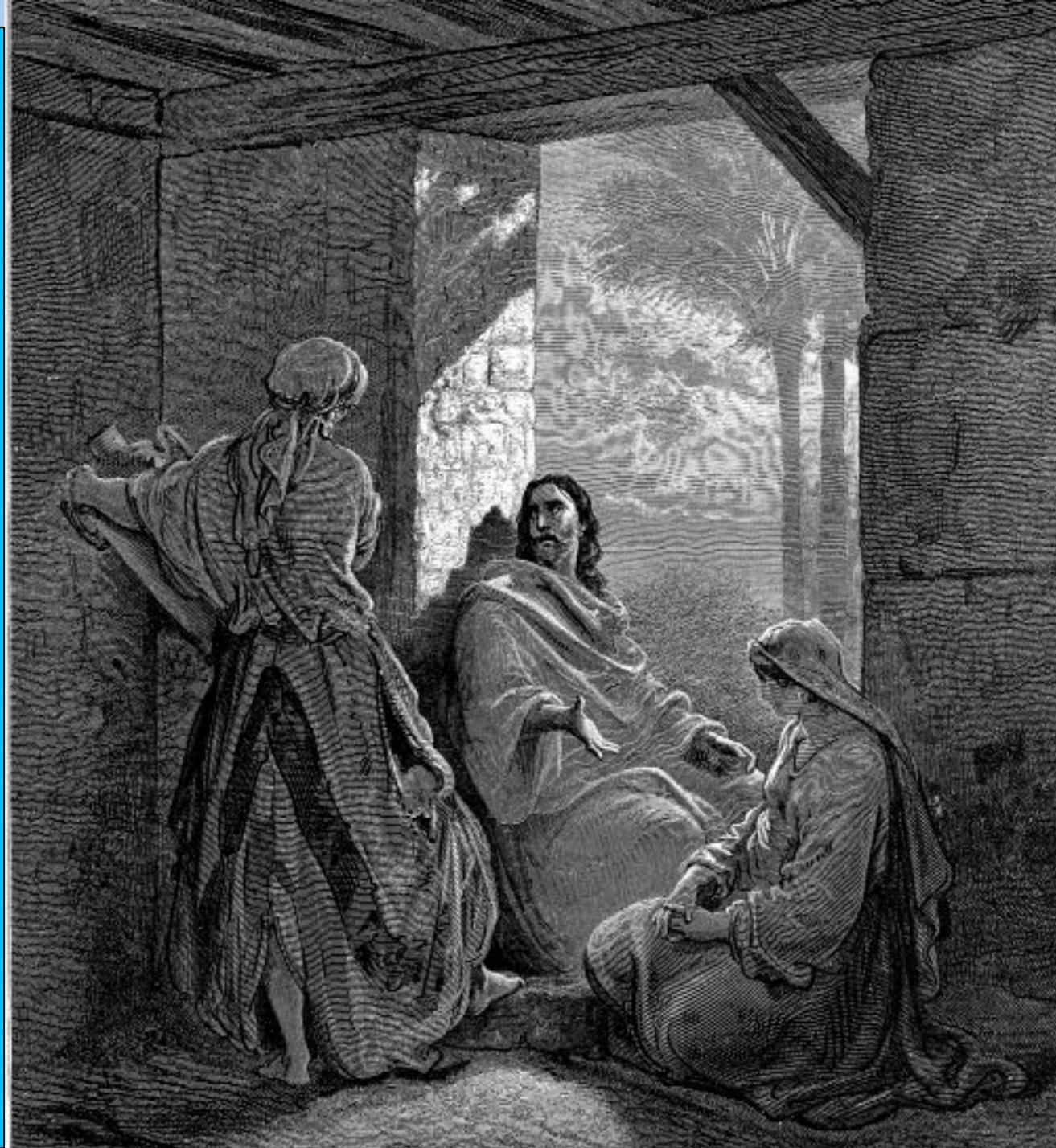


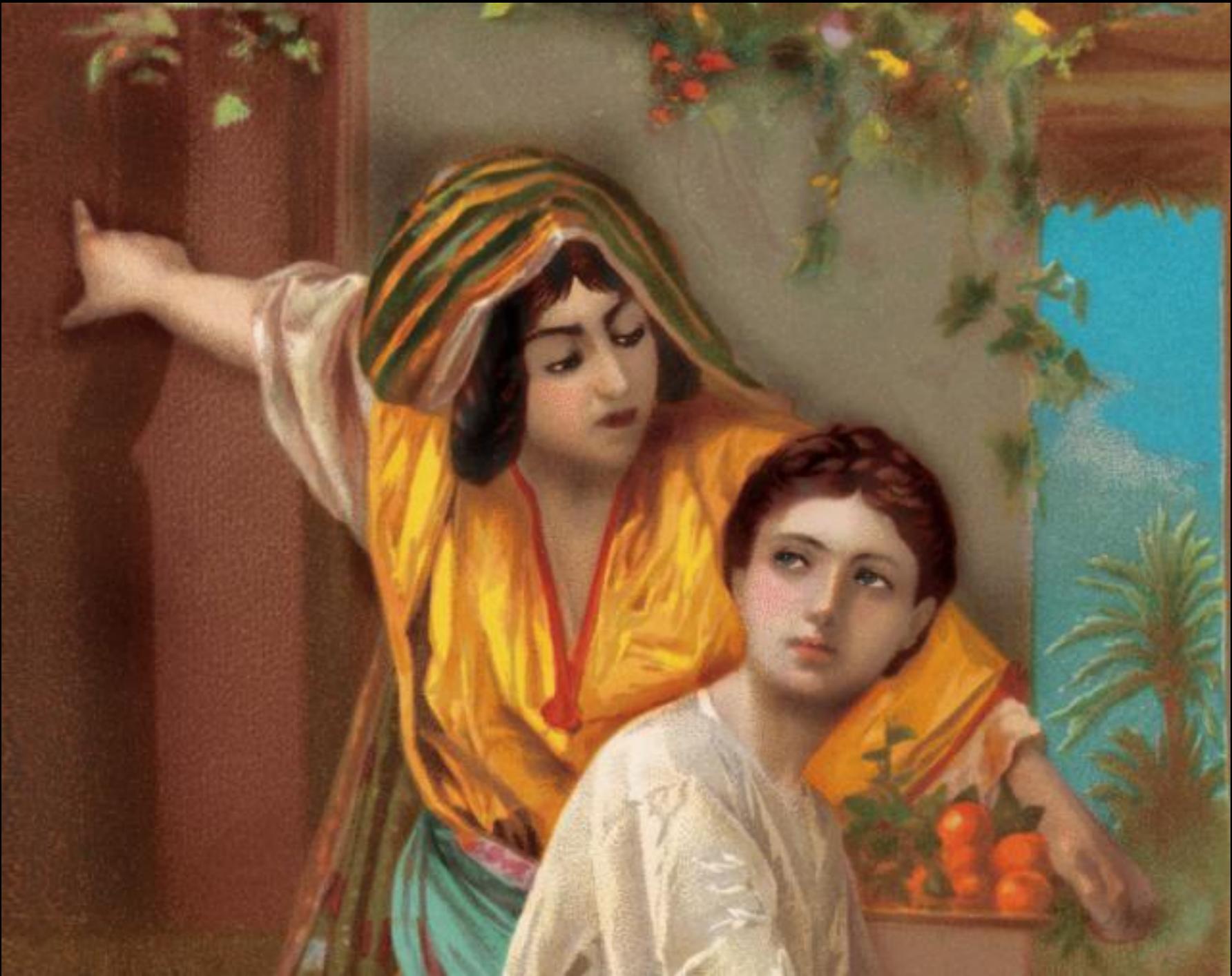
Christ Cleansing the Temple, by Carl Heinrich Bloch, used by permission of the National History Museum at Frederiksberg in Hillerød, Denmark



Jesus “loved Martha,
and her sister,
and Lazarus”

(John 11:5)





t is as though he taught her leche



“Martha, Martha,
thou art careful and
troubled about
many things”

(Luke 10:41-42)

Mary and Martha

“ . . . But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part . . . ” (Luke 10:42)





“ . . .
which
shall
not be
taken
away
from
her”

(Luke 10:42)



GIRLS AND STUDY

- “Women attend only as listeners whereas men come to study”
- “Anyone who teaches his daughter Torah is as though he has taught her lechery” (*Mishnah, mSot. 3.4*)
- “They shall burn the teachings of Torah rather than convey them to women”



“ . . .
which
shall
not be
taken
away
from
her”

(Luke 10:42)

1. Segregation

2. Communication

3. Responsibilities

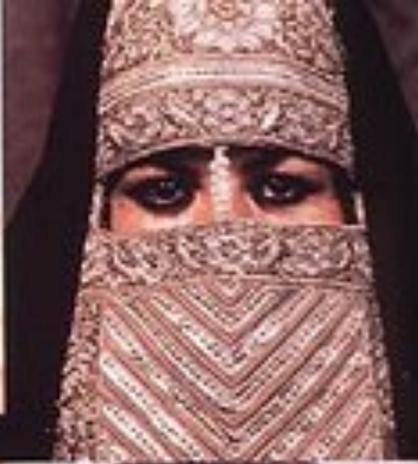
4. Dress

5. Witnesses

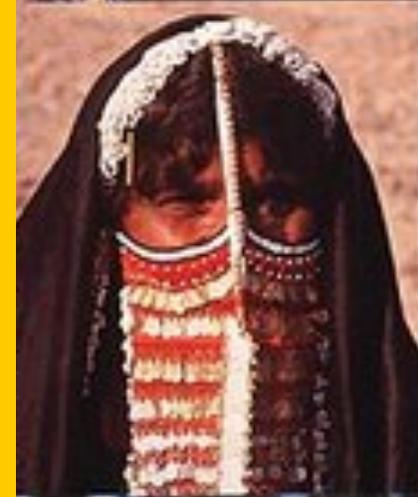


Greco-Roman Customs





**Changes in the late
Second Temple Era
(70 BC- AD 70)**



Cultural Background and Baggage

*“You have departed from the way
of the daughters of Israel,
whose habit it is to have their
heads covered, and you have
walked in the ways of idolatrous
women who walk about with their
heads uncovered.”*

Pharisaic Jewish Custom



WOMEN wore “two head veils, a head-band on the forehead with bands to the chin, and a hairnet with ribbons and knots, so that her features could not be recognized” (Jeremias, *Jerusalem*, 359)



“A man goes out bareheaded
while a woman goes out with her head
covered” (Genesis Rabbi 17.8)



Changes by Jesus





“I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment”

(Luke 7:44-46)



“Beware of the scribes,
which desire to walk in
long robes, and love
greetings in the
markets, and the
highest seats in the
synagogues, and the
chief rooms at feasts”

(Luke 20:46)

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10-11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.



Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

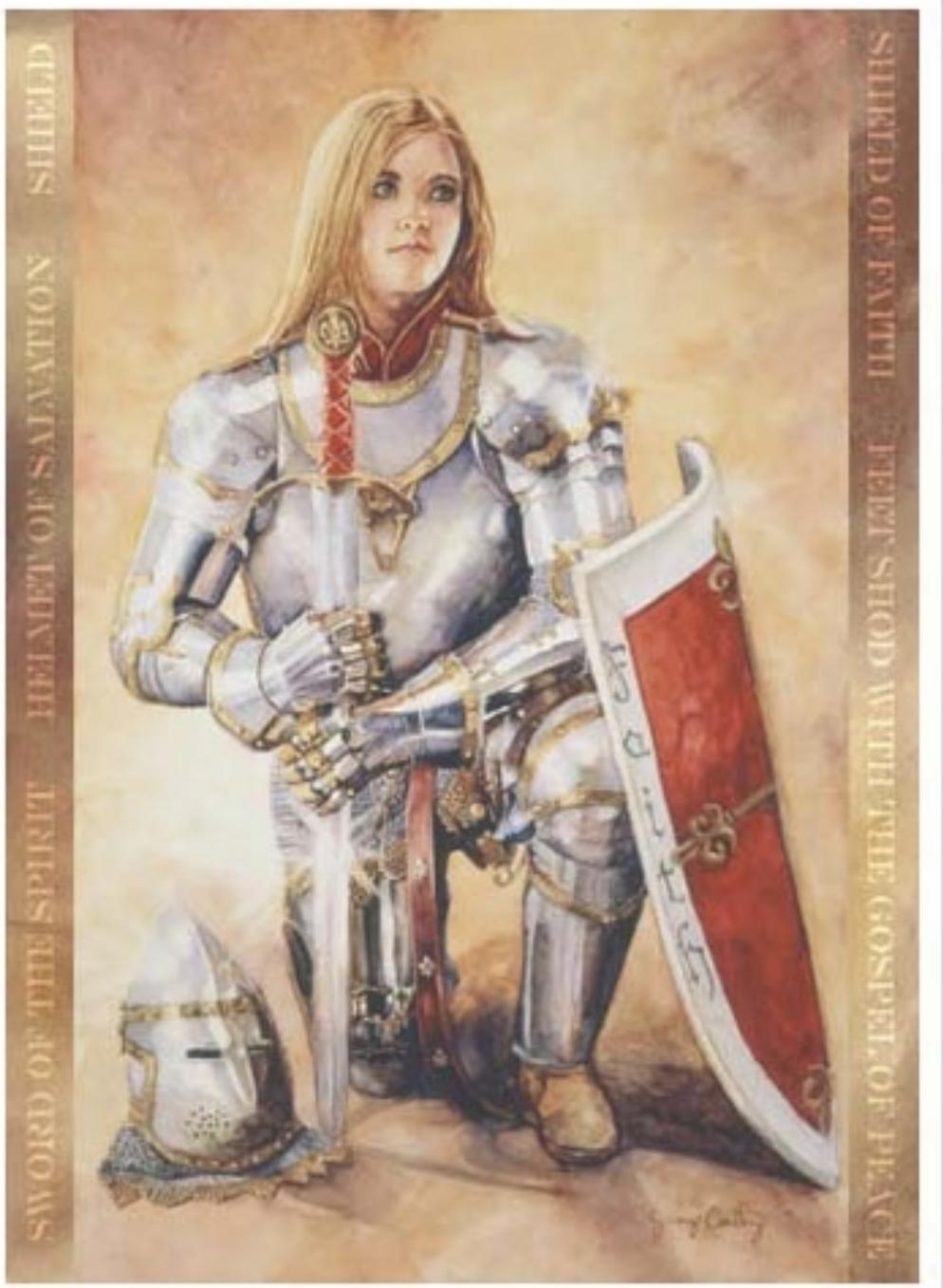
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.



SWORD OF THE SPIRIT HELMET OF SALVATION SHIELD

SHIELD OF FAITH FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

1. Segregation

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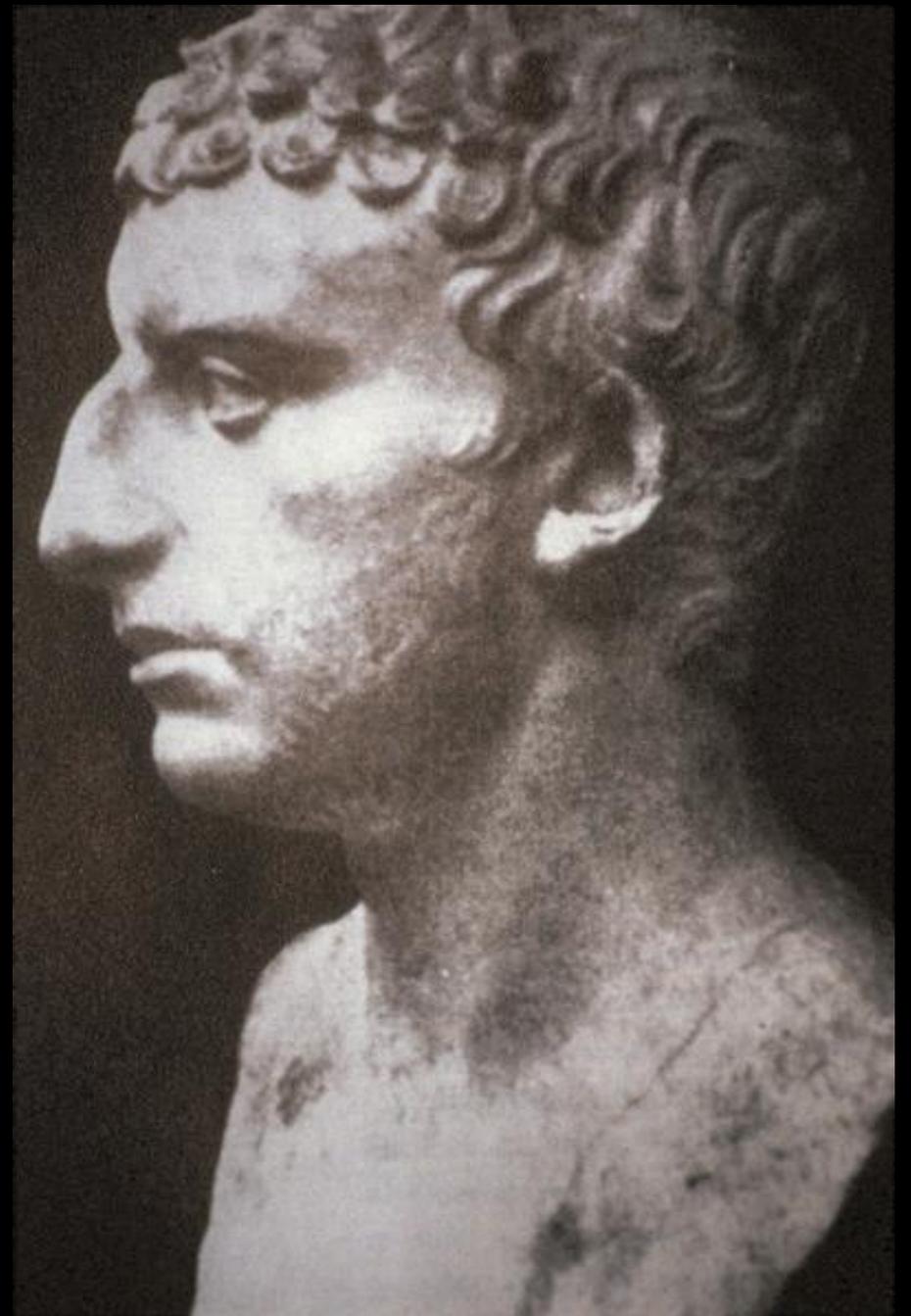
“Sarah denied, saying,
I laughed not.”

(Genesis 18:15)

Women Witnesses



“levity and boldness of
their sex.”



Age for Jewish Betrothal



Male

18

(Marriage 12 -20)

Female

12

(Marriage 12-16)

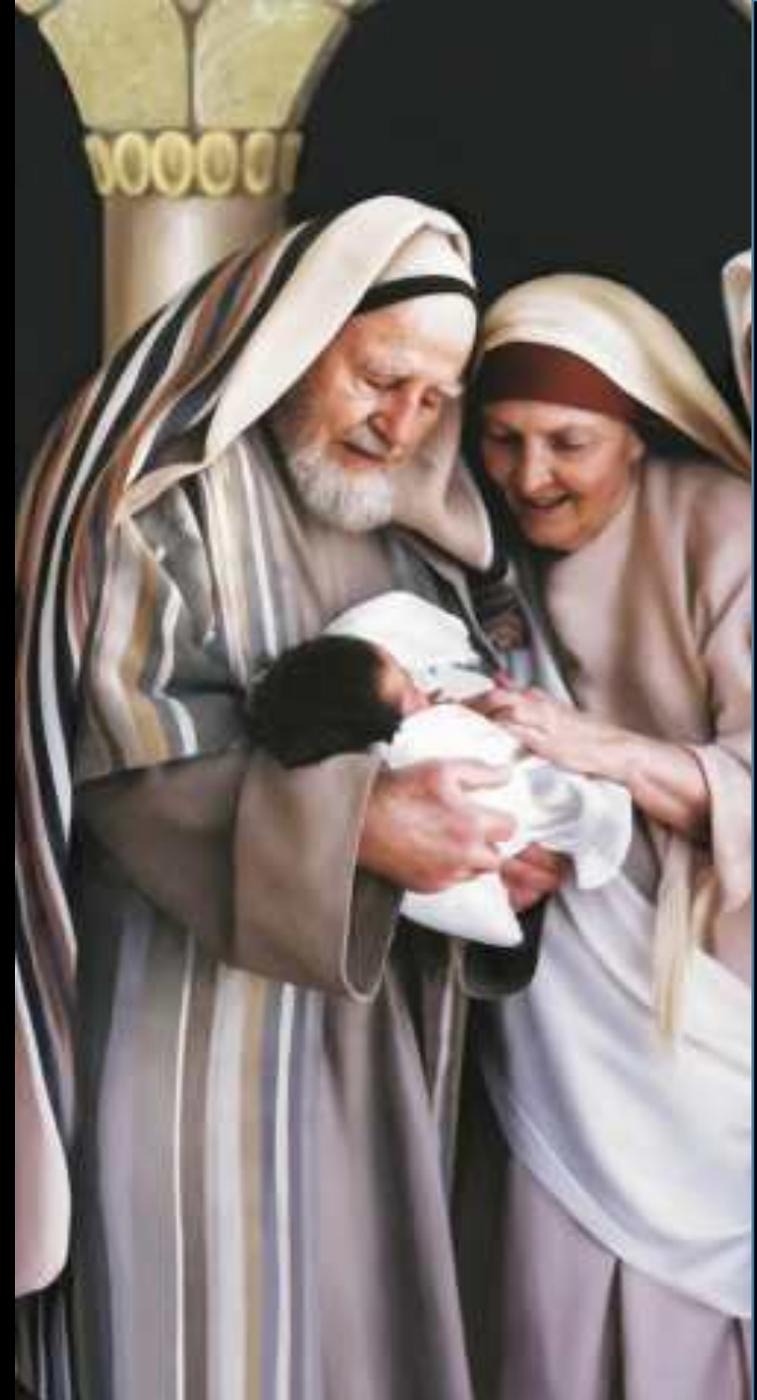


WITNESS

Dylan

Priestess Elizabeth

“...walking in
all the commandments
and ordinances of the Lord
blameless” (Luke 1:6)





“... Anna, a prophetess”

(Luke 2:36-38)





Peter

Simon Peter answered and said,
Thou art the Christ,
the Son of the living God

(Matt 16:17)



Martha

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord I believe that
Thou art the Christ,
the Son of God,
which should come into the world.

(John 11:27)

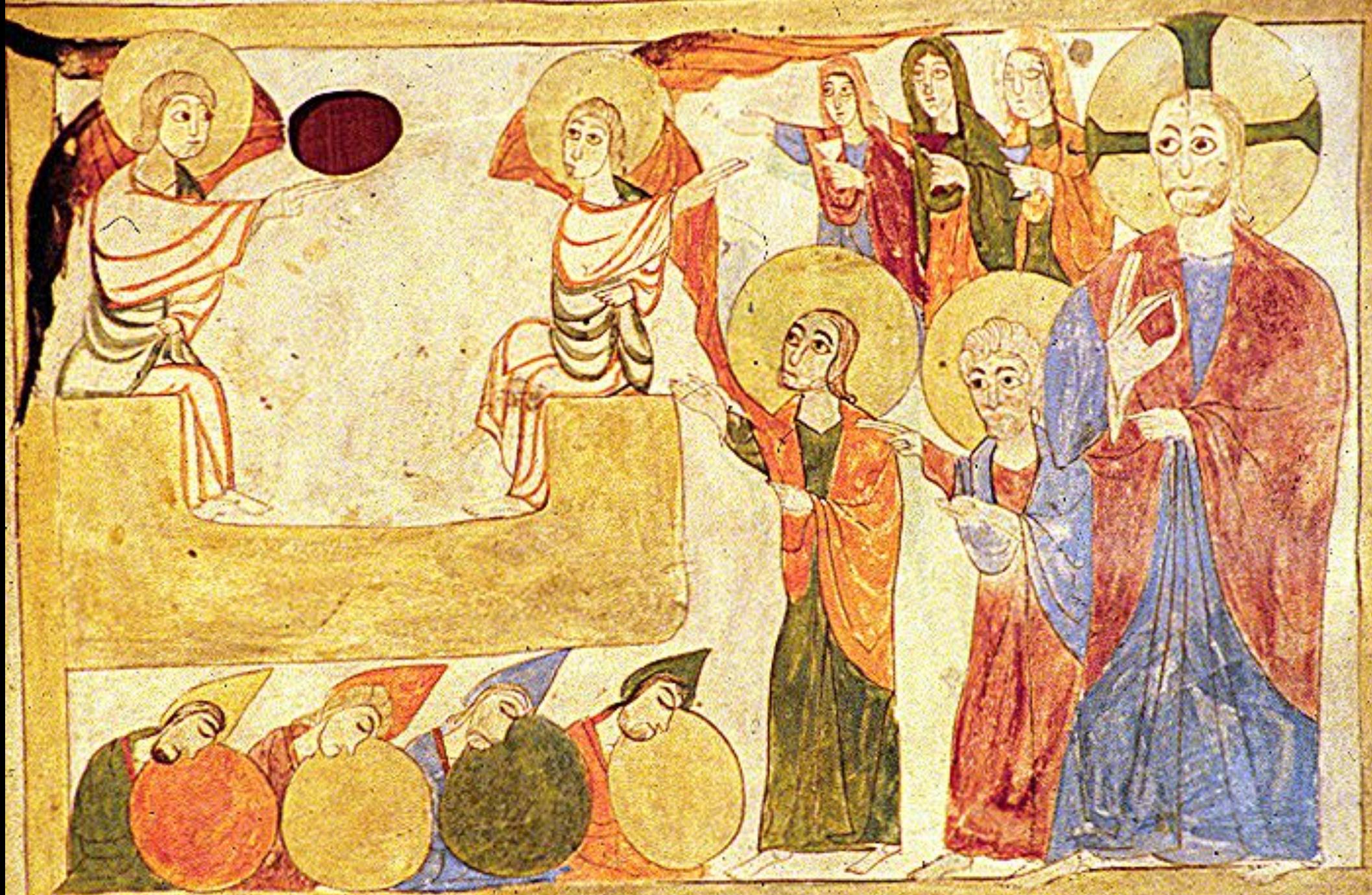
Women Witnesses

“... The angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus ...

Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen”

(Matthew 28:5,7)





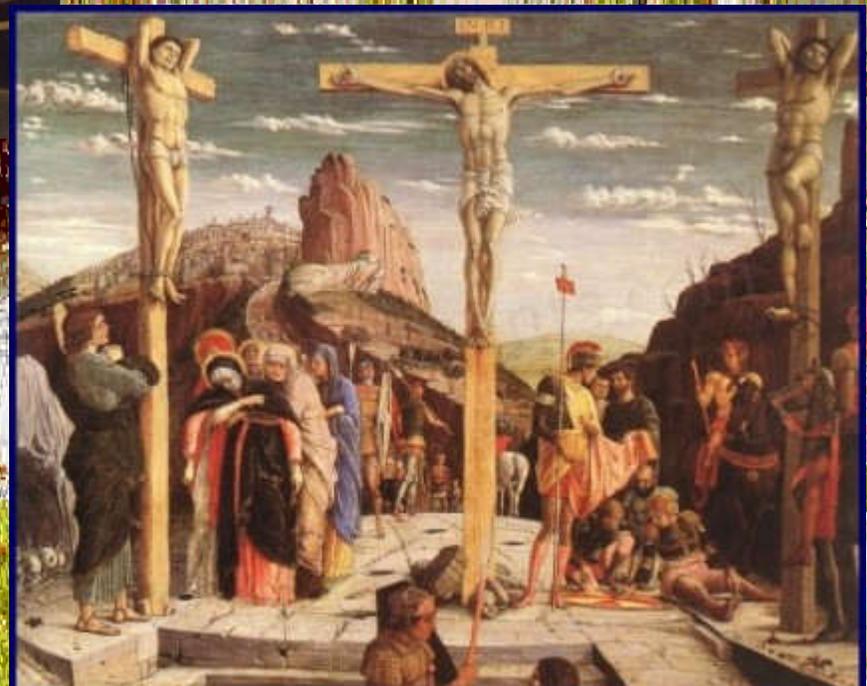
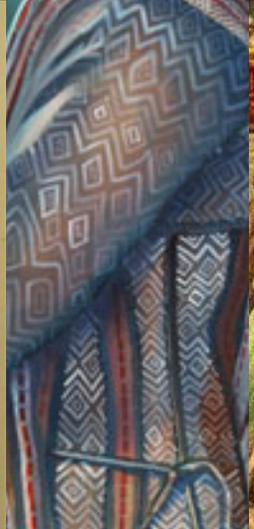




First Witness of the Resurrection

“Jesus saith unto her, Mary . . .”

(John 20:11)



Christ on Servitude



1/3

1/2

8/1



AD 47 Census

ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT

Jew
6 years



Roman
30 yr-old

Handmaiden = Slave



“Behold the handmaid of
the Lord; be it unto me
according to thy word”
(Luke 1:38)

“One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose.”



Another Social

Change
by Jesus



Christ Cleansing the Temple, by Carl Heinrich Bloch, used by permission of the National History Museum at Frederiksborg in Hillerød, Denmark

Matthew 10:24

“The disciple is not above his master,
nor the servant above his lord”

Mark 10:44

“Whosoever of you will be the chiefest,
shall be servant of all”

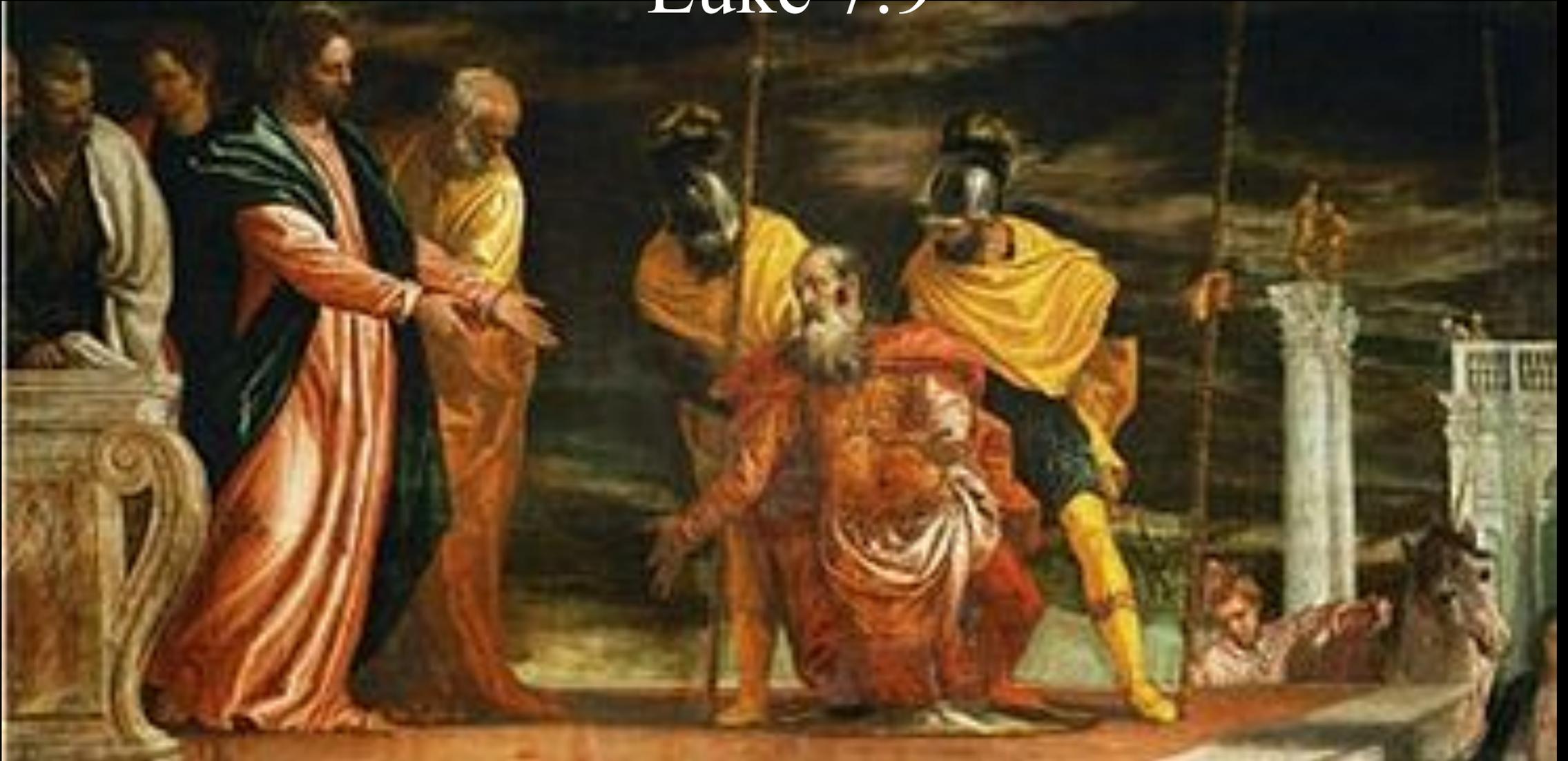
Luke 19:17

“Thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a
very little, have thou authority over ten cities”

“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all
and servant of all” (Mark 9:35, ESV)



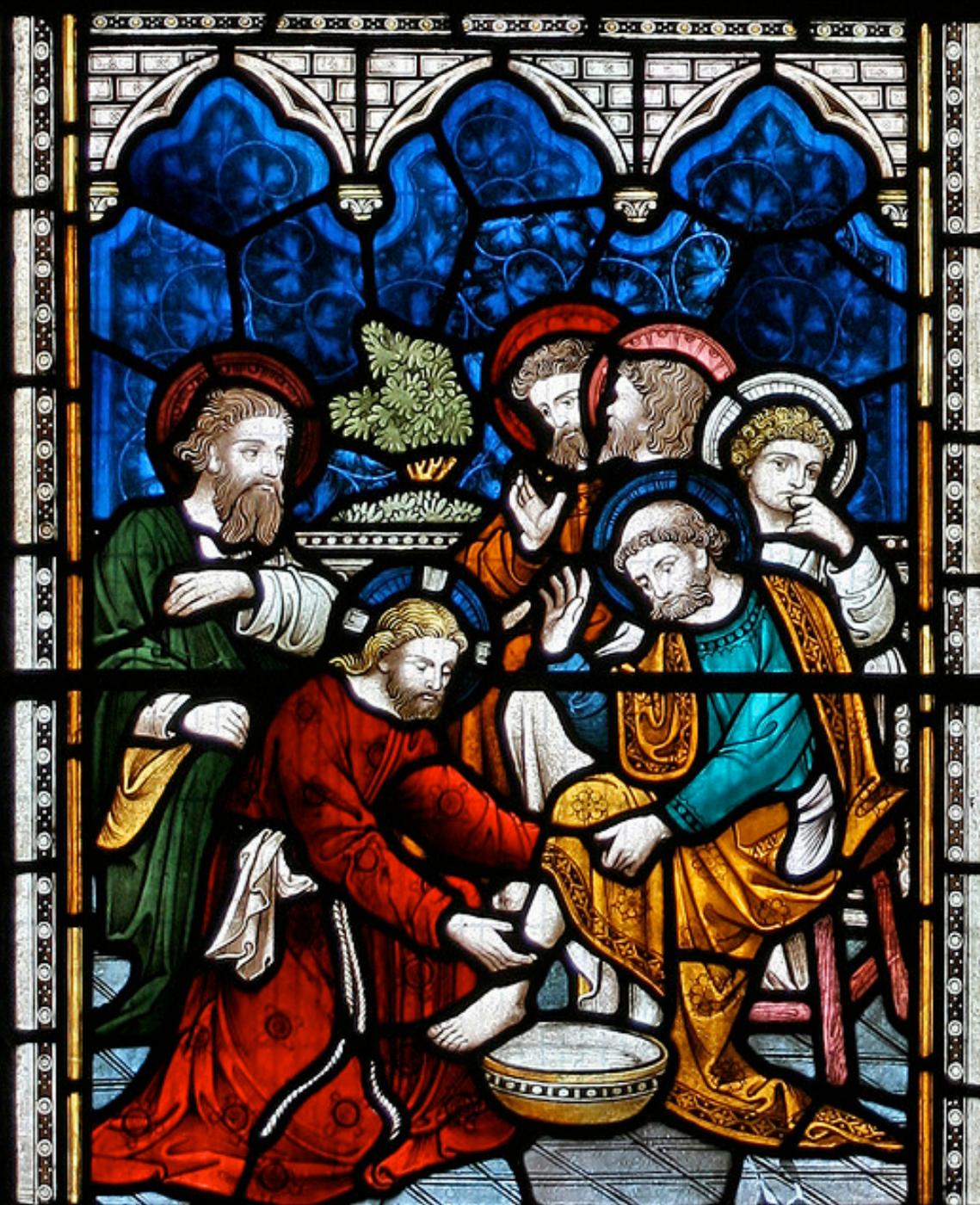
“I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel”
Luke 7:9



“And
whosoever
shall exalt
himself shall be
abased; and he
that shall
humble himself
shall be
exalted”

Matthew 23:12





“Never shall You
wash my feet!

If I wash thee not,
thou hast no part with
me”

(John 13:7-8, NIV).

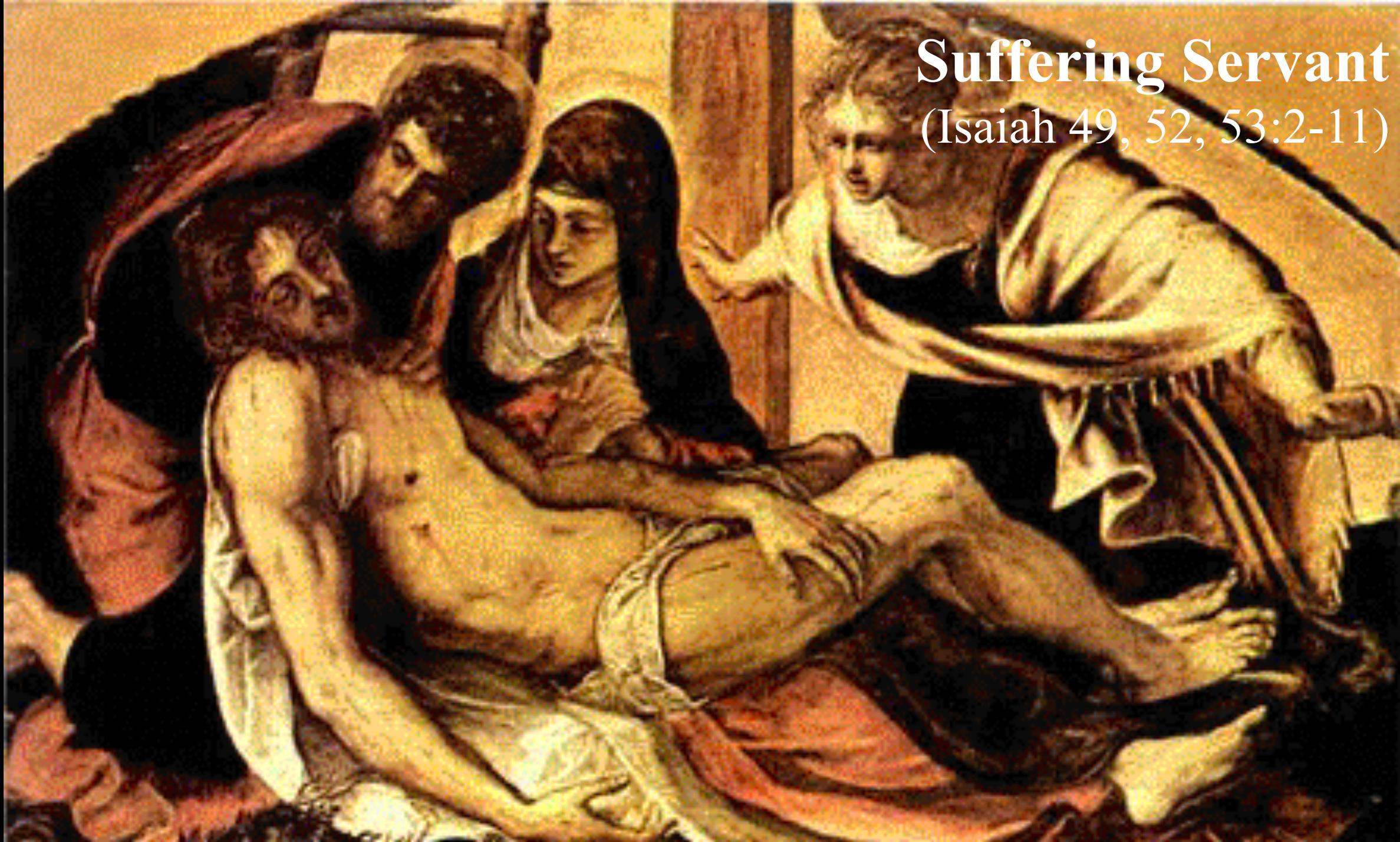


“For even the
Son of man
came not to be
ministered
unto,
but to minister,
and to give his
life a ransom
for many”

(Mark 10:45)

Suffering Servant

(Isaiah 49, 52, 53:2-11)



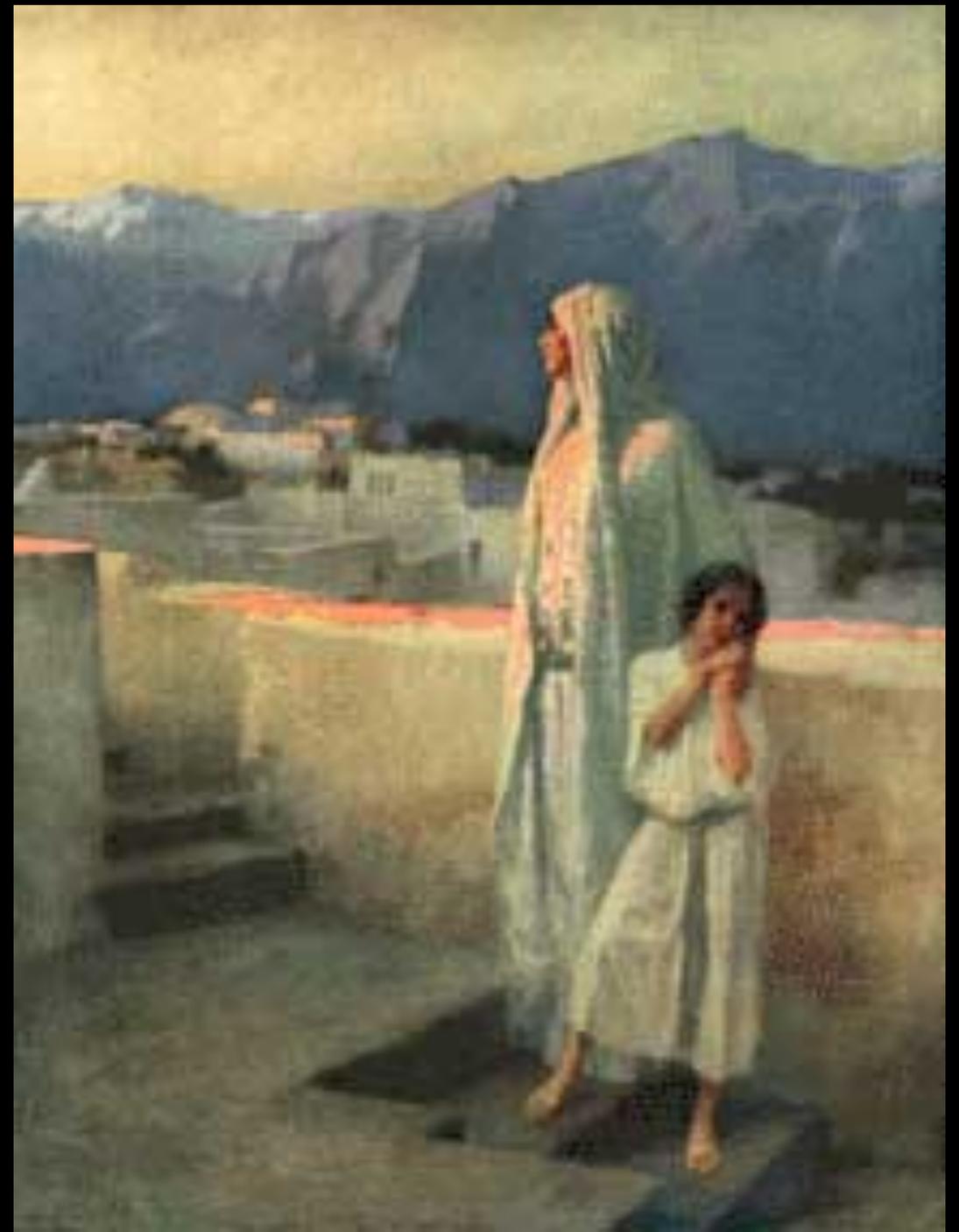
Greco-Romans: Children

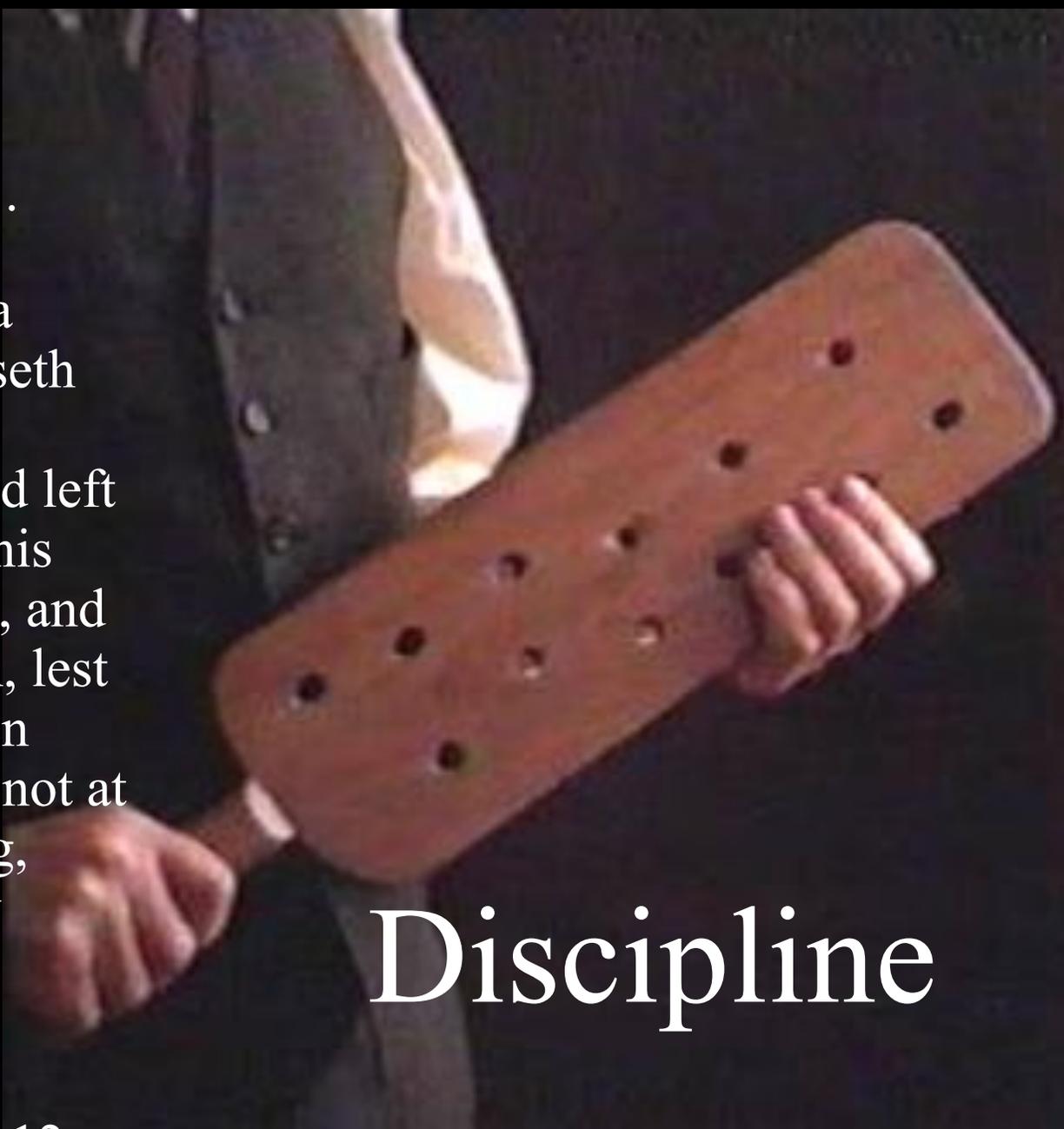


“... irrational creatures to be trained as quickly as possible for the purposes of the adult world”

“Whoever honors his father
atones for sins,
and whoever glorifies his mother
is like one who lays up treasure.
Whoever glorifies his father will
have long life, and whoever obeys
the Lord will refresh his mother”

(Ben Sira, *Ecclesiasticus*, 3:2-9)





“Stripes and correction are at all times wisdom . . . loving fathers [do] not spare the rod, . . . break him in and beat him sound while he is still a child . . . He that loveth his son, frequently chastiseth him, that he may rejoice in his latter end . . . A horse not broken becometh stubborn, and a child left to himself will become headstrong. Give thy son his way, and he shall make thee afraid: play with him, and he shall make thee sorrowful. Laugh not with him, lest thou have sorrow, and at the last thy teeth be set on edge. Give him not liberty in his youth, and wink not at his devices. Bow down his neck while he is young, and beat his sides while he is a child, lest he grow stubborn, and regard thee not, and so be a sorrow of heart to thee”

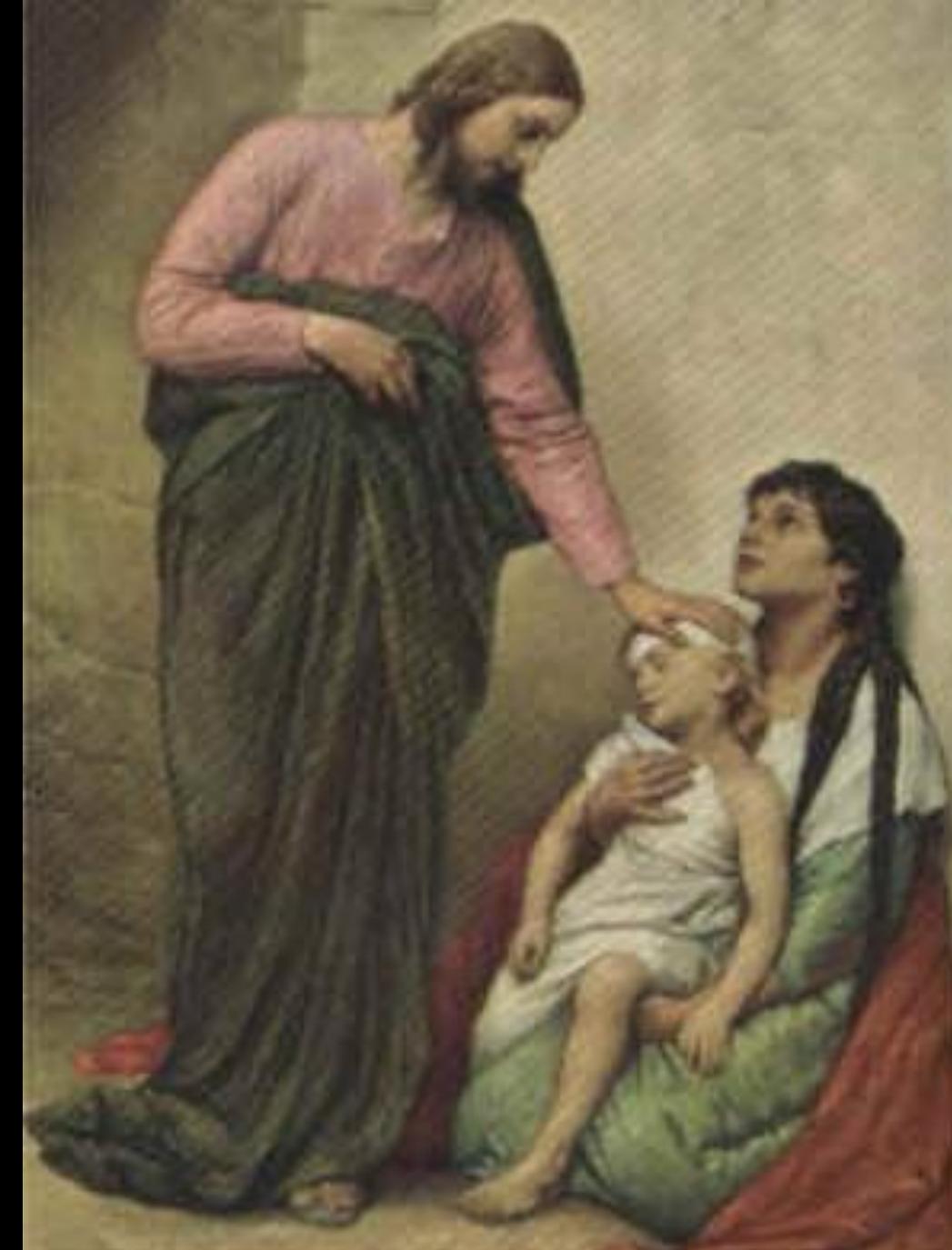
Discipline

Ben Sira, *Ecclesiastes*, 22:6 ; 30:1, 2, 12;, 30:1, 8-12

1/3
die
before
1 yr.

1/2
before
10 yrs.





“Take heed that ye despise not one
of these little ones”

Matthew 10:10



“Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them, . . . when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased”
(Mark 10:14)



Except ye be converted, and
become as little children, ye
shall not enter into the
kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall
humble himself as this little
child, the same is greatest in
the kingdom of heaven”

(Matthew 18:2-4)



“Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”

Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2

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Lynne Hilton Wilson

