

Acts of the Apostles

chapters

- 1 *Stand by Me*
- 2a *You Light Up My*
- 2b *He's ALIVE*
- 3 *When Tomorrow Starts without Me*
- 4a *Got Friends in Low Places*
& Crocodile Bill
- 4b *LIAR – Lying to God*
- ✦ 5 *Why God's Wondrous Grace*
- 6 *Serving*
- 7-8 *Baptizing*
- 9a *Calling*
- 9b *Healing*
- 10-11 *Including*
- 12 *Praying*

Acts 5:19 But during the Night an ANGEL of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.



Liberation of Saint Peter, c. 1620
by Giovanni Lanfranco



Early Church

	Chapter	Title	Summary
June 2	1	<i>Stand by Me</i>	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	1st Sermon Resurrection - Unified, Devoted, Shared
June 23	3	<i>When Tomorrow Starts</i>	Peter Heals Lame – 2nd Sermon Resurrection
June 30	4a	<i>Got Friends in Low Places</i>	Crocodile Bill & Peter to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	<i>LIAR – Lying to God</i>	Shaken, Shared - Ananias & Sapphira's Lies
July 14	5	<i>Why God's Wondrous Grace</i>	Apostles Arrested & Gamaliel's Defense
July 21	6	Serving	Seven Chosen & Stephen
July 28	7-8	Baptizing	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	Calling	Paul Blinded, then SEES
Aug 11	9b	Healing	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabatha
Aug 18	10	Including	Peter's Vision—EAT
Aug 25	11-12	Praying	Peter Freed from Prison



5:12-16 Apostles performed many signs & wonders among the people.... Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem ... all of them were healed.



Our Church



Chapter 5

5:1-11 Ananias & Sapphira – Lied to God

5:12-17 Apostles Heal Many – Shadow Should Fall

5:17-24 Apostles Arrested & Angel Frees – “Go Proclaim New Life”

5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – Freed & Back to Temple

5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – We Must Obey God

5:33-39 Waiting During Deliberations – Revered Gamaliel Questions

5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Honor – Flogged & Daily Preached

Throughout – Apostles amaze ... heal ...

Stand their ground for their BELIEF

Their REALITY ... Their FACTS

Their New World & LIFE



5:12-17 Apostles Heal Many – Shadow Should Fall

12 The apostles performed many signs & wonders among the people.
All the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Start of the Church – met in Temple Complex

Apostles LEAD with miracles proclaiming Resurrection

Apostles Appointed, Anointed in Astounding & Audacious Acts

Apostles – like Peter & John – rather humbled

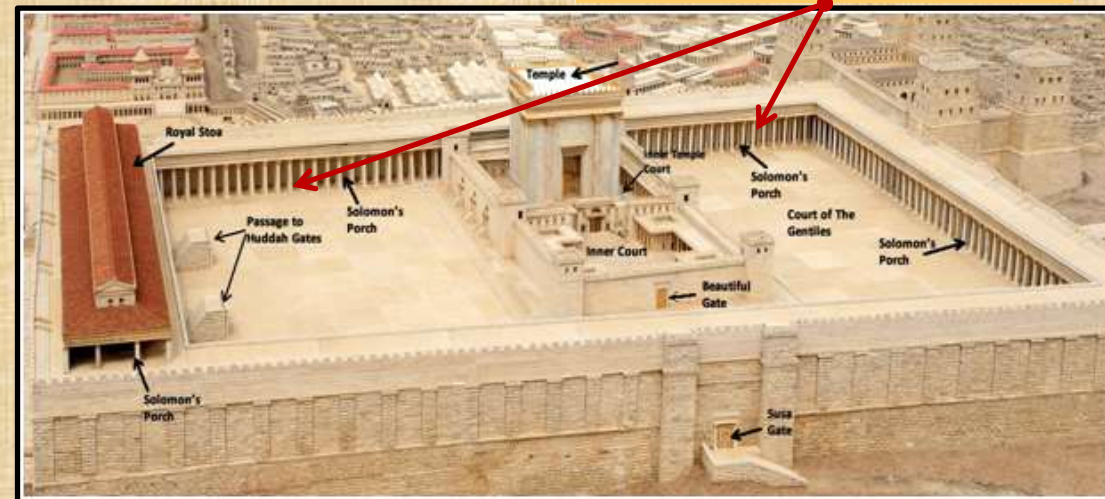
Amazed at Holy Spirit's work

New World of Christ ALIVE

NEW LIFE



**Solomon's Porch
or Colonnade**



Peter, John,
all the Apostles
Likely knew this
song in their hearts
1883 "I Know Not
Why God's
Wondrous Grace"

**Nor why, unworthy,
Christ in love
Redeemed me
For His own.**

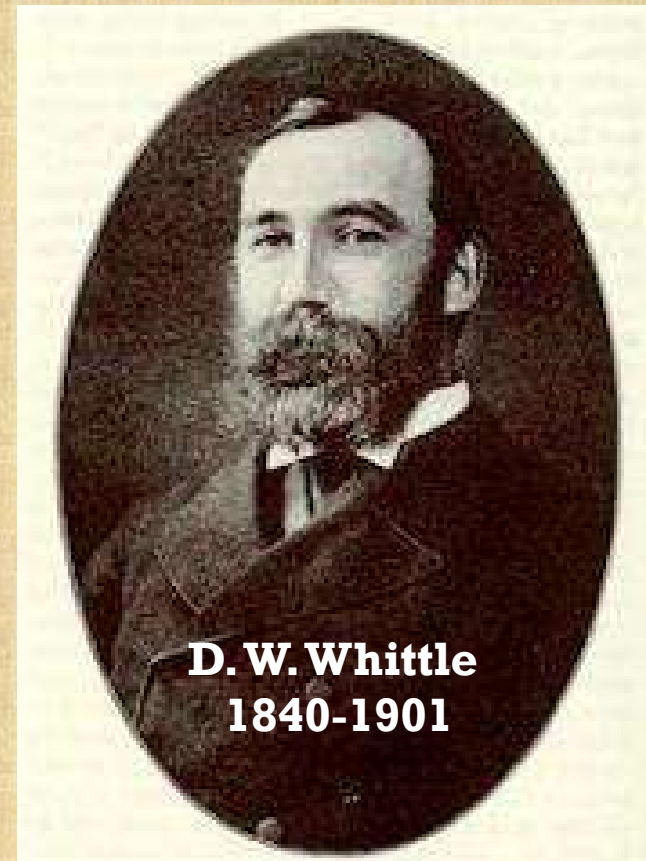


Major Danial Webster Whittle

“I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace” in 1883

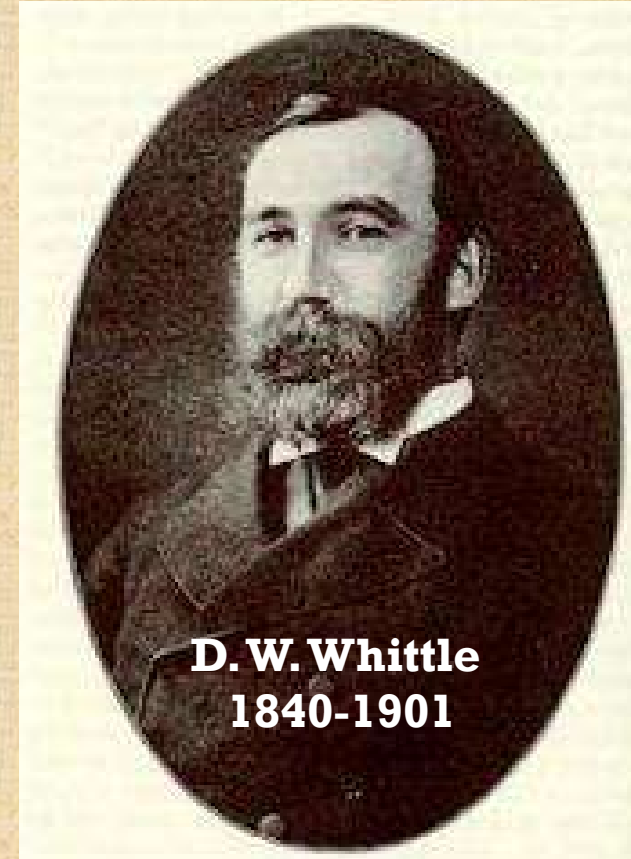
... also known as “I know whom I have believed”

- ✓ **Also wrote under pseudonym, El Nathan**
- ✓ **Also wrote “Showers of blessings”**
- ✓ **Served with Union Gen. Sherman in Civil War**
- ✓ **Married the day before he left**
- ✓ **Wounded and lost arm ... then POW**



Major Danial Webster Whittle

- ✓ Bored, found a N.T. his mother had placed
- ✓ Confessed Christ at foot of wounded soldier
... *who soon after died*
- ✓ Settled in Chicago, worked with D.L. Moody
- ✓ Wrote over 200 hymns ... including this
- ✓ “I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace”
also known as “I whom I have believed”



Peter, John, all
the Apostles
Likely knew this
song in their hearts

**Nor why, unworthy,
Christ in love
Redeemed me
For His own.**



5:12-17 Apostles Heal Many – Shadow Should Fall

12 The apostles performed many signs & wonders among the people.
All the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

13 No one else dared join them,
even though they were highly regarded by the people.

14 Nevertheless, more & more ... believed in the Lord....

15 As a result, people brought the sick... laid them on mats so that
at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them....

16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem,

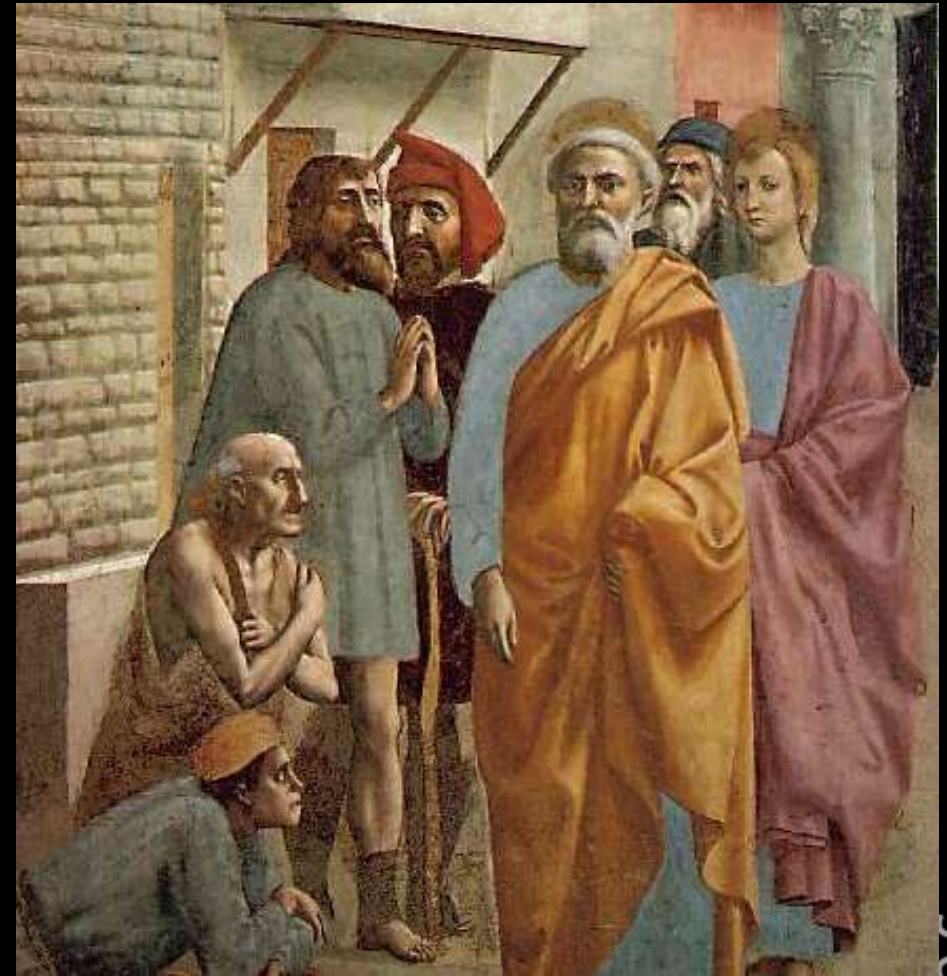
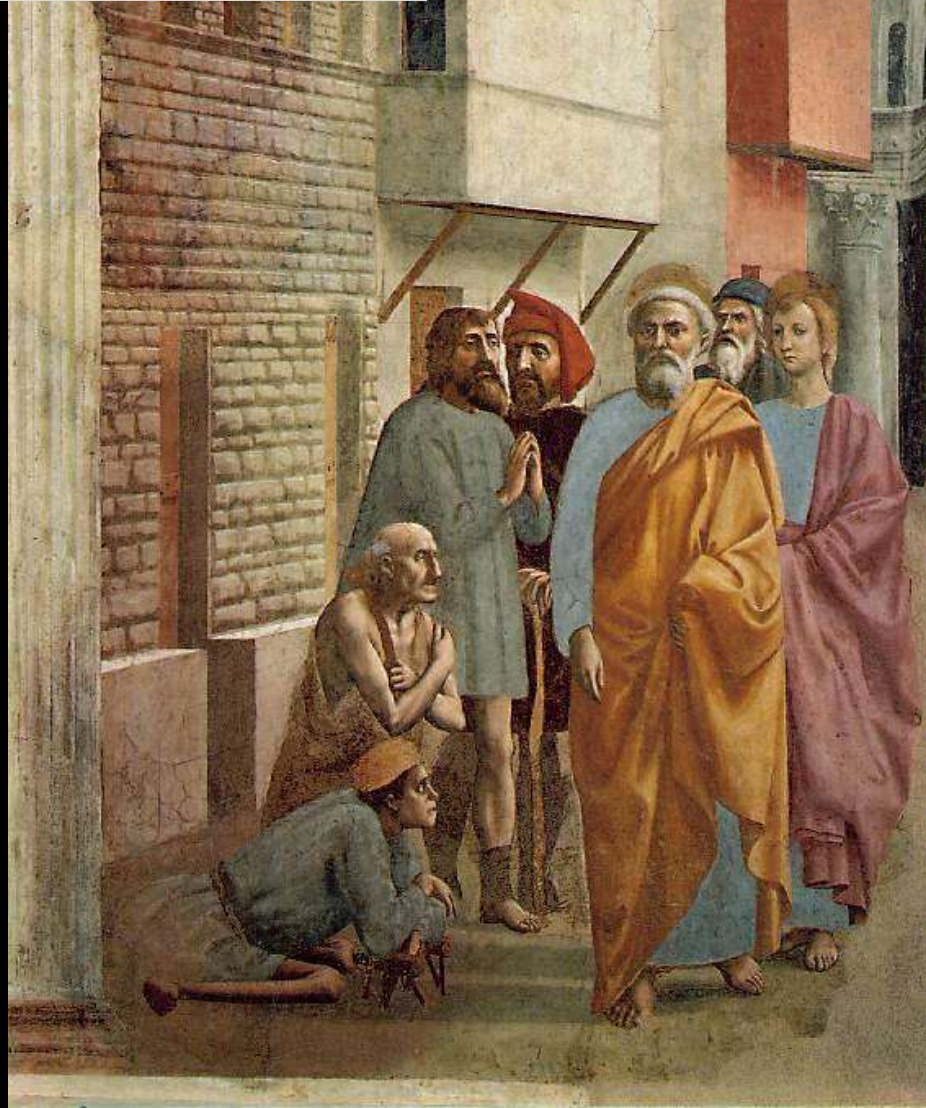
17 bringing their sick & those tormented by impure spirits, and

ALL of them were HEALED



**ALL were healed ... ALL of them ... and
Apostles' Resolution was Rock Solid**

**Saint Peter healing the Sick
with Shadow**
by Masaccio, 1426-27



**Saint Peter healing the Sick
with Shadow, c. 1635
by Laurent de la Hyre**



**Saint Peter healing the Sick
with Shadow**
by Jean Restout II (1692-1768)



5:17-24 Apostles Arrested & Angel Frees – “Go Proclaim New Life”

17-18 High Priest ... filled with jealousy ... arrest apostles ... jail.

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the jail doors....

20 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “tell the people

all about this NEW LIFE

Again, the MAIN message at the establishment of the church

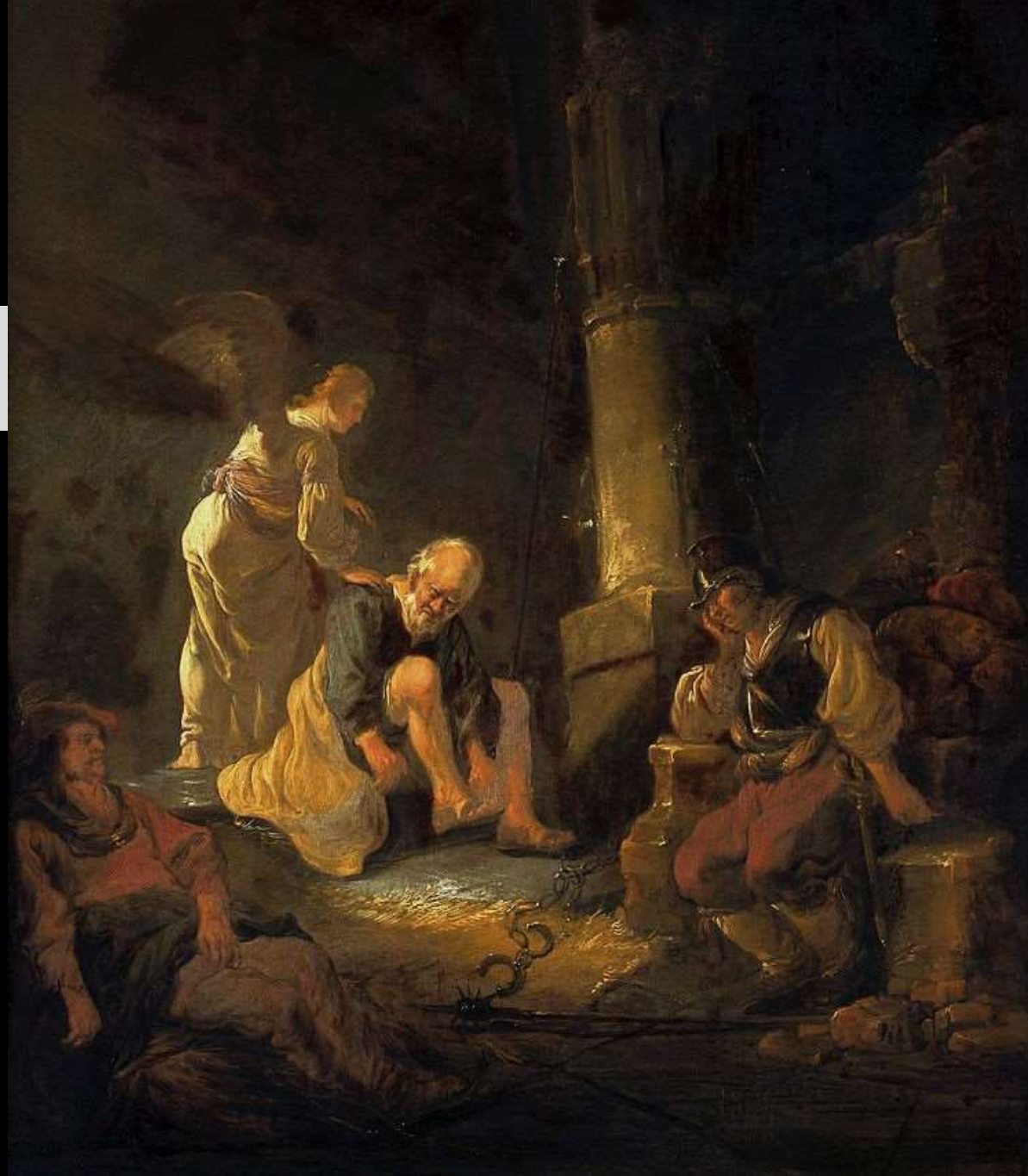
Resurrection

New Life in the Resurrection



Liberation of Saint Peter, c. 1620
by Giovanni Lanfranco

**Deliverance of St. Peter, c. 1635
by Benjamin Gerritsz Cuyp**



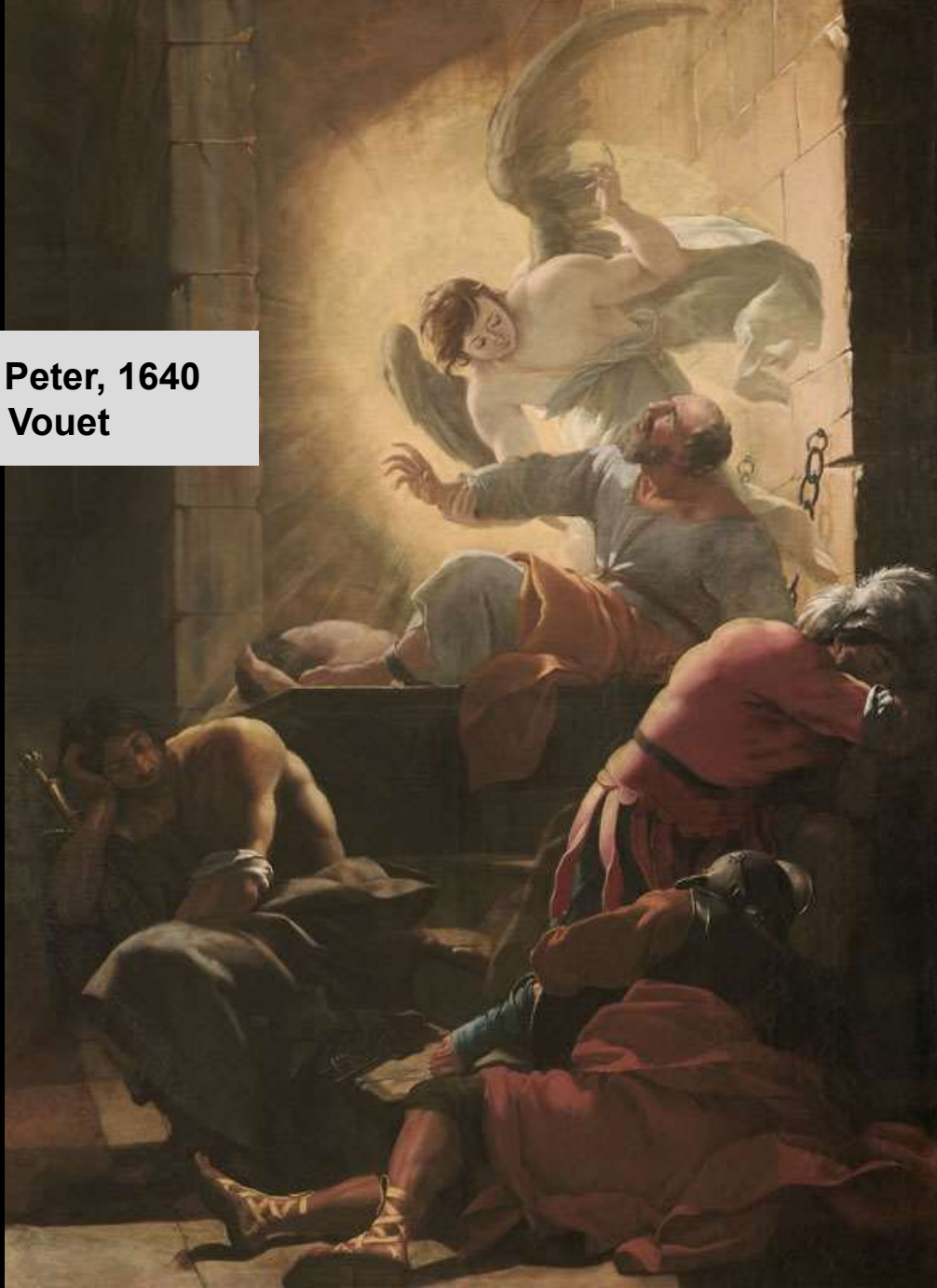
**Liberation of Saint Peter, c. 1620
by Giovanni Lanfranco**



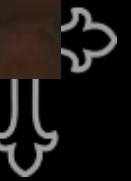
**Release of St. Peter, c. 1635
by Bernardo Strozzi**



**Release of St. Peter, 1640
by Aubin Vouet**



**Angel Releasing St. Peter
from Prison, 1814-1816
by Washington Allston**



5:17-24 Apostles Arrested & Angel Frees – “Go Proclaim New Life”

21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people....

21-24 High Priest & full assembly find that

jail securely LOCKED, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.”

24 On hearing, the captain ... & priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

I suspect they WONDERED what the TRUTH might lead to

For us, though, the LOCKED jail and HOW the Angel led the apostles OUT is another rather hidden miracle

What comes to mind was HOW Jesus appeared in the Upper Room as though WALLS are subject to Angels' hands



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – Freed & Back to Temple

25 Then someone came and said, “Look!

Men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.”

26 At that, the captain went with his officers ... did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

27 The apostles ... before the Sanhedrin....

These leaders who rule Jerusalem – control what people SAY

Want to control what people **THINK**



Want to control what people **BELIEVE**

Peter, John, all
the Apostles
Likely knew this
song in their hearts

**Nor why, unworthy,
Christ in love
Redeemed me
For His own.**



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – Freed & Back to Temple

28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said.

THEN they said some of the most astoundingly IGNORANT words

“Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are

determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

“Filled Jerusalem” you said?

“Determined to make us... us **GUILTY**” you say?

I’d say, “Yeah, chief taters”

“You’re catching on”

As for Peter & the Apostles ... they are Smooth Operators

Kind of like the 1984 song by Sade ...

Peter ... *Smooth* Operator ...



Religious Liberty was NOT a reality then

Baptists have been grand champions of Religious Liberty

First line of their *Baptist Faith & Message* reads

God alone is Lord of the conscience

God has left conscience FREE from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it.

You should NEVER have to deny your faith

But the attacks on Christians today

are getting more SERIOUS



XVII. Religious Liberty. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.



Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – Freed & Back to Temple

5:28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said.
“Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”



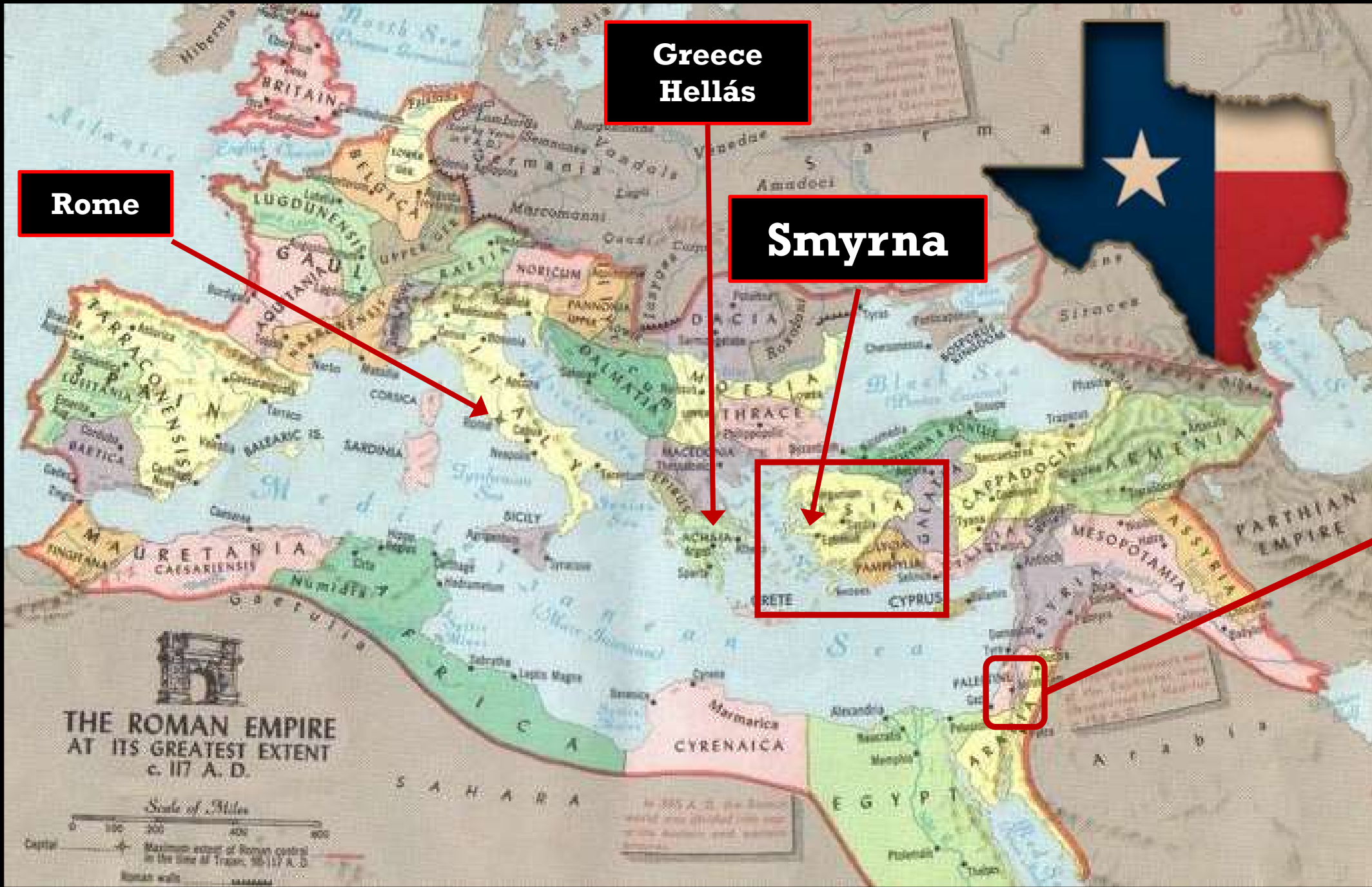
Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

- ✓ Ordained by Apostle John to Bishop of Smyrna
- ✓ One of **three** most significant Apostolic Church Fathers whose writings survive
- ✓ **Clement** of Rome & **Ignatius** of Antioch
- ✓ Roman Proconsul demanded sacrifice
- ✓ Polycarp did not sacrifice to consul's gods
- ✓ Few of his family tortured for his location





Area of Study
Acts 1-12



Rome

Greece
Hellás

Smyrna



THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
c. 107 A. D.

Scale of Miles

0 100 200 400 600

Capital → Maximum extent of Roman control in the time of Trajan, 98-117 A. D.

Roman walls



Area of Study
Acts 1-12



Smyrna

Galatia

Asia Minor

Greece

Corinth

Patmos

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Cyprus

Antioch

Byblos

Sidon

Tyre

Nazareth

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Alexandria

Crete

Mediterranean Sea

Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

At 86 taken to arena, “Be Strong, Polycarp, play the man”

Proconsul, “Have respect for your old age, swear by the fortune of Caesar. Repent, and say, ‘Down with the Atheists!’

Reproach Christ and I’ll set you free.”

Polycarp, replied,

“Eighty and six years I have served Him and
He has done me no wrong.

How then can I blaspheme my King & Savior?”



**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**



Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Proconsul, “I have wild animals here.
I will throw you to them if you do not repent.”

Polycarp, “It is unthinkable for to repent from
what is good to turn to what is evil....”

Proconsul, “If you despise the animals,
I will have you burned.”



**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**



Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Polycarp, “You threaten me with a fire that burns for an season,
and after a little while is quenched;
but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment
that is prepared for the wicked.

Why are you waiting?

Bring whatever you want.”



**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**



Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Began to nail him, when Polycarp said,

“Leave me as I am, for he that gives me strength
to endure the fire,
will enable me not to struggle,
without the help of your nails.”



**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**



Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Looking up to heaven, he said,

“O Lord God Almighty, the Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ....

I give you thanks that you count me worthy to be numbered among your martyrs, sharing the cup of Christ....

May I be received this day as an acceptable sacrifice.... To you ... be glory both now & forever. Amen.”

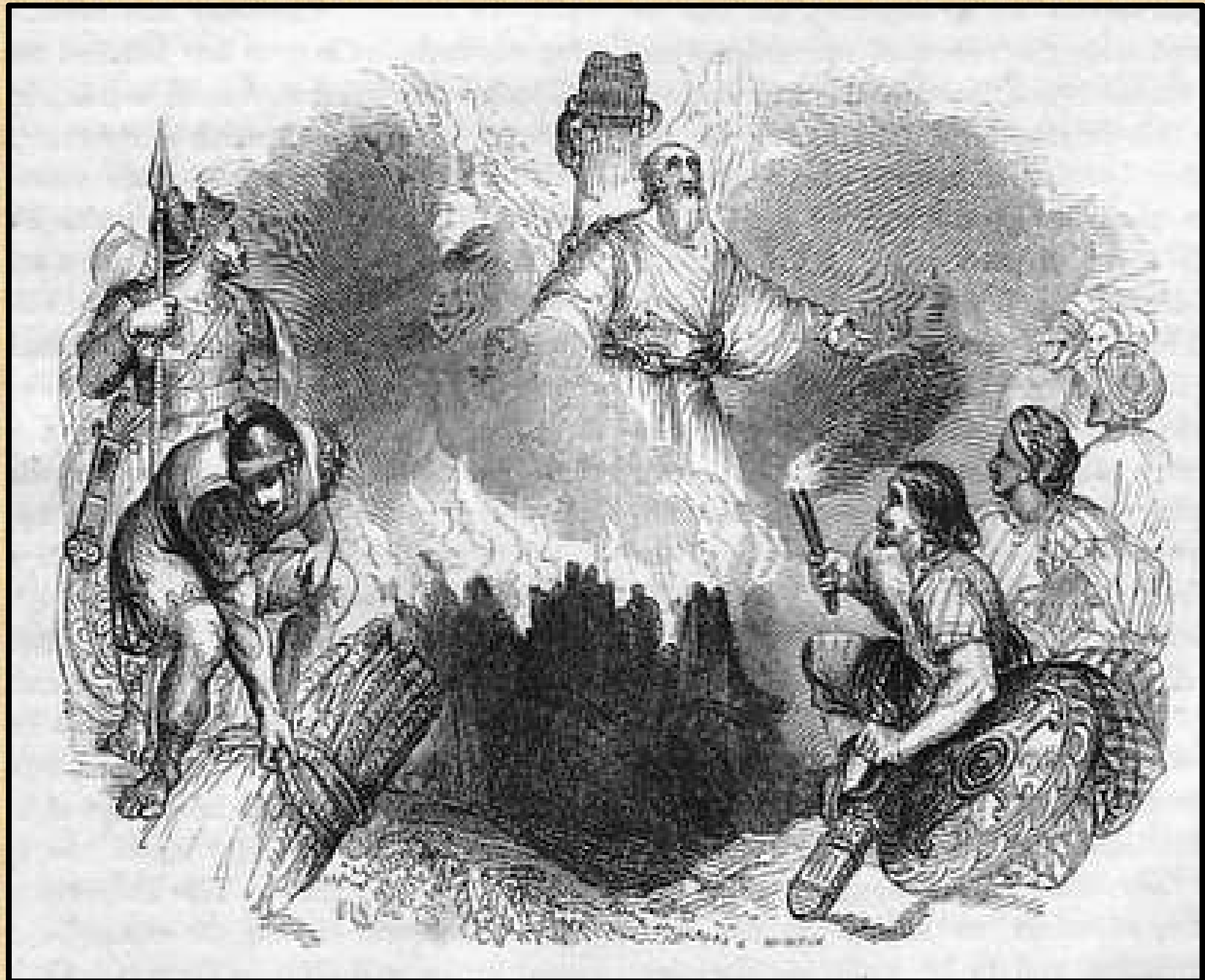


**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**



**There are many
Renditions of
Polycarp's martyrdom**

**Surely,
Martyrdom
is the *LEAST*
popular topic in
Christendom**

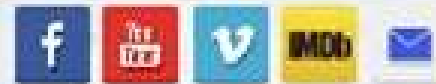




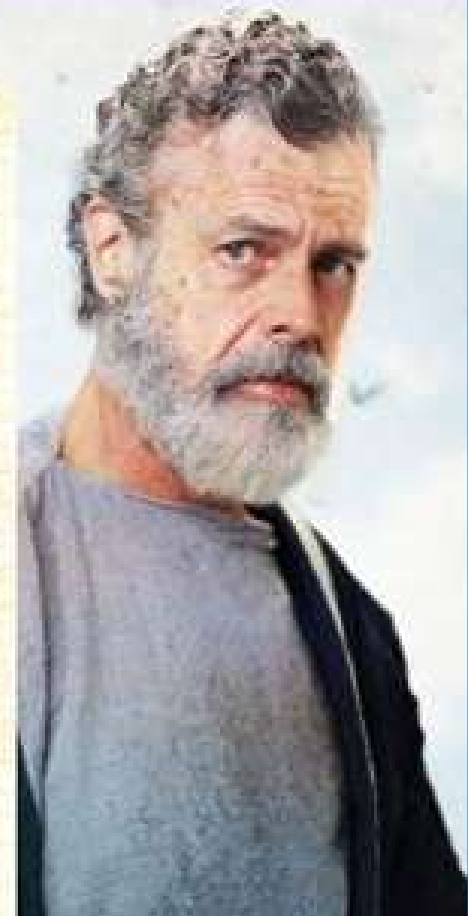


POLYCARP

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Peter, John, all
the Apostles
Likely knew this
song in their hearts

**Nor why, unworthy,
Christ in love
Redeemed me
For His own.**



Religious Liberty

Freedom of Conscience

Freedom of Speech



Religious Liberty a U.S. Right – NOT a Biblical Absolute

Baptists were primary in passing 1st Amendment

No religion has supported Religious Liberty more

Baptists wish NO coercion – sincerity cut in coercion

But Religious Liberty is ONLY deduced from the nature of a biblical view of Humankind and Free Will

Humankind

Free Will



Amendment I – Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**Religious Liberty a U.S. Right –
NOT a Biblical Absolute**

NEED & concept evaporates without persecution

Freedom of Conscience is Precious but NOT Absolute

Why?

**That is, when you are happy, esp. in the majority,
you HAVE all liberty and don't need liberty by law**

Further, ALL are FREE, but Islam, et al, WRONG

belief in anything but Christ

will send you to HELL ...

Freedom of Religion is Best for AUTHENCITY



Religious Liberty of Peter and John

- ✓ Because of oppression of Jews & Minority Christians
- ✓ Because no one was truly FREE then in N.T. times
- ✓ We look back and find treatment by Jews bad
- ✓ What is NEW in 1776 U.S.A. and French Revolution?
- ✓ Freedom of Conscience was NEW in 1776
- ✓ All religions are equal in Religious Liberty
- ✓ Christianity is—we believe—**THE TRUTH**



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – freed

28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – We Must Obey God

This time BOLD does NOT fit ...

seems short of fortitude ... short of Apostles' Resolution

29-30 - Peter and the other apostles replied:

“We must obey God rather than human beings!

**The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—
whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.**

NOTE: Deut. 21:23 – “a hanged man is accursed by God.”



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – We Must Obey God

“We must obey God rather than human beings!”

Profound declaration to those who WANT to **KILL** them

- ✓ **WHILE** displacing/realigning human authority
- ✓ Apostles' Proclamation directs their duty to God

Who was the Apostles' AUTHORITY?



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – We Must Obey God

31-32 - God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Peter never wavers ... and theologizes

God exalted Christ to His right hand as

Prince & Savior



5:33-39 Waiting During Deliberations – Revered Gamaliel Questions

33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. **Death! ... for what? for TRUTH!**

34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

35 Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.

what terrible times are these

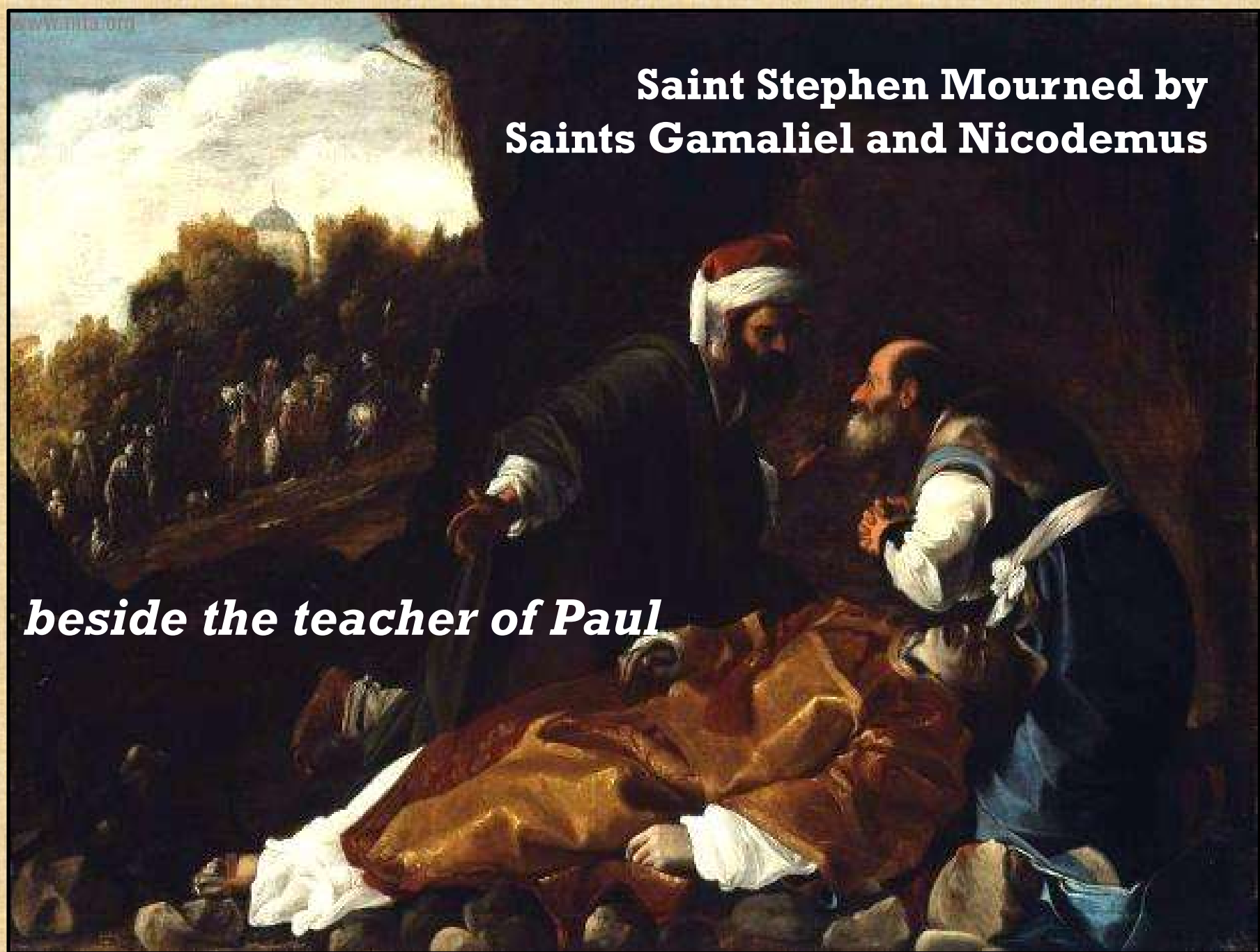


Gamaliel – Honored by All

- ✓ I suppose he stood, “Men of Israel, consider carefully”
- ✓ Grandson of Hillel the Babylonian, 1st Century B.C.
- ✓ Greatest sage of 2nd Temple period, a Nasi or kind of prince
- ✓ Gamaliel was the teacher of the Apostle Paul
- ✓ Influential President of the Sanhedrin
- ✓ Several rulings benefiting women, including allowing to remarry w/ one witness on death of husband



**art student of
Carlo Saraceni
c. 1615**



**Saint Stephen Mourned by
Saints Gamaliel and Nicodemus**

beside the teacher of Paul

5:33-39 Waiting During Deliberations – Revered Gamaliel Questions

36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him.

**He was killed, all his followers were dispersed,
and it all came to nothing.**

- ✓ **Theudas, d. 46 A.D., Greek could be “Gift of God”**
- ✓ **Theudas could be Semitic for “flowing with water”**
- ✓ **Josephus said he claimed to be prophet & led folks to Jordan River**
- ✓ **Roman procurator chased him down, took his head**



Peter, John, all
the Apostles
Likely knew this
song in their hearts

**Nor why, unworthy,
Christ in love
Redeemed me
For His own.**



5:36-37 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 2

37 After him, Judas the Galilean (born in Gamala) appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

- ✓ Josephus said he founded a fourth Jewish sect after Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes
- ✓ Nationalist movement of Zealots against Roman tax census
- ✓ Only God was ruler of Israel
- ✓ Gamala – called such cause it was like Camel's hump



5:33-39 **Waiting During Deliberations – Revered Gamaliel Questions**

38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you:

Leave these men alone! Let them go!

For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.

39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men;

you will only find yourselves

fighting against God.”

Gamaliel – revered, respected, reasonable ...

resoundingly resonated and

then regaled rewardingly

Recommending Rightly their Release



5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Honor – Flogged & Daily Preached

40 Gamaliel's speech persuaded them.

They called the apostles in and had them flogged.

Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus,
and let them go.

~ **Flogged** ~

You CAN imagine what a flogging is like

That's being whipped bloody



5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Honor – Flogged & Daily Preached

**41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing because they had been counted
worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.**

Flogged & REJOICING?



Flogged and REJOICING?

Worthy of Suffering Disgrace for His Name



Worthy of Suffering Disgrace for the Name

What does that mean “worthy of suffering”?

To the Apostles ...

To Peter the Rock ... **from crow to utterly BOLD**

To you, member of FBC Woodville ...

To your neighbor or Mission of the Church

This is all about the heart and

HOW you view your future



5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Honor – Flogged & Daily Preached

42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.



Peter, John, all
the Apostles
Likely knew this
song in their hearts

**Nor why, unworthy,
Christ in love
Redeemed me
For His own.**



as for us,

Liberty or Not
We will Serve God

For I know whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that **DAY.**