

The Greatest Testimony Every Told



Vasily Surikov – *Paul Testifies before Agrippa, Berenice and Festus*, 1875
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow



Procurator



King Agrippa



Berenice



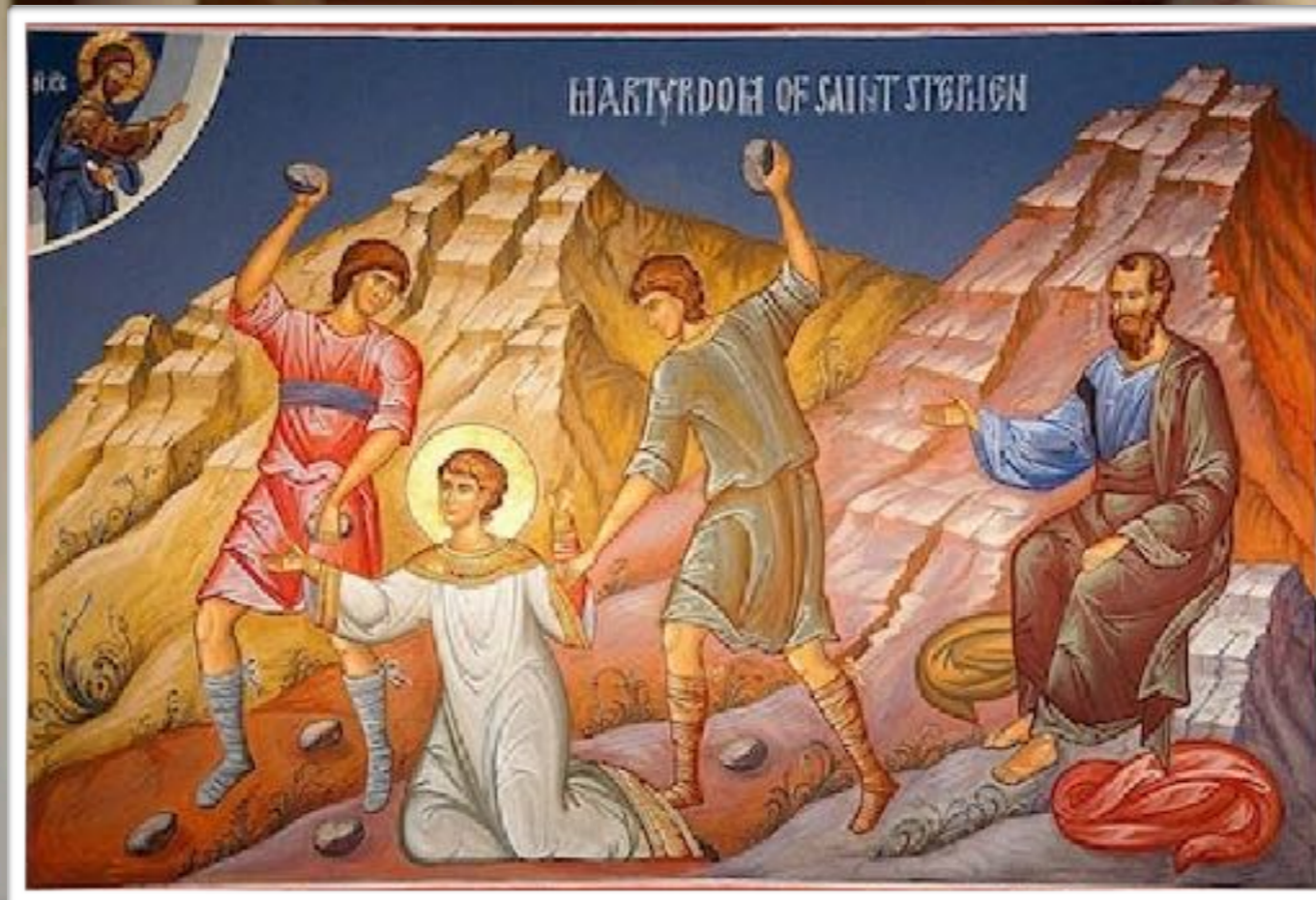
Agrippa Festus Berenice Paul



What Makes Paul's Testimony



1. Every assertion confirmed by multiple



2. The authenticity of his devotion was evidenced by his holy zeal



The Isaiah Scroll - Qumran

3. His change of mind was not a change of religion,

Israel's View of History

The Resurrection

New Creation

The present age

The age to come

The end of history

Easter Surprise!



Middle of history

Resurrection of Jesus!



New Creation

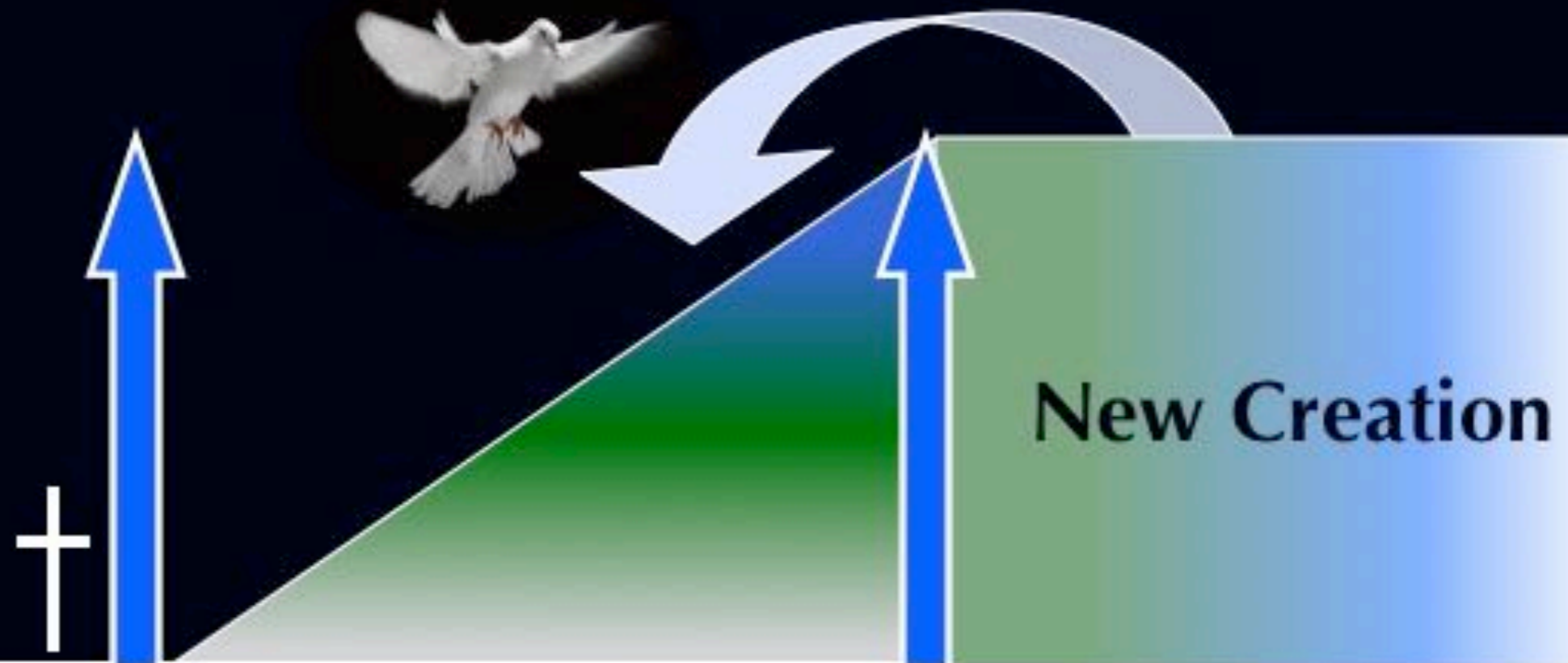


The age to come

The end of history

“The prophets and Moses said,.... that the Messiah must suffer and that, by being the **first to rise from the dead**, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

New Testament View of History

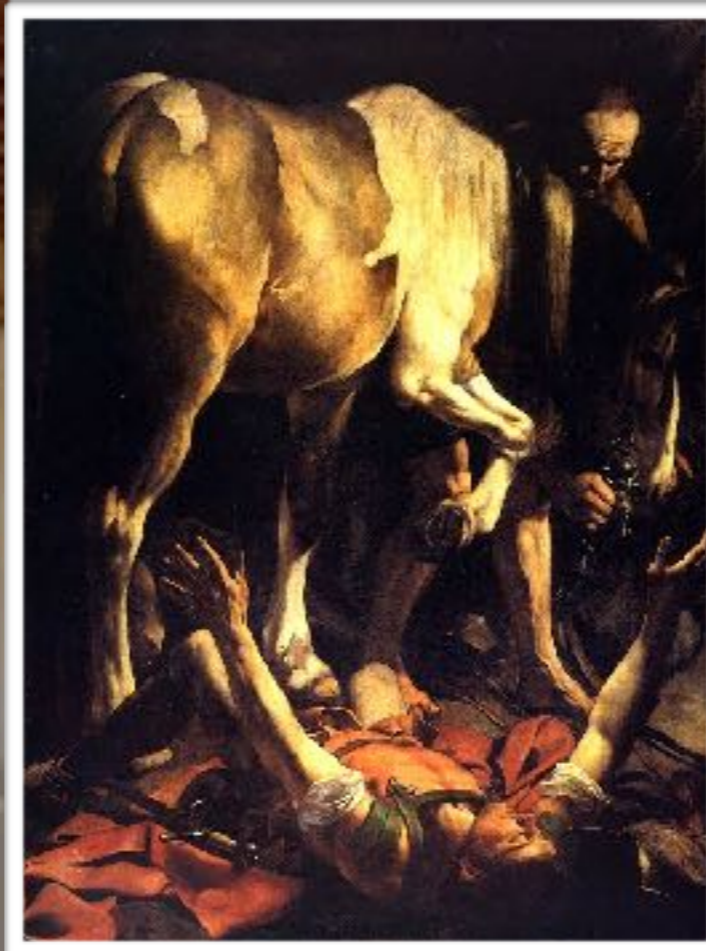


The present age

The age to come

The two ages overlap

The end of history



Carvaggio - *Conversion on the Way to Damascus* 1601

4. This radical reversal did not come from his study,



“It is hard for you to kick against the



5. His commission as a servant, prophet and apostle

Paul's Commission: New Identity

'But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a **servant** and **witness** to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom **I am sending you** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:16-18

Paul's Commission: A Daunting Task

‘But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to **open their eyes**, so that they may **turn from darkness to light** and from the power of **Satan to God**, that they may receive **forgiveness** of sins and a **place** among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Acts 26:16-18

The Servant's Commission = Paul's Commission

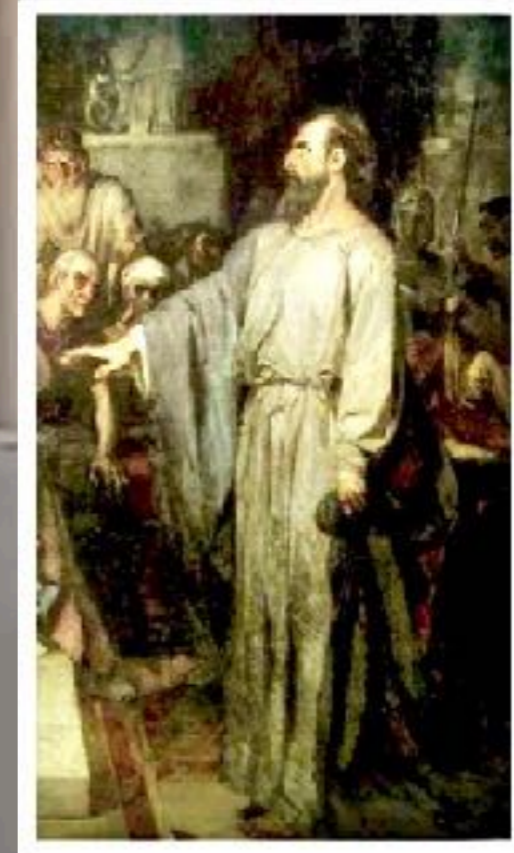
“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back those of Israel I have kept;
I will also make you as a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Isaiah 49:6





6. Paul did not disobey and he did it,
with God's help as he promised!

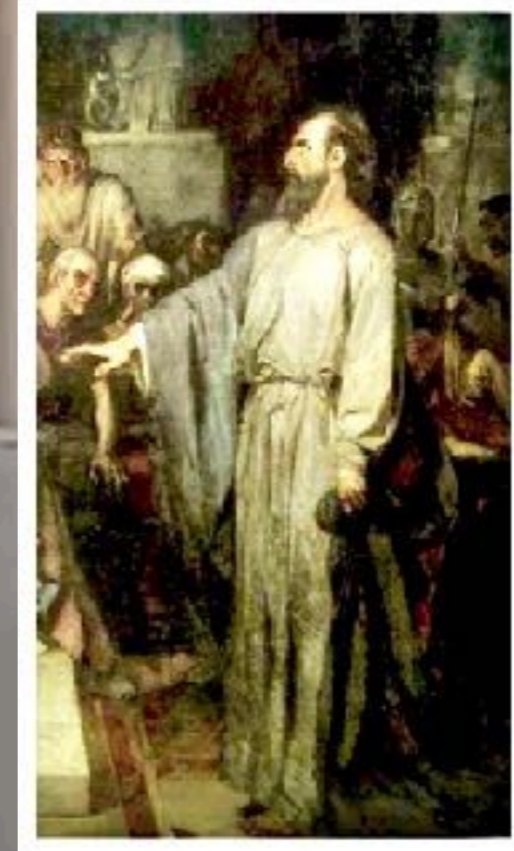


7. Paul's summary appeal silenced the court!

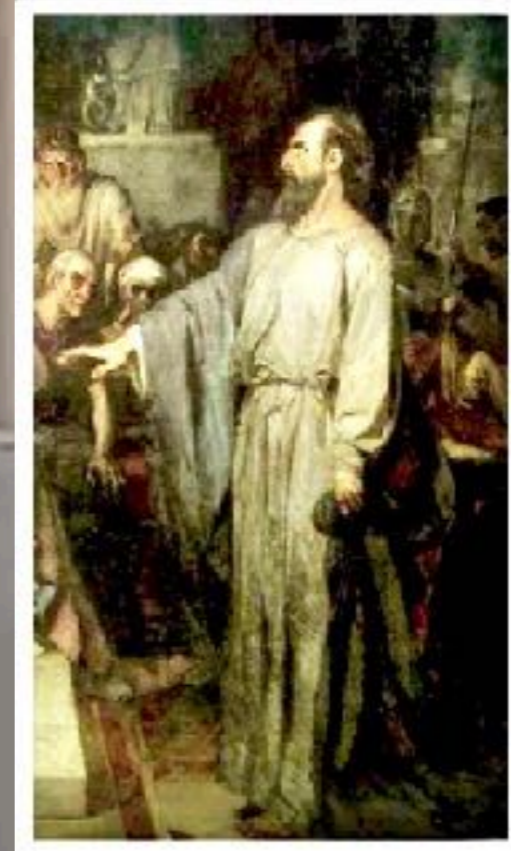
King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?
I know that you believe.



“Do you think that is such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”



“Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”



A photograph of a stone wall, likely the entrance to a tomb, illuminated by a red light. The wall is constructed from large, roughly-hewn stone blocks. A dark, rectangular opening is visible on the left side of the wall. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the red light creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere.

**Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed!**



Mary Robidart's



Adeline Chiu's