

LIVING GODS WILL

Biblical Artists

MICHELANGELO



MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI

Born: 1475 – Caprese Michelangelo, Italy

Died: 1564 – Rome, Italy

Michelangelo Buonarroti

Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect and poet.

Generally considered one of the greatest artists ever. He worked in Florence and Rome.

Michelangelo receives his formal education from the painter Domenico Ghirlandaio and the sculptor Bertoldo di Giovanni.

In Florence **Michelangelo** becomes acquainted with Classical antiquity, which will have enormous influence on his work. Via Lorenzo de' Medici **Michelangelo** meets some of the greatest scientists of his days.

In 1496 **Michelangelo** moves to Rome.

One of his first major assignments is for the well-known **Pietà in St. Peter's basilica**.

Back in Florence **Michelangelo** creates another masterpiece: **David** (1501-1504), now on display in the Accademia.

Pope Julius II commissions the decoration of the ceiling in the **Sistine Chapel** (1508-12).

The frescoes depict prophets, sibyls and scenes from Genesis.

It shows **Michelangelo's** preference for strong, muscular figures.

For four years he paints the ceiling, lying on his back most of the time.

He does not paint much again until 1536, when he starts the **Last Judgment**, on the back wall of the **Sistine Chapel**, finishing the work in 1541.

Michelangelo dies in Rome in 1564. He is buried in Florence.

He was also known as pessimistic and miserly.

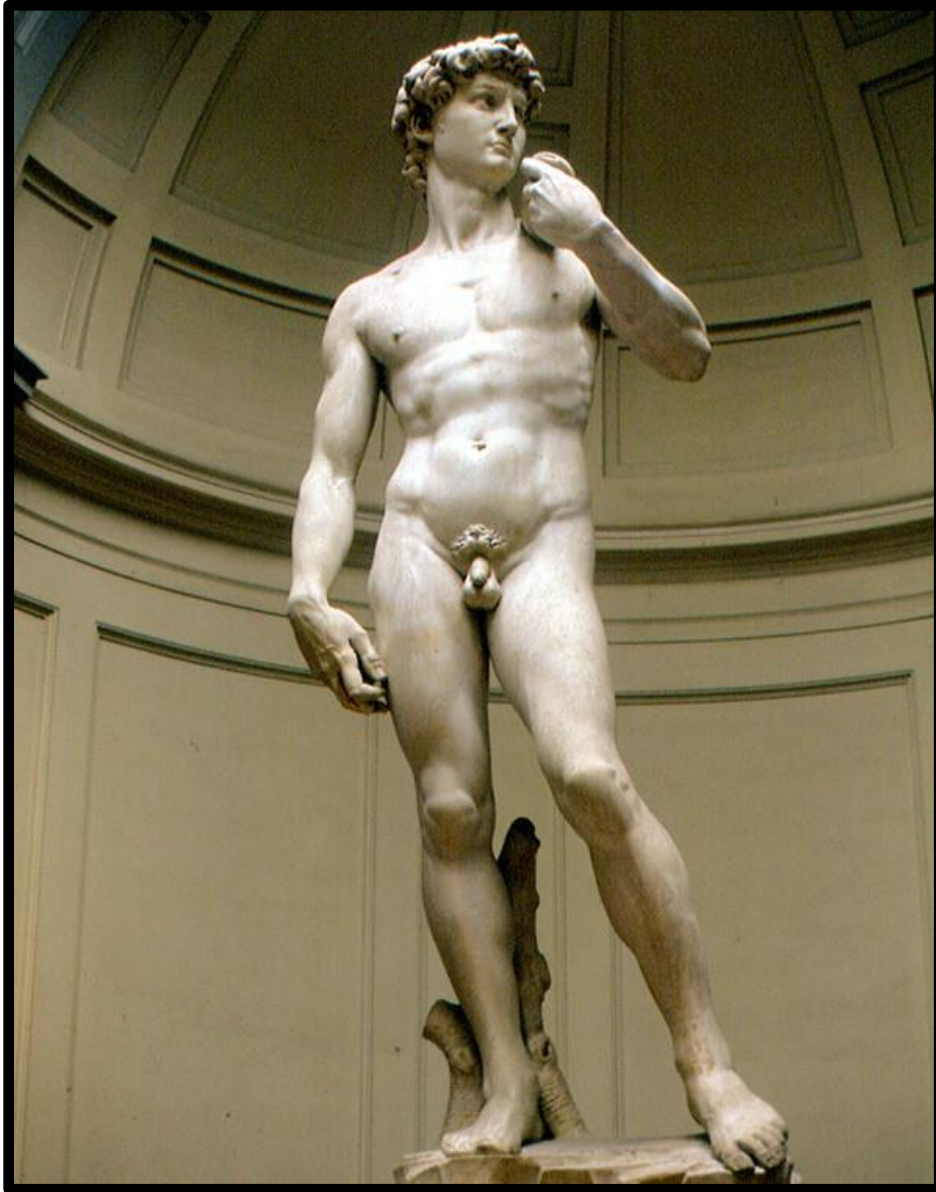
A famous quote: "**The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection.**"

Pieta, St. Peter's Basilica

marble (174 × 195 cm) — 1499

Pietà is Italian for pity, as in "**have pity on me**". In the arts, the word is used to refer to images of the Virgin Mary and her recently deceased son. The right hand supports the dead body, while the left hand seems to call for compassion. This Pietà was made for St. Peter's Basilica, in Rome, where it still is on display. It is probably Michelangelo's most famous sculpture, maybe only matched by his David in Florence. It is the only work he ever signed.

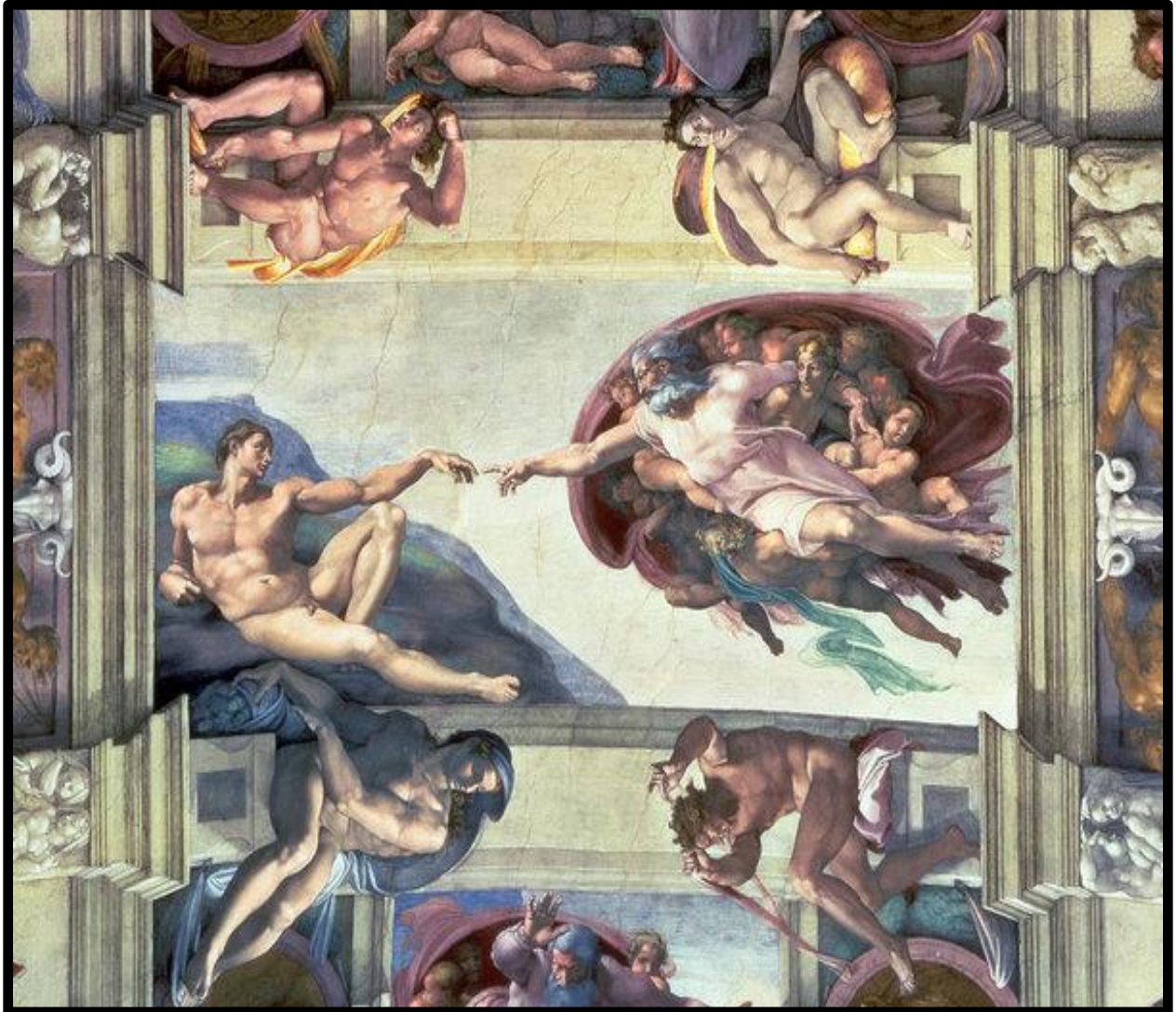
David



marble (5.17 m (17'), incl. pedestal) — 1501-1504

This may be Michelangelo's most famous sculpture. It certainly is one of the highlights of Renaissance art. It shows **David** as he is preparing to attack the giant Goliath. The work was commissioned by the Florentine nobleman Piero Soderini. David spent more than 300 years in the open air, on the Piazza Signoria in Florence. The sculpture was moved to the Accademia in 1873.

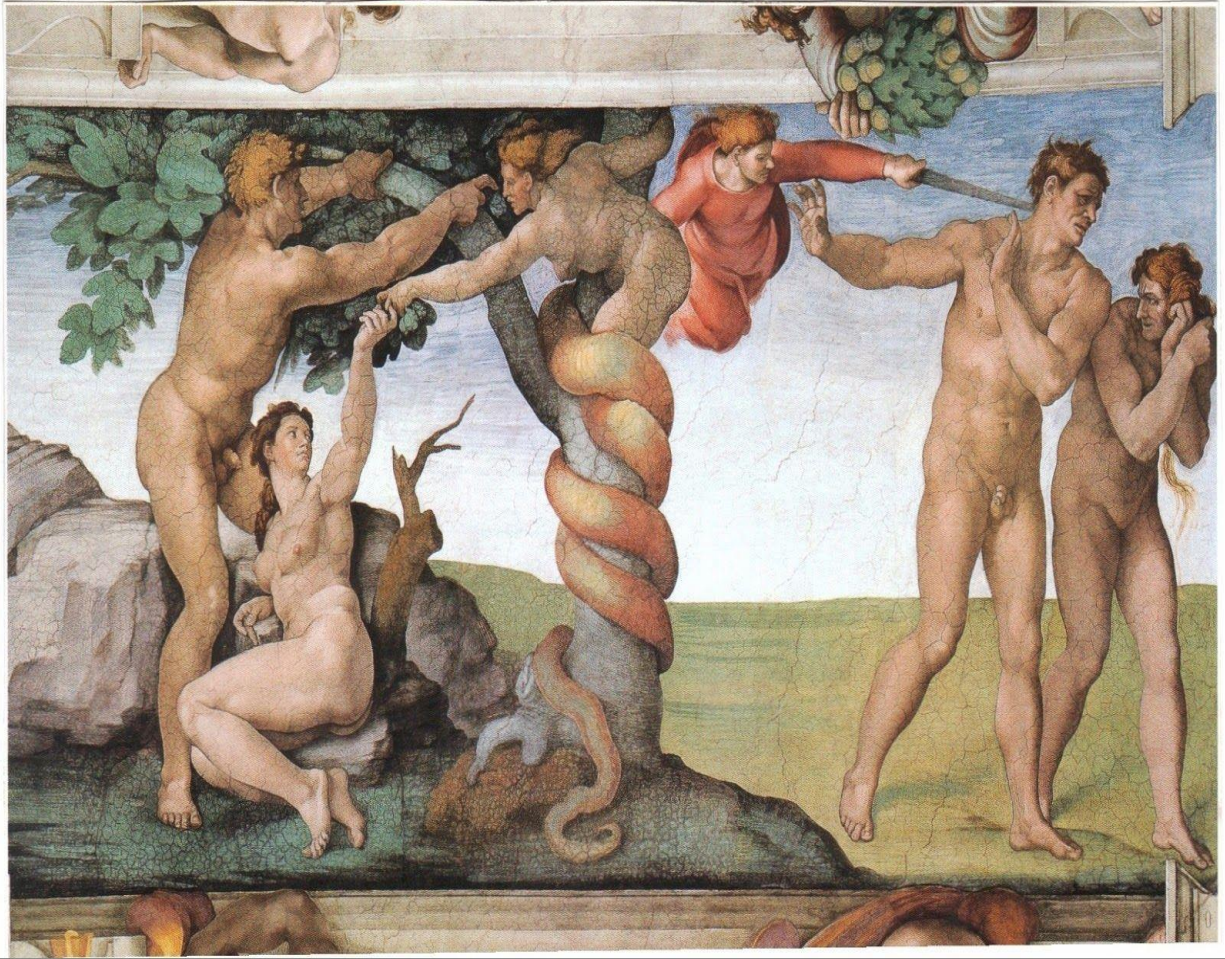
The Creation of Adam



fresco (480 ø 230 cm) – 1508-1512

An energetic, dynamic, flying **God** points his finger at **Adam**, who is struck with life. There is no visible spark, but Michelangelo did not need one to create this very strong image. Adam is shown as a powerful youth, who in the center of the composition receives the breath of life. The divine dynamism is depicted in God's blowing hair and beard. He is seated on a purple robe, surrounded by angels. This well-known fresco is part of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, showing several other episodes from Genesis as well.

The Fall of Man and Expulsion from Eden



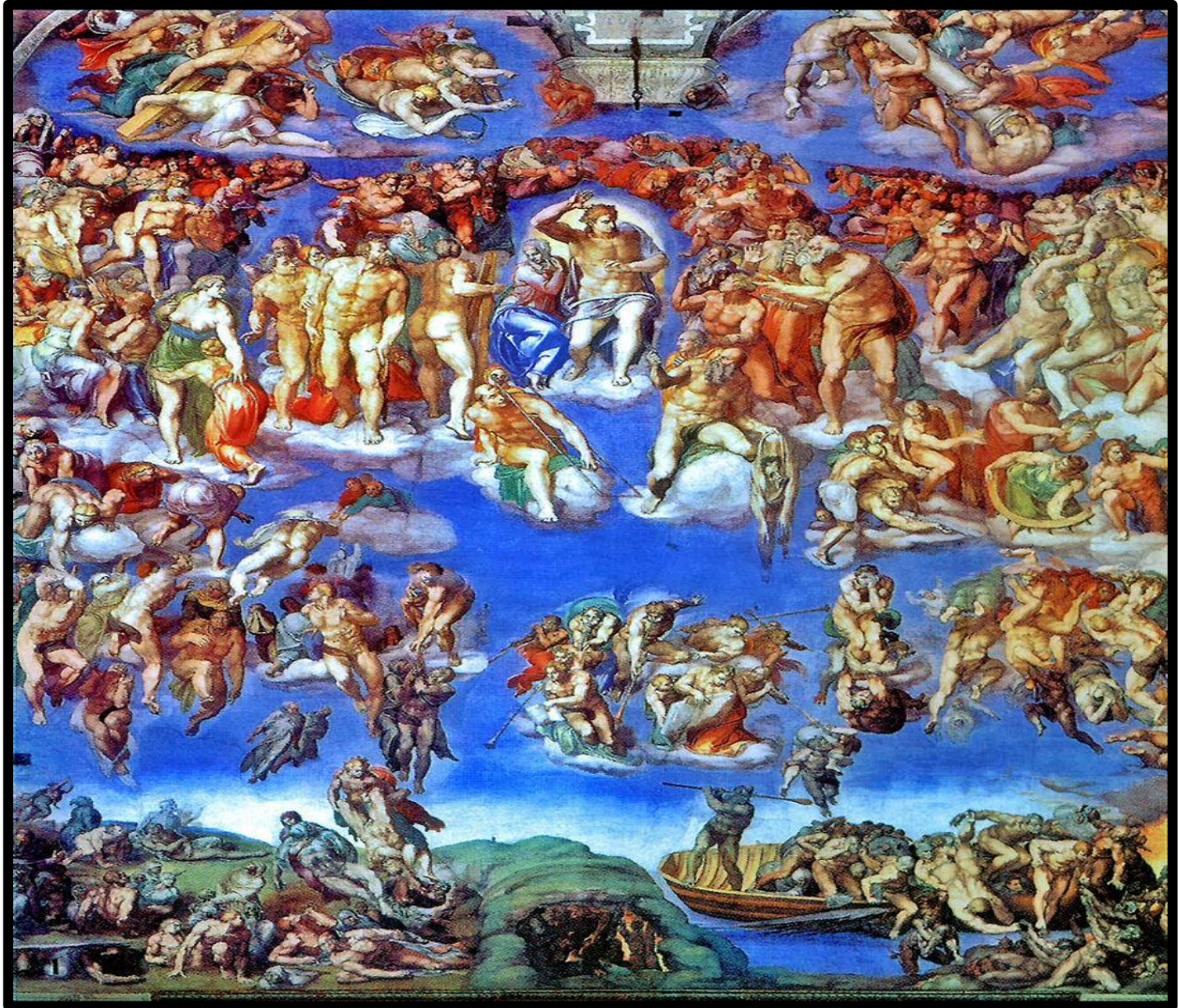
fresco — 1508-1512

Eve takes the apple from the snake, who has told her that after eating the fruit she will be as **God**, knowing good and evil. **The moment is known as the Fall.**

The fresco is part of Michelangelo's decoration of the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**.

The next scene is the **Expulsion from the Garden of Eden**, God's punishment for the couple's sin.

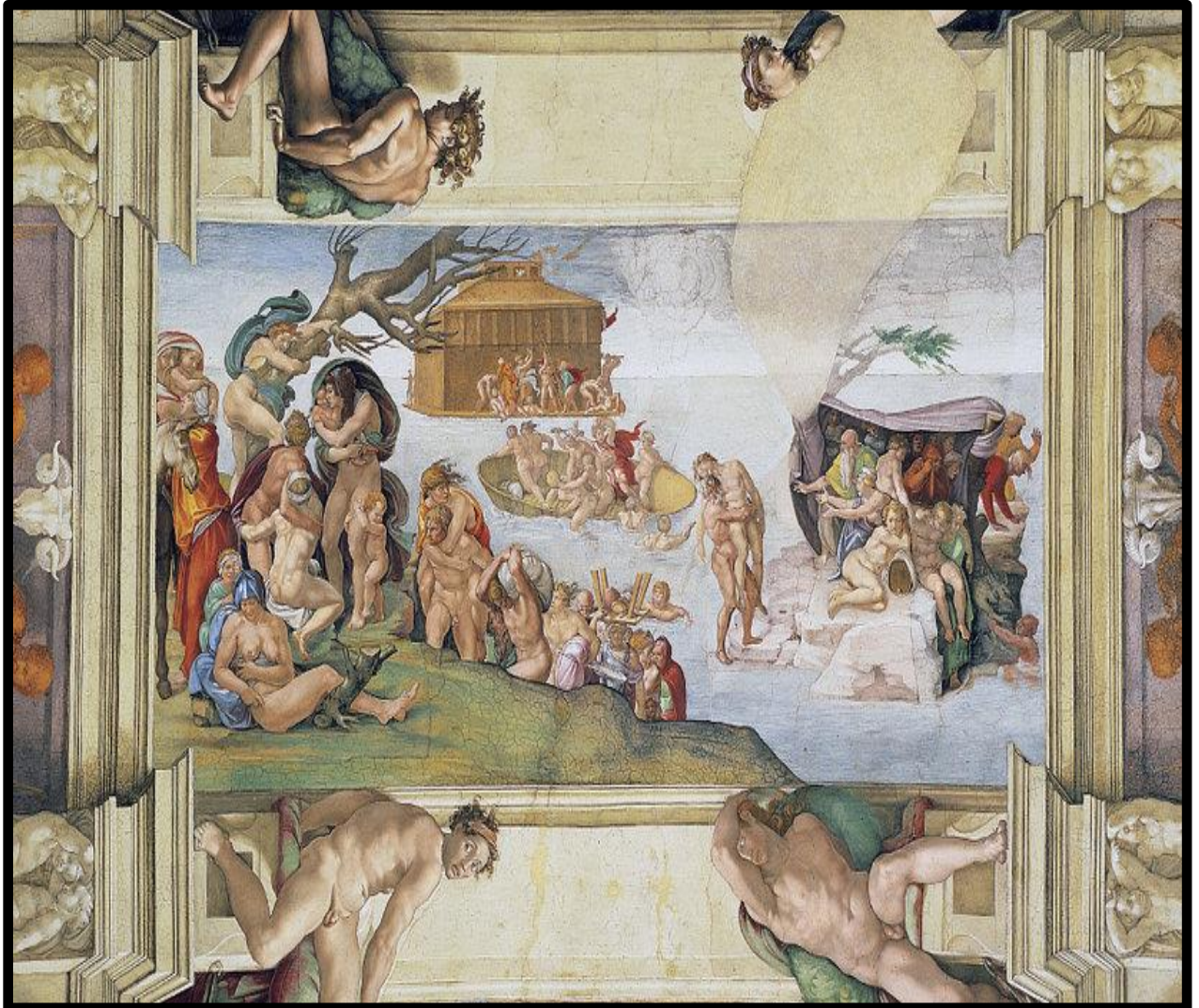
The Final Judgement



fresco (13,7 × 12,2 m) – 1534-1541

The angels in the middle blow their horns to raise the dead. One of them holds the Book in which all has been written down and upon which Jesus will base his judgment. To the left, **the chosen** are escorted to Heaven by angels. To the right, **the damned** are going to Hell. **Jesus** is seated in the middle with his mother **Mary** at his side. The two large figures are **Paul** (left) and **Peter** (right, with keys in hand). The figure underneath and to the right of Jesus is **St. Bartholomew** - a self-portrait by Michelangelo. In his hand, his mortal skin. Above in the lunettes are symbols of the Passion - the cross, the crown of thorns, the pillar of flagellation, the spear, and the sponge dipped in vinegar. The work, a fresco, was painted against the wall of the **Sistine Chapel**, the Pope's private chapel.

The Flood



fresco (280 × 560 cm) — 1508-1512

Desperate people seek refuge on a mountain top.

They hope to be safe from the rising water.

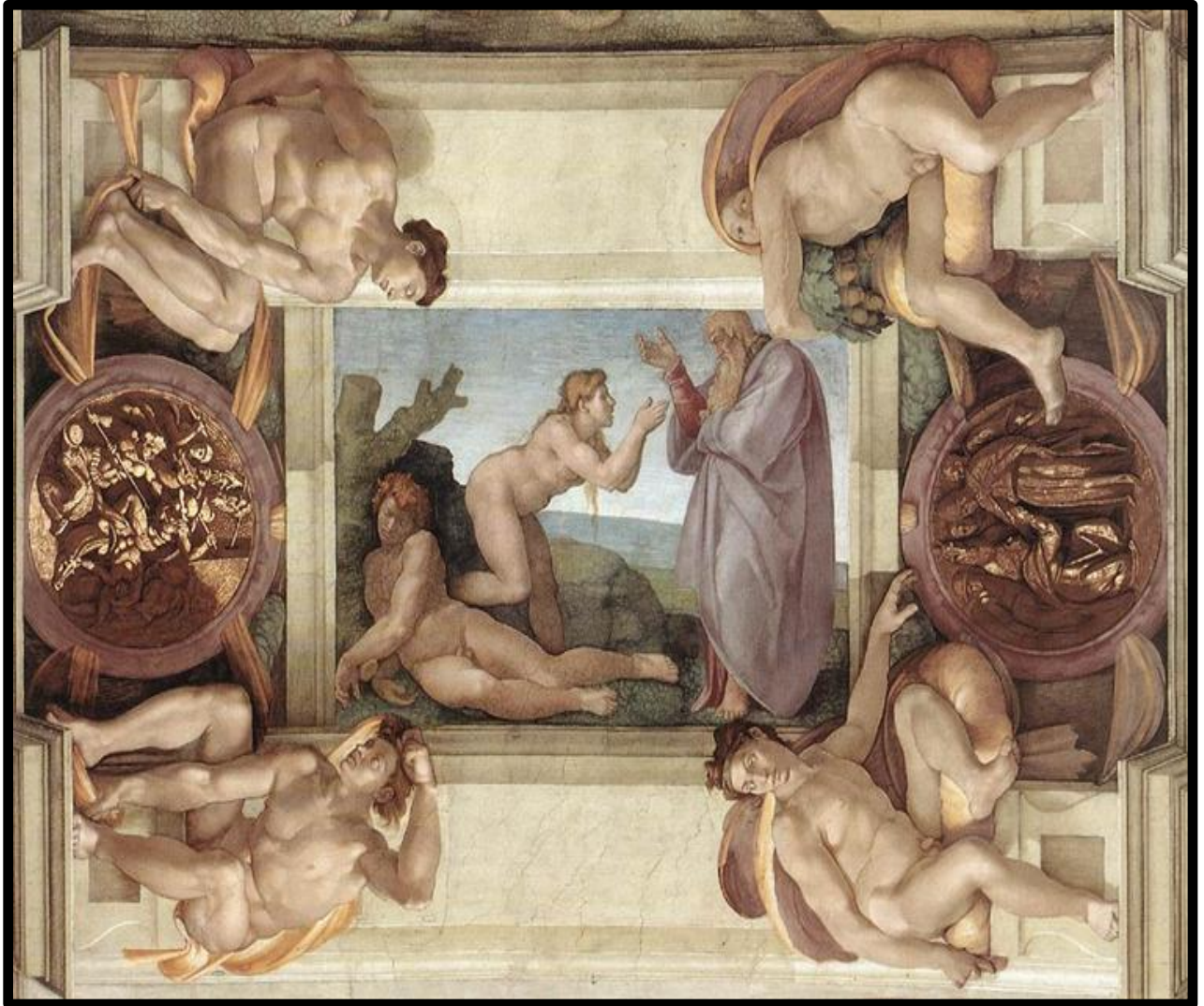
Another group seeks shelter from the rain.

A small boat is about to capsize.

In the background is **Noah's ark**, the only ship that would survive **the flood**.

The fresco is part of Michelangelo's decoration of the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**.

The Creation of Eve



fresco — 1508-1512

From the rib of a sleeping **Adam**, **God** creates another human, whom Adam calls '**woman**' when he wakes up.

Michelangelo painted this fresco and other impressions of the **Creation** on the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**.

The Creation of the Sun and the Moon



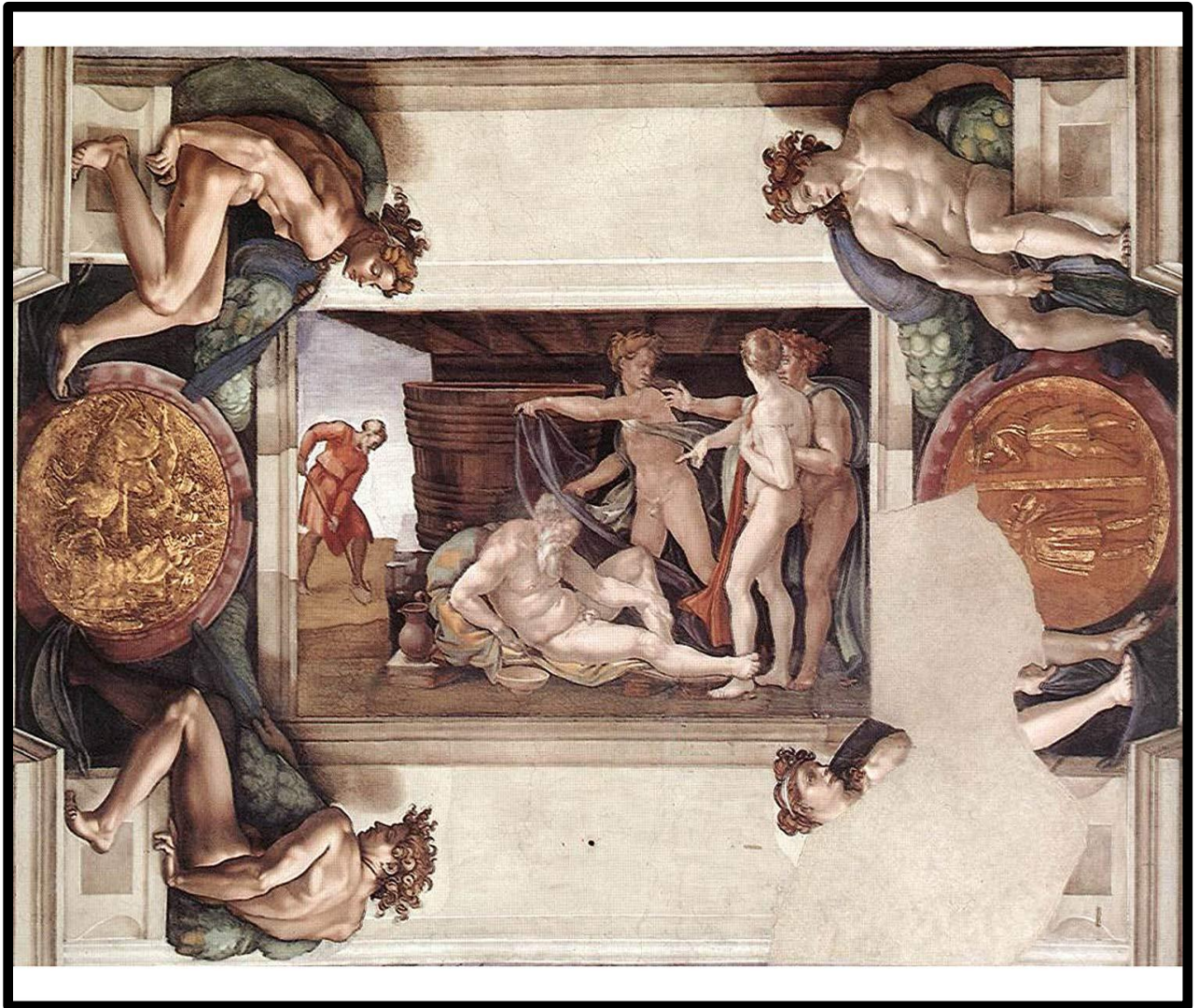
fresco — 1508-1512

A fresco on the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**.

Two scenes are being depicted. On the right **God** creates the **sun** and the **moon**.
On the left, seen from behind he is working on the **plants** and the **trees**.

According to Genesis the plants were made on the third day and the sun and the moon on the next day.

The Drunkenness of Noah



fresco — 1508-1512

On the left **Noah** is working in his vineyard. After drinking too much wine he falls asleep, undressed. His son **Ham** finds him and alerts his brothers. **Shem** and **Japheth** then cover their father with a blanket, without having a look at him.

When Noah wakes up, he finds out what happened. To punish Ham, he curses his son **Canaan**.

This is a fresco on the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**.

The Sistine Chapel Ceiling



The painting of the **ceiling** took **four years**. It took its toll on **Michelangelo's** health: working on his back, an impressive amount of paint must have entered his lungs. But it was certainly worth the effort.

After finishing the work in 1512, Michelangelo switched to making sculptures, hardly painting anything until 1536, when he started on **the Last Judgment**.

The central part of the ceiling shows scenes from Genesis. On both sides are several Biblical prophets and some sibyls: female prophets from ancient times, who, according to the Church, had predicted the coming of **Jesus**. Among the prophets are all the major ones: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Daniel. In the lunettes above the windows a number of Jesus' ancestors are shown, Boaz being one of them. The corners of the ceiling show the rescuing of the Israelites, which was seen as a prelude to the Salvation.