

# Rembrandt van Rijn

(REM-brant van RIEN)  
Dutch Painter

1606 – 1669

63



## Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn

is one of the greatest painters in Dutch and European art history. His contributions came during the Dutch Golden Age, a period of great wealth and cultural achievement, when Dutch painting was prolific and innovative. His contemporaries were generally painting still

lives, landscapes, and scenes glorifying ordinary life. Rembrandt was captivated instead by the moving Bible stories his mother used to read to him. His paintings are famous for capturing the characters' emotions and involving viewers in the stories. He often used himself as a model, giving an autobiographical view of himself through his life. His self-portraits seem to be done sincerely and without vanity.



Rembrandt was the ninth child born in his family.

His family was quite well-to-do; his father was a miller and his mother was a baker's daughter.

His mother was Roman Catholic; his father belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church.

There's no evidence that Rembrandt belonged to any church, however five of his children were christened in the Dutch Reformed church.

He had a great inclination towards painting and was apprenticed to a history painter, for three years.

In 1631 Rembrandt moved to Amsterdam and became a successful portraitist. After another important, but brief, apprenticeship, Rembrandt started his own workshop, opened a studio and took students.

He lived in Amsterdam for the rest of his life.

He initially stayed with an art dealer, Hendrick van Uylenburgh, and in 1634, married Hendrick's cousin, Saskia. Rembrandt and Saskia were married without the presence of Rembrandt's relatives. In the same year, Rembrandt became a burgess of Amsterdam and a member of the local guild of painters.

*Self-portrait, 1636-8 (30-32).*

*Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp, 1632 (26).*

*Bust of an old Man in a Fur Cap, 1630 (24).*

*Self-Portrait (with Earring), 1650 (44).*

*Flora, c. 1650 (44). Saskia as Flora, 1635 (29).*

*Portrait of Saskia van Uylenburg, c. 1635 (29).*

*Titus, as a Monk, 1660 (54).* Main Source of document: Wikipedia. \*N



In 1639 Rembrandt and Saskia bought a prominent, newly built house (now the Rembrandt House Museum) in what was becoming the Jewish quarter; an upcoming neighborhood. The mortgage would be a primary cause for later financial difficulties. Rembrandt should easily have been able to pay the home off with his large income, but it appears his spending always kept pace with his income, and he may have made some unsuccessful investments. It was there that Rembrandt frequently sought models for his Old Testament scenes from among his Jewish neighbors. Although they were by now affluent, the couple suffered several personal setbacks. Their son, Rumbartus, died at two months in 1635, daughter Cornelia died at three weeks in 1638, and in 1640, a second daughter, also named Cornelia, died after a month. Only their fourth child, Titus, who was born in 1641, survived into adulthood. Saskia died in 1642, soon after Titus's birth.



Rembrandt had an affair with the woman who was hired as Titus' nurse. It caused him a good deal of trouble, legal problems, money (alimony payments), and contributed to his bankruptcy.



In the late 1640s Rembrandt began a relationship with a much younger Hendrickje, who had initially been his maid. In 1654 they had a daughter, Cornelia. The two were considered legally wed under common law, but Rembrandt didn't marry her because he would have lost access to a trust set up for Titus in Saskia's will.



Rembrandt lived beyond his means, buying art (including bidding up his own work), prints, and rarities. Selling some of these items helped him avoid bankruptcy in 1656, but he was forced to sell his house and his printing-press (ending his ability to create etchings) and move to more modest accommodations in 1660.



Rembrandt outlived Hendrickje, who died in 1663, and Titus, who died in 1668, leaving a baby daughter. He died within a year of his son, and was buried in an unmarked grave.



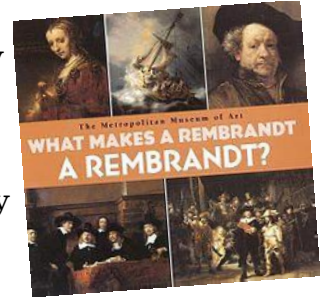
Rembrandt House Museum, Amsterdam.  
Saskia Lying in Bed, c. 1638  
Rembrandt's drawing is believed to depict Geertje Dircx.

Portrait of Hendrickje Stofells, c. 1654 (48). The Girl in a Picture Frame, 1641 (35). The Night Watch, 1642 (36).



Rembrandt began signing his work with his first name. He was probably inspired by **Raphael**, **Leonardo da Vinci** and **Michelangelo** who, then as now, were referred to by their first names alone. Later, **Vincent van Gogh** did the same.

The attribution of Rembrandt's work is ongoing. In 2005 four paintings previously attributed to students were reclassified as Rembrandt's. The difficulty of attribution is exacerbated, since, like artists before him, his students were encouraged to copy his paintings (to be sold as originals or authorized copies), or to finish or retouch them. His style proved easy for his talented students to emulate.



Further complicating matters is the uneven quality of some of Rembrandt's work, his frequent stylistic evolutions and experiments, later imitations of his work, and restorations which so damaged the original works that they are no longer recognizable. It is highly likely that there will never be universal agreement as to what constitutes a genuine Rembrandt.



*Man in a Golden helmet, c. 1650 - once one of the most famous "Rembrandt" portraits, no longer attributed to him.*

*The Raising of the Cross, 1633 (27).*

*(Rembrandt self-portrait included.)*

*Self Portrait as the Apostle Paul, 1661 (56).*

*Syndics of Draper's Guild, 1662 (56).*



## What

## Historical Timeline

## Who

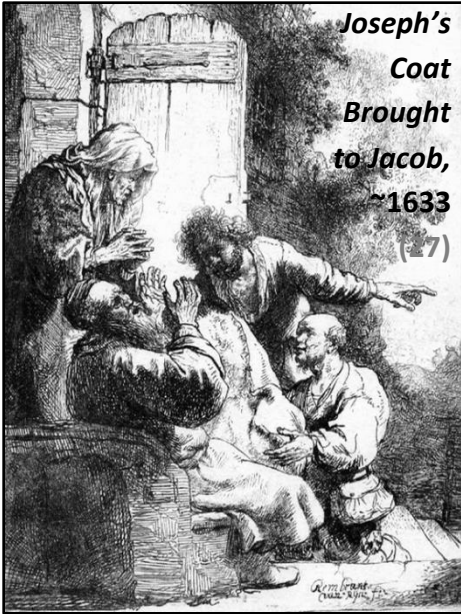
1600 – **Dutch** opticians invent the **telescope**

1620 – **Pilgrims** sail to **America**

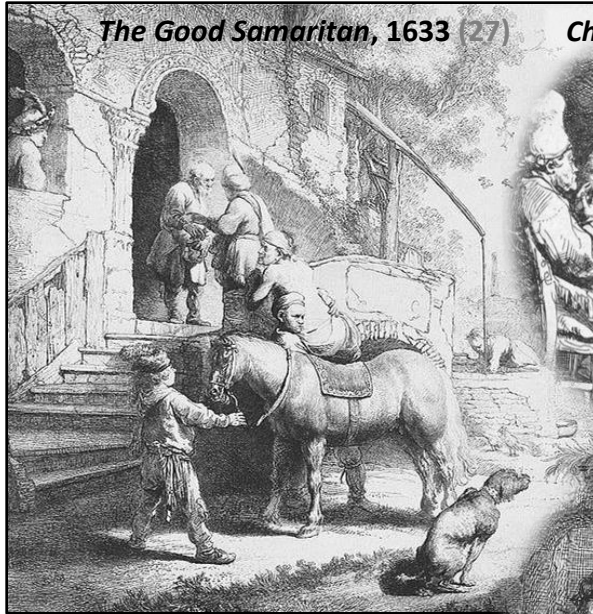
1624 – **Dutch** settle New Amsterdam

1629 – 1695 – **Christian Huygens**, **Dutch** Mathematician

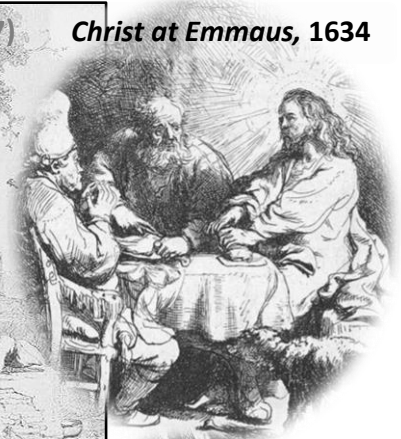
1666 – France and the **Dutch** **declare war on England**.



**Joseph's Coat Brought to Jacob, ~1633 (27)**



**The Good Samaritan, 1633 (27)**



**Christ at Emmaus, 1634**



**Christ driving the Moneychangers from the Temple, 1635 (29)**

**Christ and the woman of Samaria, 1634 (28)**  
**Christ before Pilate, 1636 (30)**



**Abraham casting out Hagar and Ishmael, 1637 (31)**

**Jacob Caressing Benjamin, ~1637 (31)**



**Abraham and Isaac, 1645. (39)**

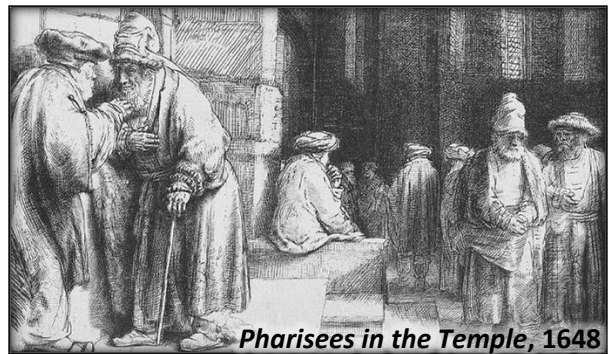
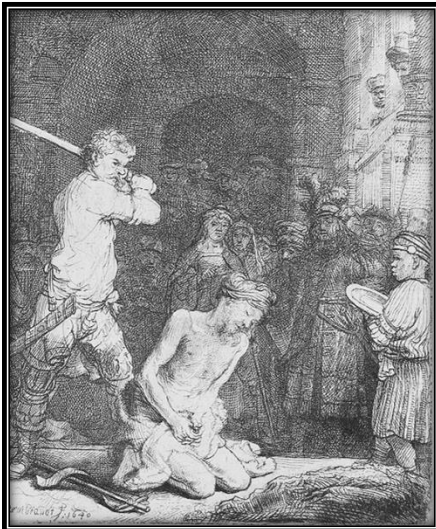


**Joseph Telling His Dream, 1638 (32)**



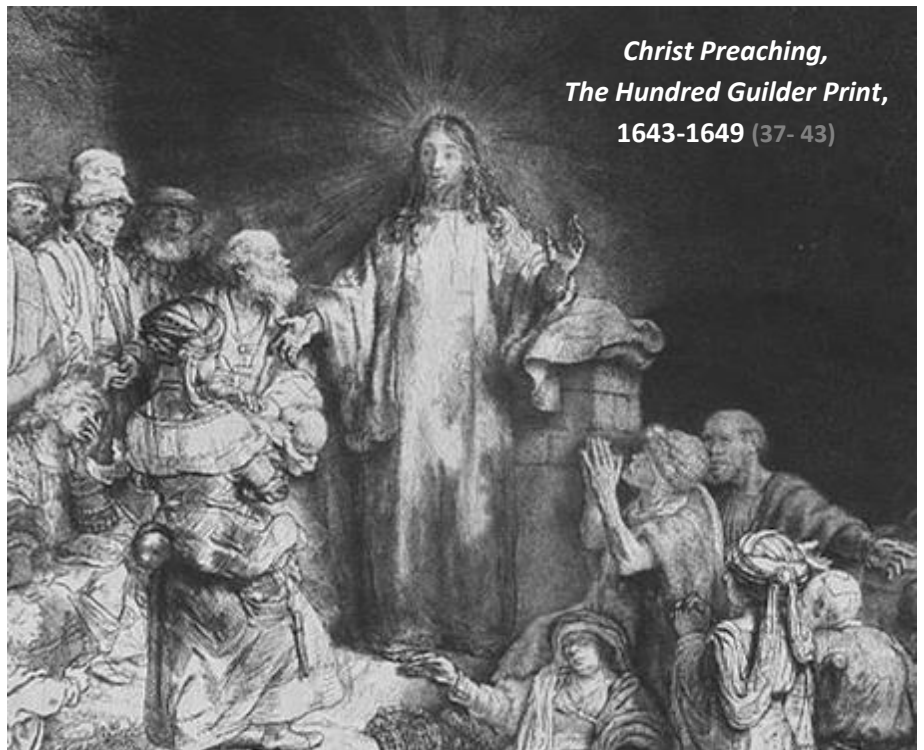
**The Triumph of Mordechai, ~1641 (35)**

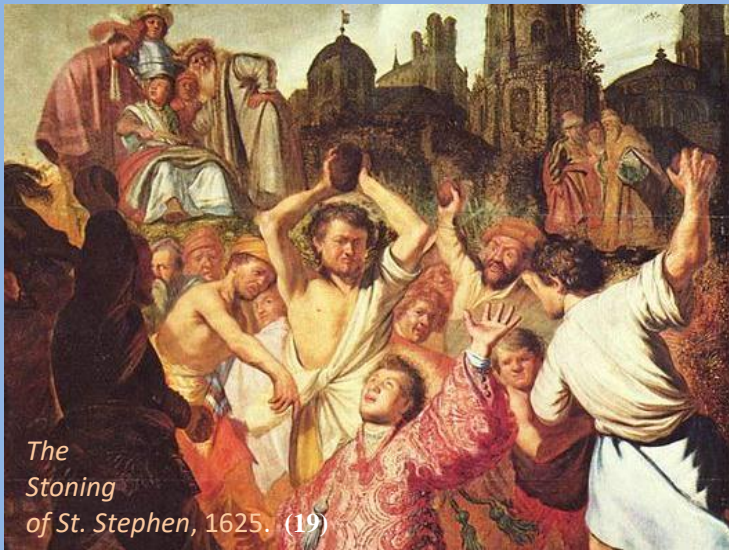
**The Beheading of John the Baptist, 1640 (34)**



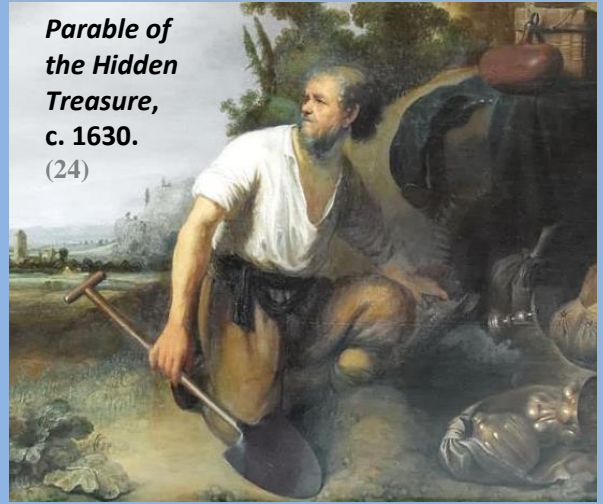
**Pharisees in the Temple, 1648**

**Christ Preaching, The Hundred Guilder Print, 1643-1649 (37-43)**

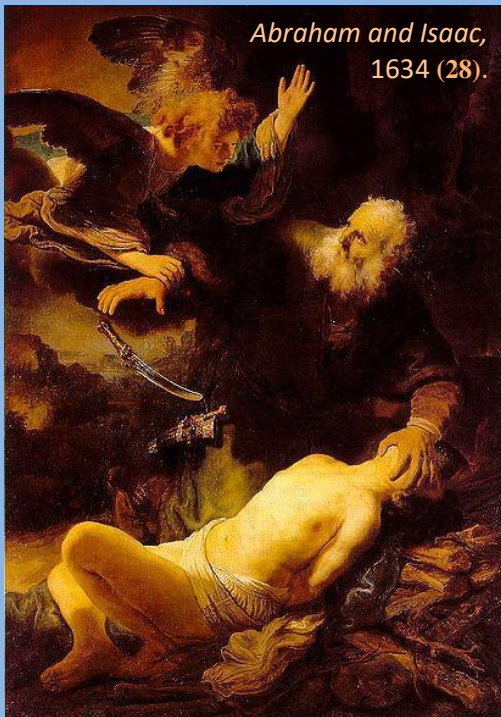




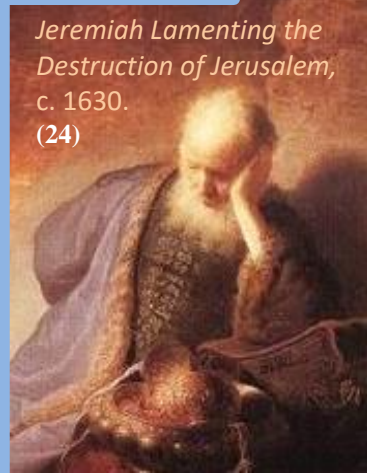
*The Stoning of St. Stephen, 1625. (19)*



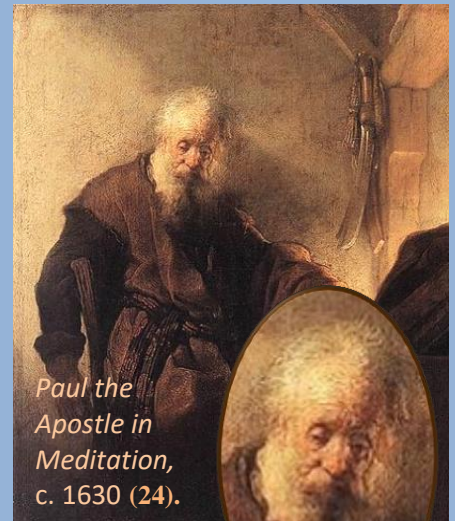
*Parable of the Hidden Treasure, c. 1630. (24)*



*Abraham and Isaac, 1634 (28).*



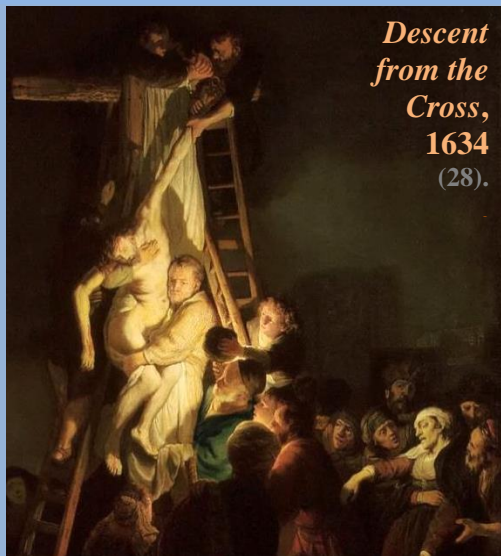
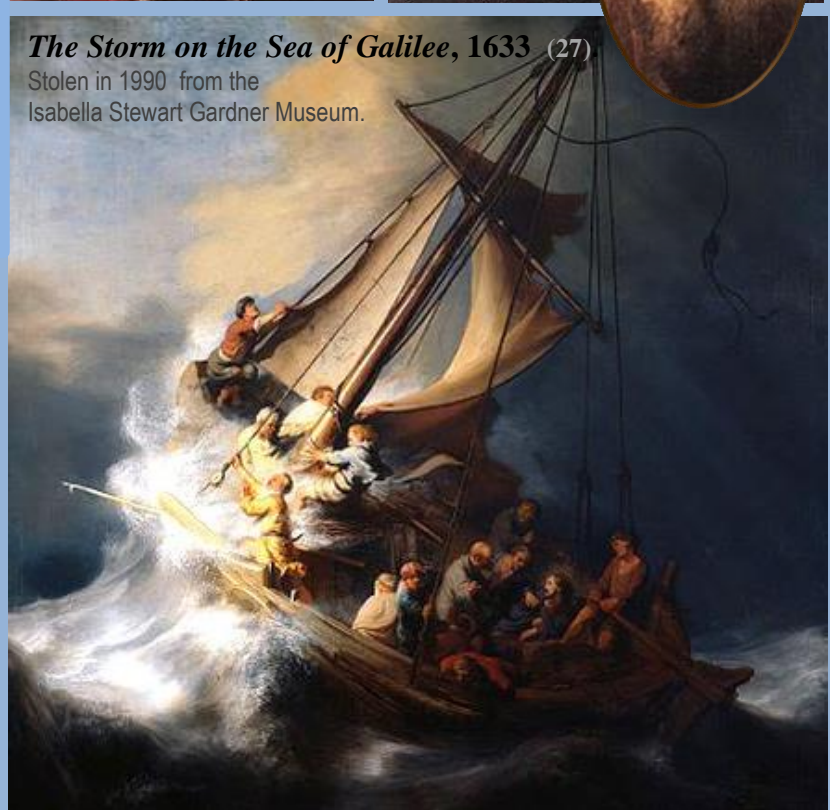
*Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem, c. 1630. (24)*



*Paul the Apostle in Meditation, c. 1630 (24).*

*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee, 1633 (27)*

Stolen in 1990 from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.



*Descent from the Cross, 1634 (28).*

Rembrandt and Saskia in *The Prodigal Son in the Tavern*, 1635 (29).



*The Blinding of Samson*, 1636 (30).



*The Archangel Leaving the Family of Tobias*, 1637 (31).

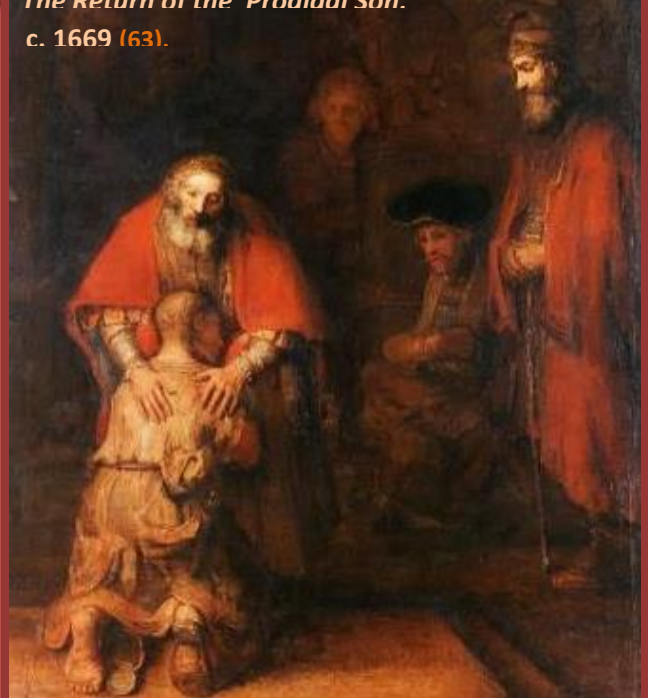


*Belshazzar's Feast*, 1635 (29).



*The Risen Christ Appearing to Mary Magdalen*, 1638 (32).

*The Return of the Prodigal Son*, c. 1669 (63).

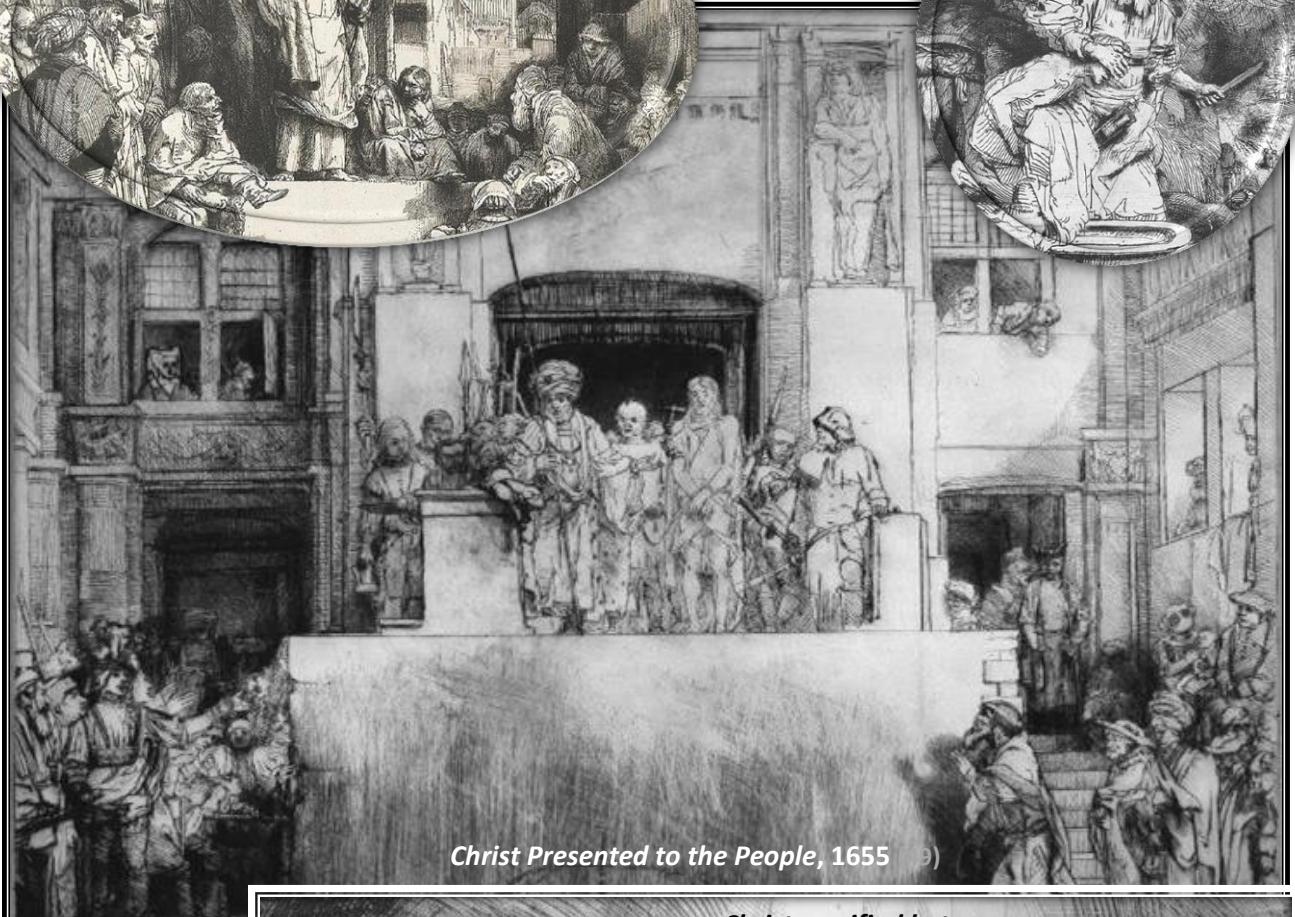


*Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph*, 1656 (50).

*Christ Preaching,*  
1652 (48)



*Abraham's Sacrifice,*  
1655 (48)

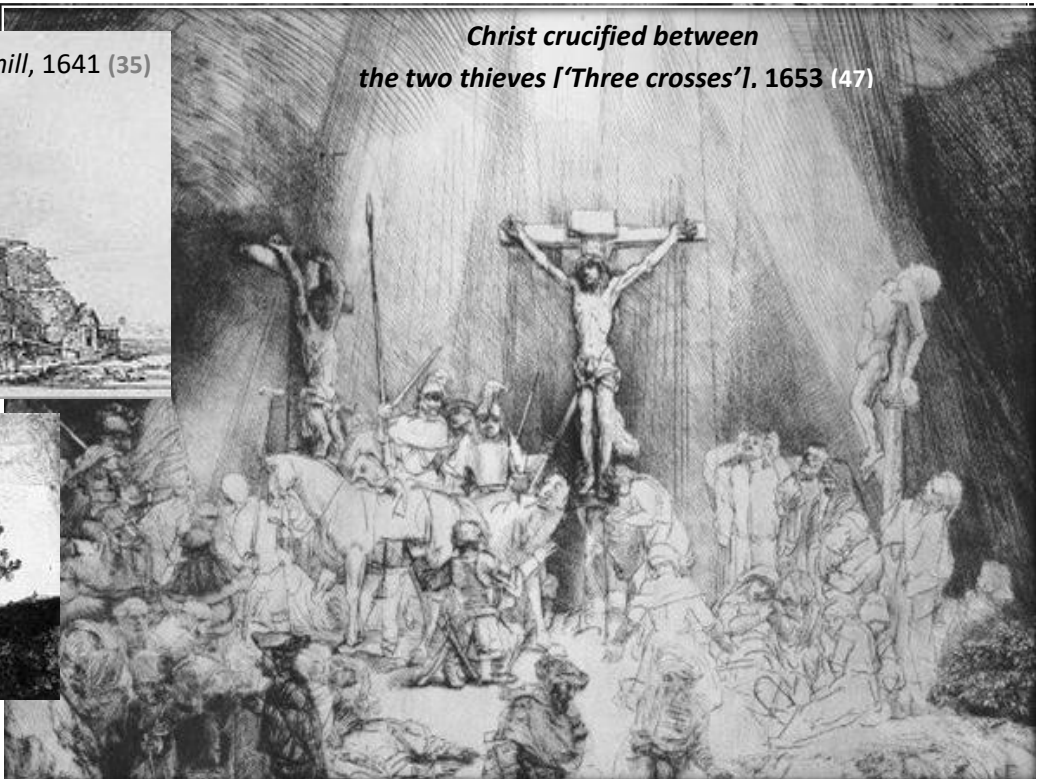


*Christ Presented to the People, 1655 (48)*



*The Windmill, 1641 (35)*

*Christ crucified between the two thieves [‘Three crosses’]. 1653 (47)*



*The Three Trees, 1643 (37)*