

# CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH

## PART 8

“I NOW FEEL COMPELLED  
INSTEAD TO WRITE TO  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO  
CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR  
THE FAITH THAT WAS ONCE  
FOR ALL ENTRUSTED TO  
THE SAINTS.”

JUDE 1:3B NET



## “SUSANNA AND THE ELDERS”

THOMAS HART BENTON  
1938

“LEWD, IMMORAL, OBSCENE...THE LOWEST EXPRESSION OF PURE FILTH”--  
WROTE ONE CRITIC IN CONDEMNATION OF BENTON’S INTERPRETATION OF  
SUSANNA AND THE ELDERS. THE WORK DEMONSTRATES THE DIFFICULTIES OF  
PAINTING RELIGIOUS IMAGERY AND BIBLICAL SCENES WITH A  
CONTEMPORARY VOCABULARY. BASED ON THE RELIGIOUS PARABLE FROM  
THE BOOK OF DANIEL, BENTON RECASTS THE TALE WITHIN RURAL AMERICA.  
HERE, SUSANNA IS SHOWN BATHING, UNAWARE OF TWO ELDERLY, LECHEROUS  
MEN WHO SPY ON HER

EGG TEMPERA AND OIL ON CANVAS - CALIFORNIA PALACE OF THE LEGION  
OF HONOR, SAN FRANCISCO, CA





# Susanna (Book of Daniel)

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**Susanna** or **Shoshana** (**Hebrew**: שושנה, **Modern** Šošana, **Tiberian** Šōšannā: "lily") is included in the [Book of Daniel](#) (as chapter 13) by the [Roman Catholic](#) and [Eastern Orthodox](#) churches. It is one of the [additions to Daniel](#), considered [apocryphal](#) by [Protestants](#). It is listed in *Article VI* of the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England among the books which are read "for example of life and instruction of manners", but not for the formation of doctrine.<sup>[1]</sup> It is not included in the [Jewish Tanakh](#) and is not mentioned in early Jewish literature,<sup>[2]</sup> although the text does appear to have been part of the original [Septuagint](#) (2nd century BC) and was revised by [Theodotion](#), [Hellenistic Jewish](#) redactor of the Septuagint text (c. 150 AD).

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*Susanna and the Elders* by [Guido Reni](#)

## Summary [\[edit\]](#)

As the story goes, a fair [Hebrew](#) wife named Susanna was falsely accused by [lecherous voyeurs](#). As she bathes in her garden, having sent her attendants away, two lustful elders secretly observe the lovely Susanna. When she makes her way back to her house, they accost her, threatening to claim that she was meeting a young man in the garden unless she agrees to have sex with them.

She refuses to be blackmailed and is arrested and about to be put to death for promiscuity when a young man named [Daniel](#) interrupts the proceedings, shouting that the elders should be questioned to prevent the death of an innocent. After being separated, the two men are [cross-examined](#) about details of what they saw but disagree about the tree under which Susanna supposedly met her lover. In the [Greek](#) text, the names of the trees cited by the elders form [puns](#) with the sentence given by Daniel. The first says they were under a [mastic](#) (ὑπὸ σκίνων, *hypo schinon*), and Daniel says that an [angel](#) stands ready to cut (σχίσει, *schisei*) him in two. The second says they were under an evergreen [oak](#) tree (ὑπὸ πρίνον, *hypo prinon*), and Daniel says that an angel stands ready to saw (πρίσαι, *prisai*) him in two. The great difference in size between a mastic and an oak makes the elders' lie plain to all the observers. The false accusers are put to death, and virtue triumphs.

## Chapters of the Book of Daniel



- [Chapter 1: Induction into Babylon](#)
- [Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream](#)
- [Chapter 3: The Fiery Furnace](#)
- [Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Madness](#)







*"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."*



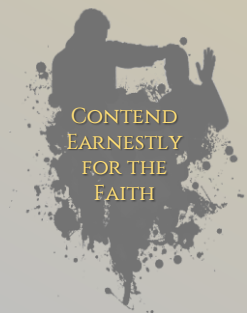
# CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH SERIES OUTLINE

## QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT IS THE “FAITH THAT WAS ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS?”
2. WHO WERE THE SAINTS?
3. HOW *DID* THEY CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH?

## TOPICS:

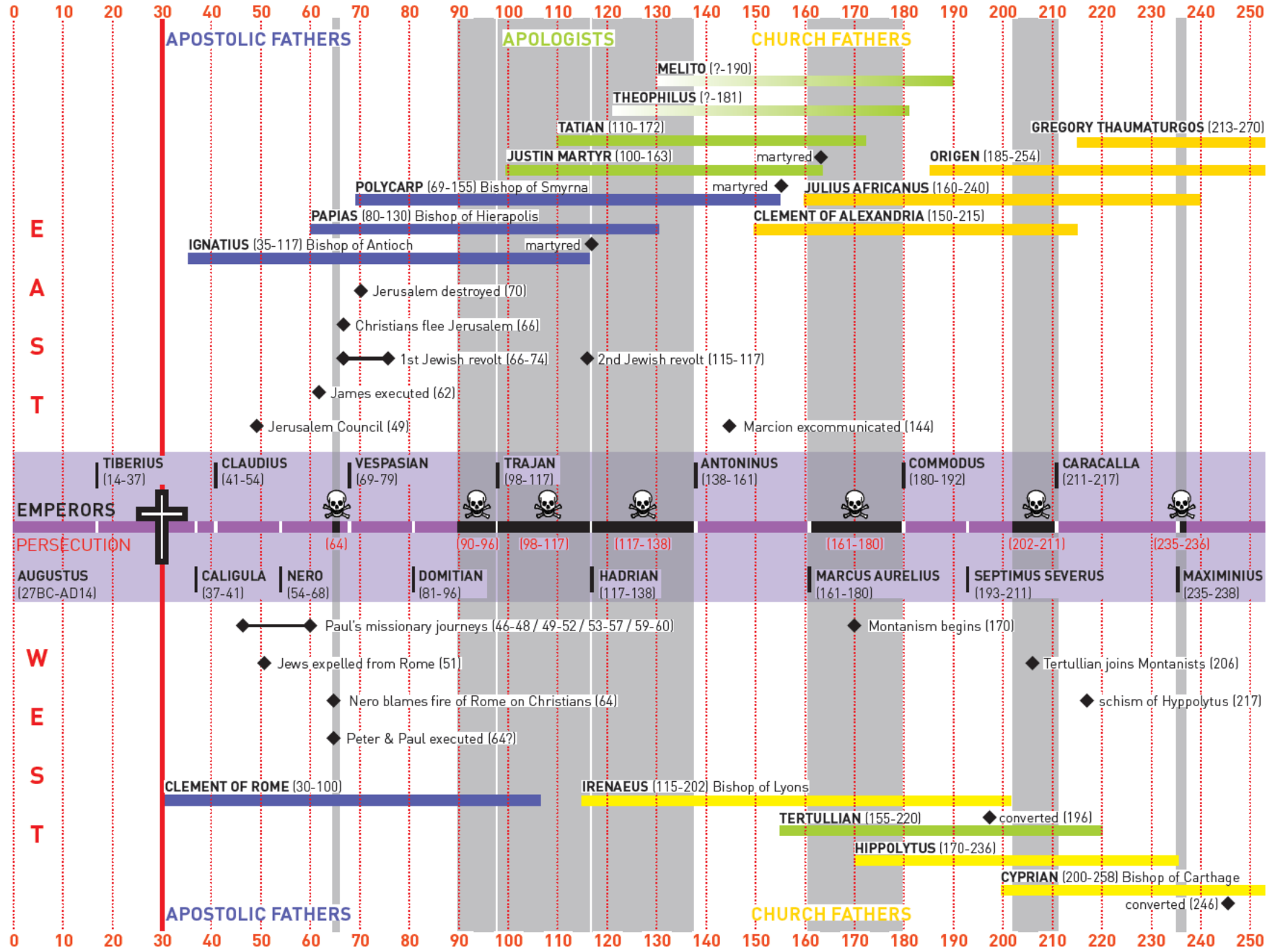
1. CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY
2. THE PROBLEM OF FALSE TEACHING
3. APOSTOLIC AND EARLY CHURCH FATHERS
4. CHURCH HISTORY



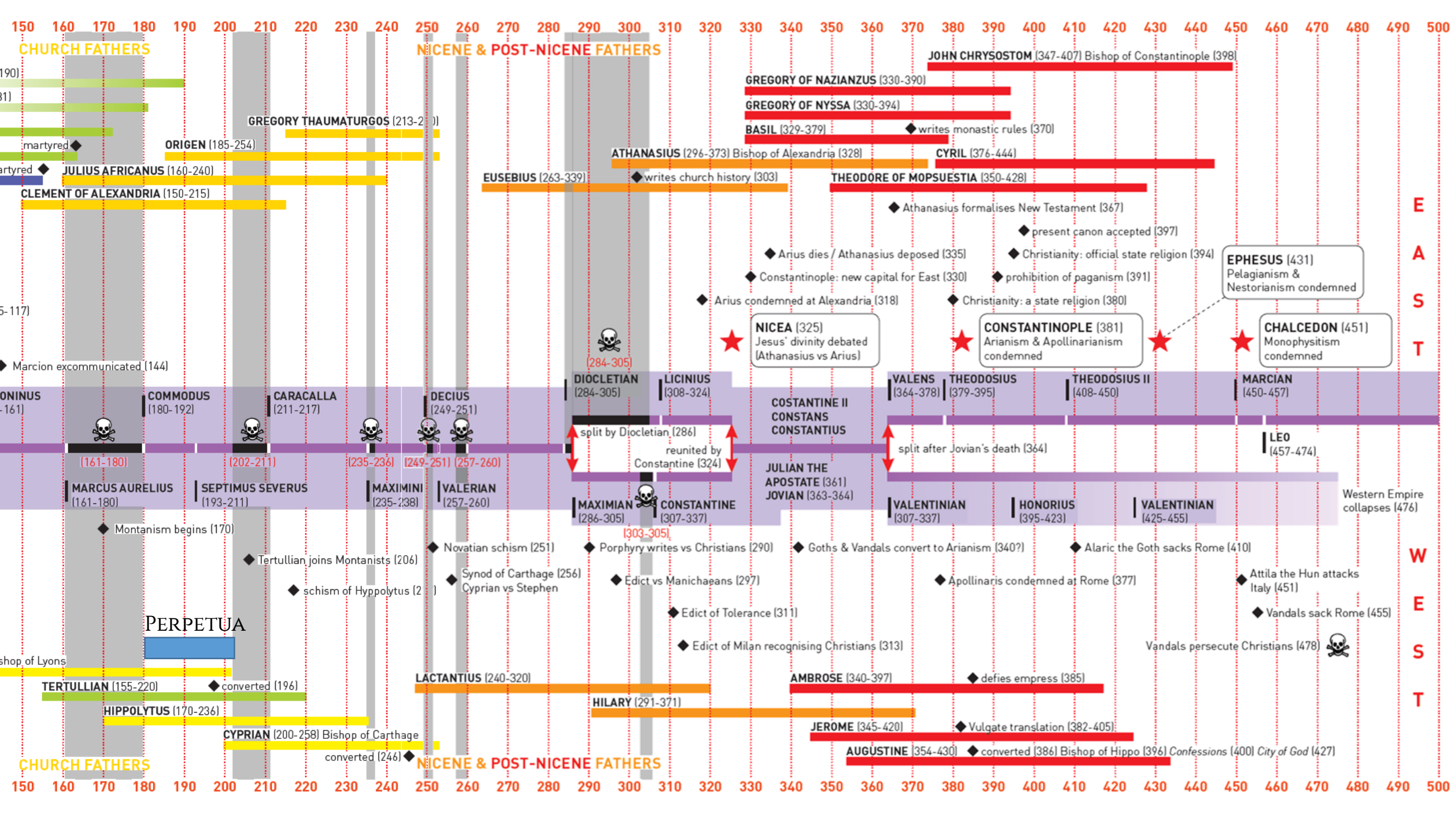


# EARLY CHURCH HISTORY 0 - AD 250

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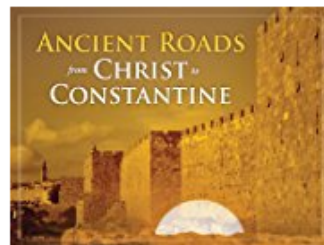
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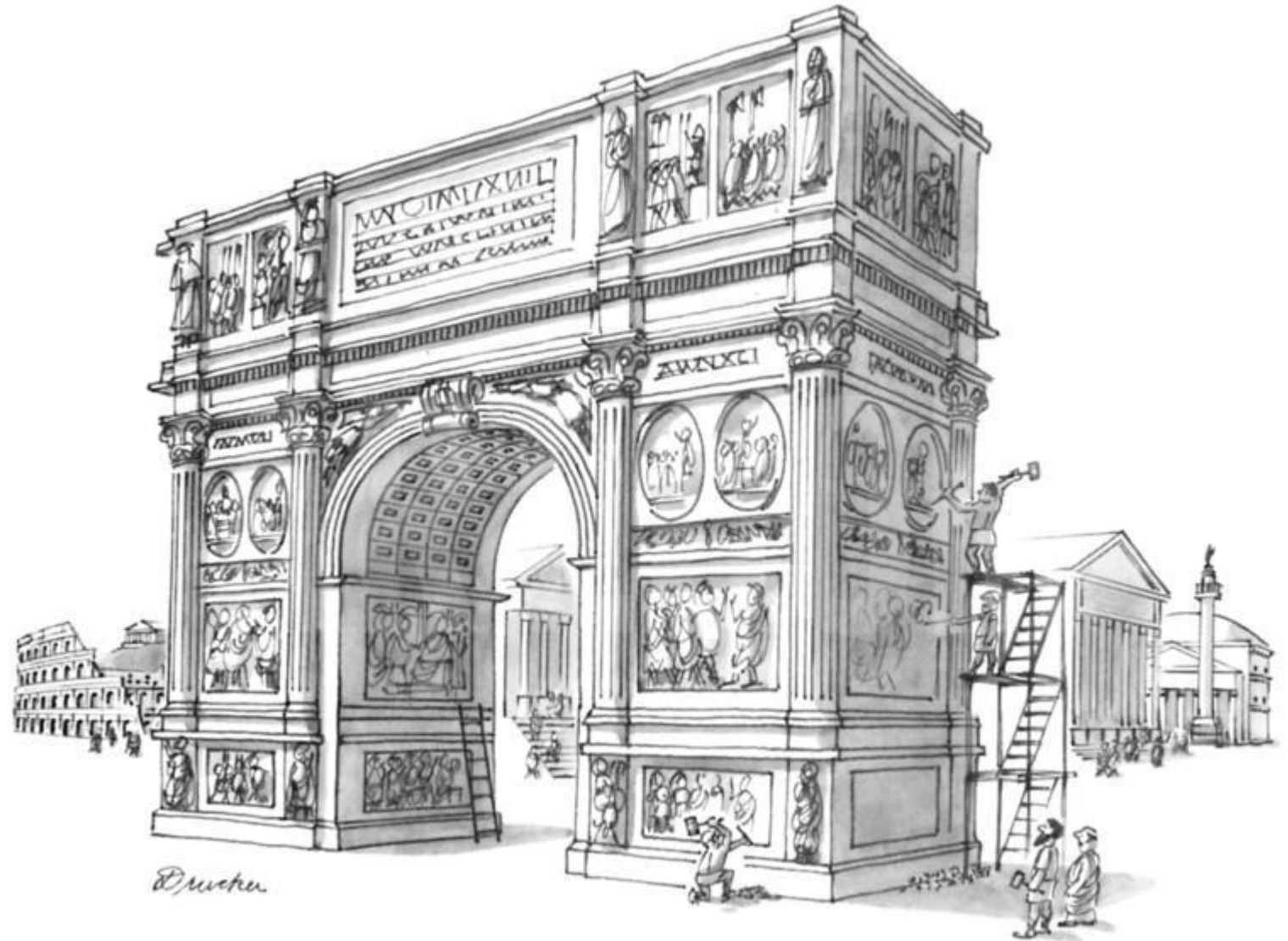
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# DISCUSSION



*"So far so good. Let's hope we win."*



CONTENT  
EARNESTLY  
FOR THE  
FAITH