

Tracing The Footsteps of Jesus Update from Europe Hunting Expedition (Gospel Art)

Report #2 – Paris, France

Sunday AM July 26, 2009



Jesus Cleansing The Temple by Jordaens

Dear Friends and Supporters of The Biblical World:

Before leaving California on this hunting expedition (for gospel art work) in Europe I had lunch with a dear friend George El Khoury (who translated our Paul series into Arabic for the Spirit Channel). When George heard I was returning to Paris, he insisted I use his apartment off Foch Ave near the Arch of Triumph. On my previous trip he had arranged for his driver to pick me up at the airport and bring me to my hotel. This time he gave great directions on using the Air France bus to the Lafayette Concord Hotel where it would be a short walk to the apartment.

Since our plane was delayed leaving London because of weather I arrived late in Paris and missed the bus. This began a great adventure on the midnight train from the airport to the city, where I took the Metro to Victor Hugo and walked to the apartment, arriving at 1 AM.

In the morning Daniel (Stefan Craciuneac's brother) picked me up for a quick visit to several churches where I collected wonderful photographs. After lunch Dan left me at the Cathedral of Notre Dame. On my previous visit the main section of the church was closed for mass, this time I was able to carefully photograph the incredible artwork throughout this magnificent church.

As I approached the exit, it was jammed with people. When I emerged through the door I discovered why—it was raining! I ran under the trees and eaves of the building all the way to the Louve. This allowed just 6 hours to go through the splendid painting section on the upper floor. I truly felt like I was on a hunting expedition looking only for artwork that could be used in the series. Again, the Lord blessed as I shot over 1,000 photographs.

On Sabbath I walked down the beautiful Champs Elysee toward the Louve. Often I had to walk on the curb and sometimes in the street because of the grandstands that had been placed in the wide pedestrian walkway and park. I wondered why they were there? When I left for the airport Sunday morning I discovered the grandstands were for the conclusion of the Tour de France that afternoon. I guess you could say I had genuine “tunnel vision” while hunting for art.

The Lord really blessed my short time in Paris as I collected artwork from the great masters in the Louve and churches that will illustrate the life of our wonderful Lord. I hope that you enjoy this small selection of paintings.

Jesus cleansing the temple at the top of this page was very difficult to photograph because of a window that let natural light appear on one corner of the painting. Because of its rich colors I returned many times to photograph it. With a little help from Photoshop the light is gone.

Another large and beautiful mural was the feast at the house of Simon by Subleyras. Notice the detail of the woman wiping Jesus feet with her tears. This will be very useful in episode 21.



The Feast at Simon the Pharisees Home by Subleyras



Whose Image Is It?

When asked a trick question about whether it was appropriate to pay taxes to the Roman occupiers or not, Jesus requested a coin and then asked them, “Whose image is on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Jesus said to them, “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.” This painting will help to illustrate this story in episode 14 “The Great Shema.”

This encounter was more than an IRS issue, for the Jews were chaffing under the Roman occupation. The Zealots, with their messianic leaders, were trying to spark a revolt against the Romans and later initiated the Jewish-Roman war that led to the destruction of the Jewish Temple. If they would have listened to Jesus wise counsel they would have avoided this catastrophe.



Christ and the Column



Touch Me Not

The two paintings will make illustrating the episodes on the passion and resurrection of our Lord more engaging and appealing.

Lord, thank you for allowing me to take photographs of this wonderful art. Use them to make this series appealing to people around the world, leading them to know you, is my prayer.