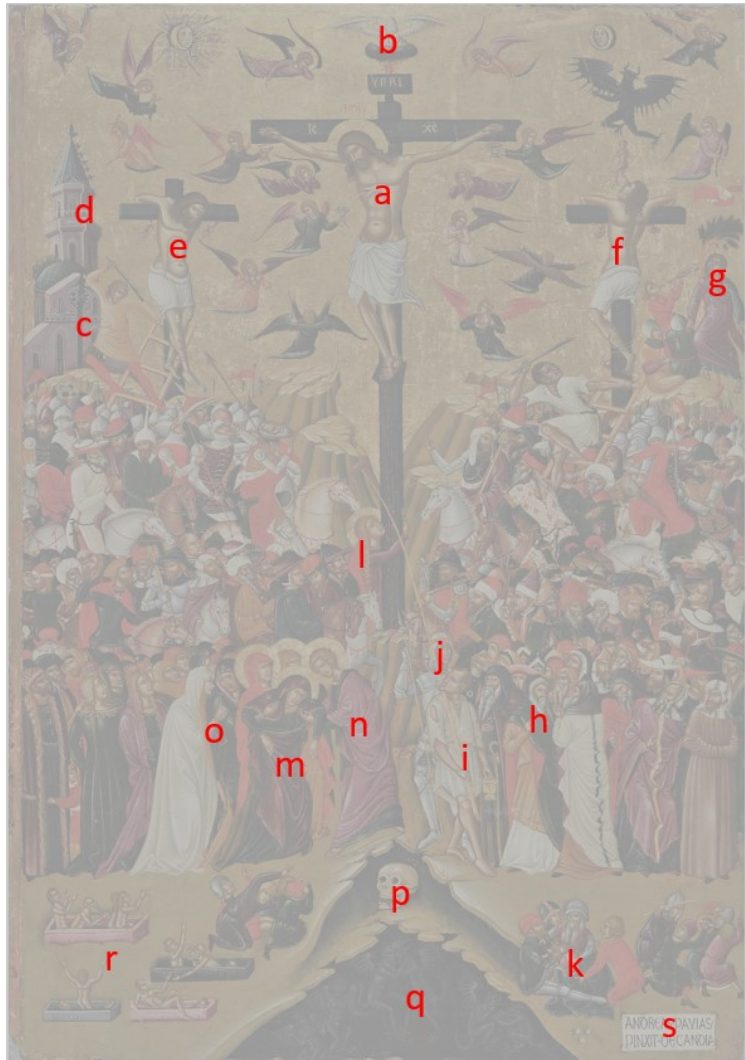


GUIDE

The Crucifixion by Pavius Andreas (ca 1440 - between 1504-1512)
second half of the 15th century
Egg tempera on panel, 83.5 x 59 εκ



The scene is dramatically narrated in many episodes, against a flat golden background. Reminding us that we are dealing with an idealistic rather than a realistic painting, in Byzantine art the golden background denotes the sky; the figures are divine, transcendental, existing outside of time and place, in the infinite space-time.

a. Jesus on the cross, surrounded by grieving angels, some catching his blood in chalices.

Text around Jesus:

- Latin *Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum* — “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”
- Below that — written in red letters — is the Greek inscription identifying the image. It is divided by the vertical beam of the cross: H CTAY PWCIC . Read as: *HE STAUROSIS* — “THE CRUCIFIXION”
- IC XC abbreviations for *Iesous Khristos* — “Jesus Christ.”

b. The Pelican is a Western Christian symbol that represents atonement and self-sacrifice, highlighting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In ancient time it was believed that if the mother pelican did not have enough food for her chicks, she would pierce her own breast with her beak, in order to feed the blood to her young, and thus give them life. Today, we know that pelicans regurgitate food for their chicks and this often has a red color.

c. the Temple of Solomon (which has split in two)

d. building evoking the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which

according to traditions dating back to the fourth century contains the two holiest sites in Christianity: the site where Jesus was crucified (Golgotha) and Jesus's empty tomb, where he was buried and resurrected.

e. the crucifixion of the Good Thief (whose soul is being carried to paradise by an angel)

f. the Bad Thief (with a Devil catching up his soul)

g. the Hanging of Judas.

h. Jewish leaders

i. fellow with his long pole, at the top of which is a sponge. He used it in giving Jesus vinegar to drink, as mentioned in Mk 15:36, Mt 27:48, and Jn 19:29

j. a soldier with a lance. A lance was used to pierce the side of Jesus.

k. soldiers playing dice

l. Mary Magdalene embracing the cross, as blood drips down

m. Mary, mother of Jesus, fainting

n. St John

o. the holy women grieving

p. Skull of Adam

q. Demons upset in Hades

r. The resurrection of the dead (Mt 27:52-53)

s. *Andreas Pavius*; — *Pinxit* means “painted it.” And *de Candia* — “of Candia”— tells us where he worked. Candia was both the name for the island of Crete when it was a colony of the Venetian Republic, and of the island’s capital city. Pavius was actually not Eastern Orthodox, but a Roman Catholic.



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