

The structure of Sistine Chapel



SIDE WALLS AND THE ENTRANCE WALL



- The wall frescoes representing the lives of Moses and Christ are closely related, and the Latin inscription above each fresco emphasizes this relationship.
- The choice of the episodes tends to stress the role of Christ and his “precursor”, Moses, as leaders of the people, legislators and priests.

South wall

- *the Journey of Moses*: in the background, Moses takes leave of his father-in-law before returning to Egypt. In the foreground, on the left, the prophet meets the angel sent to punish him for not having the circumcised his son; on the right, the Circumcision.
- *Events from the life of Moses*: right to left: Moses kills Egyptian who maltreated an Israelite; he escaped from Egypt; he takes off his shoes and prostrates himself before the burning bush; he leads the jews out of Egypt.



- *The Crossing of the Red Sea:* left, the jubilant people gather round Moses; right, the Egyptians are swept away by the sea. In the background, Moses and Aaron before Pharaon.



Moses receives the tablets of the Law: centre, he receives the tablets; below, the people worship the golden calf; foreground, Moses breaks the tablets. Left, in the background, Moses returns with the tablets of the law.





- *The Punishment of Korah, Datan and Abiron*: on the right, the Attempted stoning of Moses. In the background, centre, Constantine's Arch; on the right the Septizonium. Among the portraits: left, behind the bearded figure of Moses, Alessandro Farnese and Pomponio Leo.

The testament of Moses: on the left, in the foreground, Moses gives his staff to Joshua. In the background, right to left: the angel shows Moses the promised land; Moses descends from the Horeb mountain: the Death of Moses.





Stories of Moses



North wall

- *The Baptism of Christ*: this scene is in the centre. In the background, on the left, a sermon by the Redeemer and on the other side there is a sermon by John the Baptist.



- *The Temptations of Christ*: this appear in the background. In the foreground appear the Purification of the leper.
-

- *The Calling of the first apostles:* in the foreground, Peter and Andrew kneel before Christ. In the background, the Vocation.



The Sermon on the Mount: the sermon, in the centre. On the right: the Healing of the leper. On the left (in the foreground) there are Jaime and Fernando de Almeida.



- *The Handing over of the keys*: the principal scene of the picture. On the left the Payment of the tribute and on the right, the Attempted stoning of Christ. In the background, Costantine's Arch.

- *The Last Supper*: this is in the foreground. In the windows, the Prayer in the garden, Christ taken prisoner, the Crucifixion.



Entrance wall

- South side: *Disputation over the body of Moses*.



- North side: the *Resurrection*.