

WELCOME TO THE 2017 MASTERCLASS

MASTERCLASS IN EUROPEAN STUDIES

AMSTERDAM AUG 1-5, 2017

UNDERSTANDING EUROPE TODAY

A residential course on how the gospel shaped Europe and also midwifed the EU. How can we make sense of the rapid changes taking place today and how should we respond to the challenges of secularism, populism, Islam and new spirituality?

Course fee:

€300

+ €100 optional
housing fee



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ETF, LEUVEN



JEFF FOUNTAIN
SCHUMAN CENTRE



THE
SCHUMAN CENTRE
FOR
EUROPEAN STUDIES

LOCATION: DE POORT, KADIJKSPLEIN 18, 1018 AC AMSTERDAM

for further information, costs and registration:
www.schumancentre.eu/courses-events/masterclass

1630



THE PARADOX OF REMBRANDT

15-07-1606 (Leiden) – 04-10-1669 (Amsterdam)



REMBRANDT

.....
the successful artist

- considered one of the greatest painters ever
- considered the first painter to convey the spirit of an enlightened Protestant Christianity
- penetrating theological insights and human observations
- Kenneth Clark: 'he felt a responsibility to explore the moral and spiritual condition of man'.
- His preoccupation with the Bible set him apart from contemporary painters.





REMBRANDT

.....

the failure

- had three partners, married only to one, outlived two:
 - Saskia d 1642, 8 years of marriage, son Titus
 - Geertje Dircx
 - Hendrickje Stoffels, mother of Cornelia III
- outlived four of his five children
 - Rombartus }
 - Cornelia I } each died less than two months old.
 - Cornelia II }
 - Titus
- common-law wife banned from Communion for ‘practising whoredom with the painter Rembrandt’
- declared bankrupt, forced to sell house & goods
- fell out of favour with clients by failing to keep promises of delivery
- no affiliation with a particular church

REMBRANDT COMES TO AMSTERDAM

- 1631 (32?) Amsterdam is now one of the world's leading cities, population 60,000, 75% non-native born.
- 1632, first commission for group portrait, from the Surgeons' Guild of St Luke, based in the Weigh House (de Waag).
- *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp*; 'painting of the year' - the young artist's breakthrough.







ZIJ DIE BIJ HUN LEVEN ALS BOOSDOENERS SCHAADDEN, WORDEN VAN NUT NA HUN DOOD
THOSE WHOSE LIVES AS EVILDOERS CAUSE HARM BECOME USEFUL AFTER THEIR DEATH



Zij die bij hun leven als boosdoeners schadden worden van nut na hun dood





REMBRANDT

& the Bible

- preoccupied with the ideas of the fatherhood and compassion of God and the tenderness of Christ
- Kenneth Clark: Rembrandt tried, more than any artist who has ever lived, to express all that he sensed about God and man—suffering, endurance, love, redemption, even history.
- more than others preoccupied by the Bible, with deep insights into the workings of God
- produced over 160 biblical paintings, 80 etching & 600 drawings



1641



REMBRANDT

.....
& the Bible

- what did he himself believe?
- painted Calvinists, Mennonites, Catholics, Jews,...
- grew up in Calvinist/Catholic family background, trained by Catholic artists
- Kenneth Clark: paintings from 1640 illustrate Mennonite beliefs
- friends with Cornelis Claesz Anslo, Mennonite preacher and cloth merchant

REMBRANDT

& the Bible

- His paintings differed from traditional Christian art.
- Emphasised the drama and character
- Showed the relevance and timelessness of the stories
- Grace and redemption
- Divine and human
- Natural and supernatural



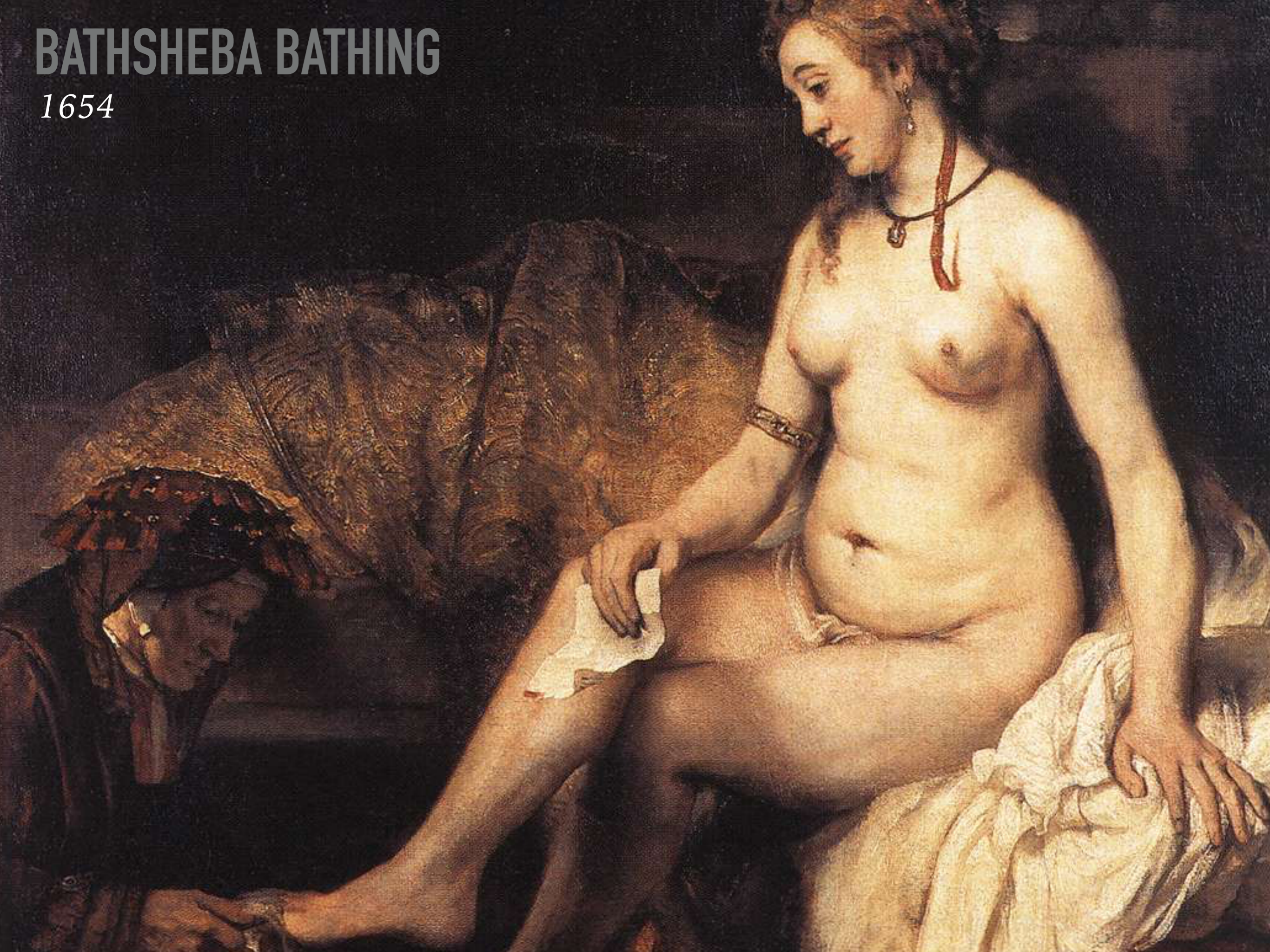
WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY

1644



BATHSHEBA BATHING

1654



RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL

1662

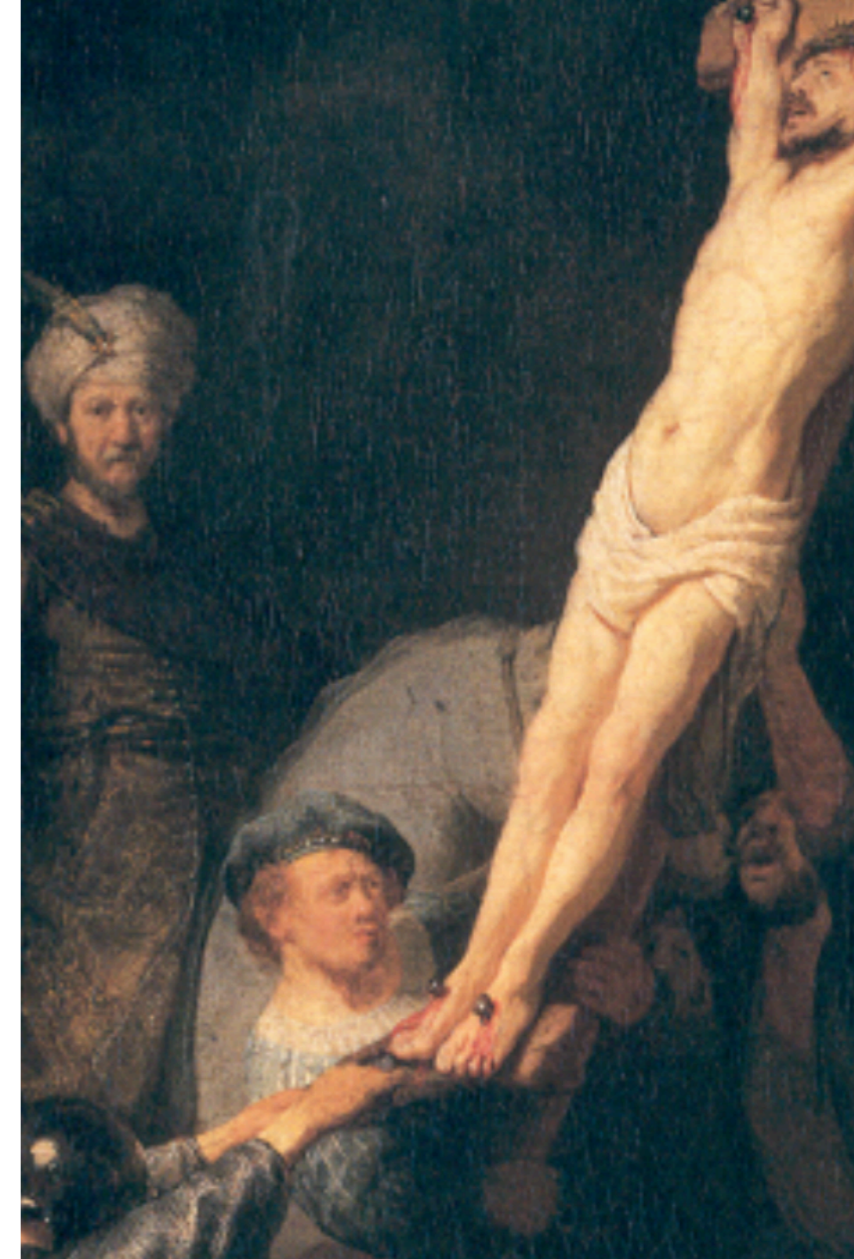






REMBRANDT

.....
the engaged observer



1625









BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

1635





THE PARADOX OF REMBRANDT

- often unsuccessful in relationships with family, church, authorities, clients, finances...
- yet preoccupied with biblical themes of grace, repentance, forgiveness, redemption
- and left an unparalleled witness which still speaks to us today

