

Lorenzo Ghiberti

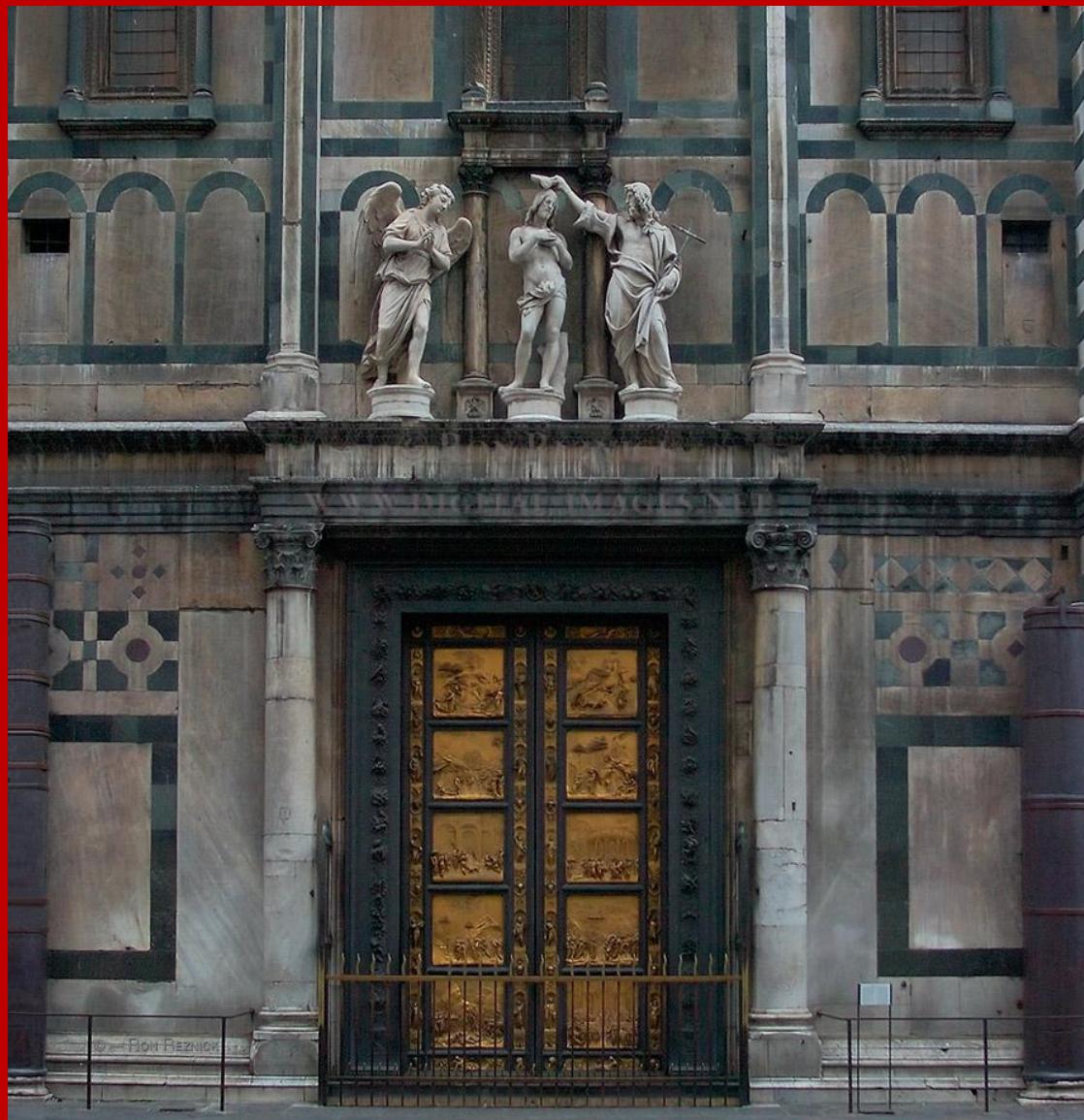
1378-1455

In the year 1401, the city of Florence, Italy held a competition to choose an artist to decorate the doors of the beautiful city church. The winner was a young sculptor named Lorenzo Ghiberti. He created a scene from the Bible, with figures that rose up out of the background. Ghiberti had been trained as a goldsmith and the shimmer of his gold-plated bronze delighted the judges. They liked Ghiberti's calm, elegant people with their softly flowing robes.



Baptistry Doors

Ghiberti worked all of his life on the great Baptistery doors at Florence. Many artists worked under him, carving the scenes, casting the metal panels, and covering them with pure gold. It took 20 years to finish the first set of doors – then the city hired Ghiberti to make even more. Michelangelo later said of Ghiberti's baptistery doors, "They are worthy to stand at the Gates of Paradise."



East Side Doors (Gates of Paradise)

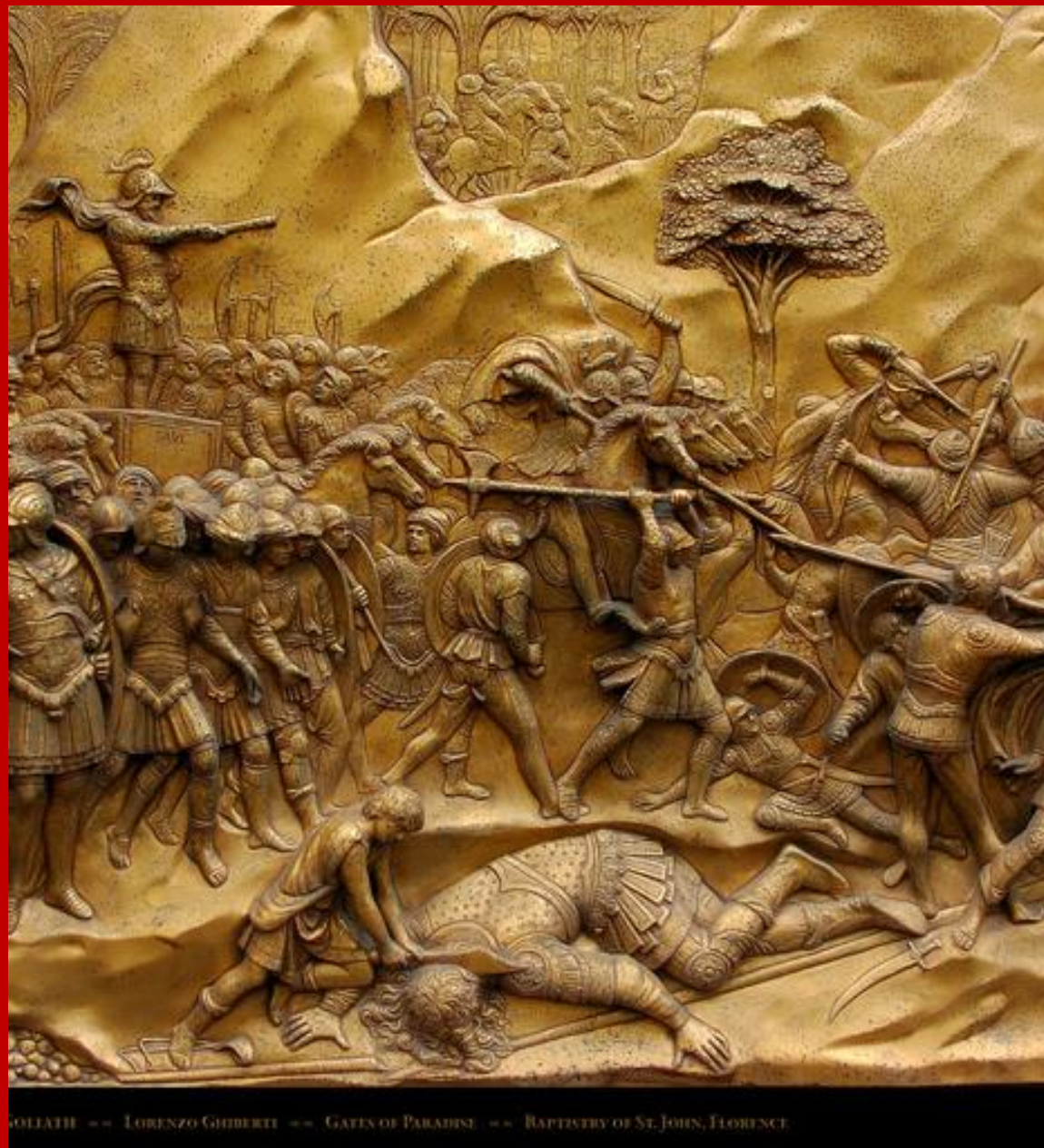


Adam and Eve



MOSES RECEIVING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS «» LORENZO Ghiberti

Moses Receiving the Ten Commandments



David Beheading Goliath



LORENZO Ghiberti
— CREATOR OF THE —
GATES OF PARADISE

Ghiberti included his own image on the doors