

Last Judgment

The Resurrection of the Dead

The middle level of the fresco is characterized on the left-hand side by the upward movement of the bodies, representing the Resurrection of the Dead: the skeletons disinterred by the sound of the trumpets resume their bodily semblance and rise slowly heavenward under the impetus of an absolute faith that draws them to God. Two of the resurrected, interpreted by some scholars as colored men and a reference to the church's missionary work, are raised by a blessed soul who holds out a rosary to them, in open contradiction of Lutheranism's rejection of worship of the Virgin Mary and condemnation of indulgences. In the overall composition and the individual attitudes of the resurrected, Michelangelo drew on his cartoon for the *Battle of Cascina*, Signorelli's frescoes in Orvieto Cathedral, and other fifteenth-century sources including Bosch.