



Oil on Canvas
70" X 66"
Charles H. Reinike III

Arch of Titus – Triumph of Emunah

(A Painting from the First Arches Exhibition)

As in all of the paintings in the Arch Series, the central theme is the triumphal arch and the idea that movement through the arch brings emotional, spiritual and intellectual growth.

The Arch of Titus is a well-known landmark in the city of Rome. It honors the conquest of Jerusalem by the Romans, principally Vespasian and his son Titus, and it depicts the removal of the sacred objects from the Second Temple through a triumphal arch before it was destroyed.

Today we would regard this as a travesty. It is also ironic that the civilization responsible for this has crumbled into ruins while the faith of the very people Rome tried to crush has survived to this day. It is as if the stone-like figures from the relief carvings have come down to take the menorah back to their roots. The mountain range in the distance is a view of Har Karkom, a mountain in the Negev desert that some archaeologists believe may be the Mount Sinai of the Old Testament – the mountain where God handed Moses the Ten Commandments and sealed his Covenant with his people.

Some of the Symbols found in this painting:

Aleph and Tav – The first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet, symbolism from Old Testament that Yahweh is the beginning and end of all things.

Arch – Roman symbol of the sky and heavens, symbol of passage, movement from one level of awareness to another.

Line of figures – Time line of humanity, reminder that we do not live in a vacuum but are connected to the past and future genetically and intellectually. In this line, the figures of Roman senators and patricians are crumbling and fading away.

Path – A course of action, definite direction which prevents wandering in the desert of indecisiveness.

Mountain Range – Present day Har Karkom, symbol of Mt. Sinai