

The Old Testament in Medieval Manuscript Illumination

June 1 to August 8, 2010

The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center

The exploits of heroes and heroines from the Old Testament were among the most popular subjects illustrated in manuscripts of the Middle Ages. Familiar stories such as those of Adam and Eve or David and Goliath appeared not only in Bibles but also in prayer books, chronicles, and encyclopedias. The Old Testament was thus remarkably versatile, providing entertaining tales, models of piety and courage, and pictorial themes for devotional texts. This exhibition highlights the diverse role of the Old Testament in book illumination, exploring how artists refashioned the biblical past to speak to the interests of the medieval present.

-Richard Leson

Department of Manuscripts



1. Unknown

Scenes from the Life of David, about 1250

Leaf from the Morgan Picture Bible

Tempera colors and gold leaf on parchment

Leaf (trimmed on all sides): 32.5 x 29 cm (12 13/16 x 11 7/16 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig I 6, recto (83.MA.55.recto)



2. Unknown

Scenes from the Life of Noah, about 1250 - 1260

from Wenceslaus Psalter

Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 19.2 x 13.3 cm (7 9/16 x 5 1/4 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig VIII 4, fol. 9v (83.MK.95.9v)



3. Unknown

Scenes from the Lives of Noah, Abraham, and Isaac,

about 1250 - 1260

from Wenceslaus Psalter

Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 19.2 x 13.3 cm (7 9/16 x 5 1/4 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig VIII 4, fol. 10 (83.MK.95.10)



4. Unknown

Initial B: David Playing the Harp for Saul; David and

Goliath, mid-1200s

from Psalter

Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 23.5 x 16.5 cm (9 1/4 x 6 1/2 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. 14, fol. 16v (85.MK.239.16v)



5. Unknown

Initial I: [Scenes of the Creation of the World and the Crucifixion](#), about 1270

Tempera colors, black ink, and gold leaf on parchment

Leaf: 47 x 30.8 cm (Leaf: 18 1/2 x 12 1/8 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig I 8, v1, fol. 10v (83.MA.57.1.10v)



6. Unknown

[Samson Fighting a Lion](#), about 1270

Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 19.1 x 14.3 cm (7 1/2 x 5 5/8 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig XV 3, fol. 67 (83.MR.173.67)



7. Unknown

Initial I: [Esther before King Ahasuerus and the Offended Queen Vashti](#), about 1280 - 1290

from [Bible](#)

Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 37.5 x 24.8 cm (14 3/4 x 9 3/4 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig I 11, fol. 222v (83.MA.60.222v)



8. Unknown

Initial P: [Alexander the Great Carried Aloft by Griffins](#), about 1300

from [Scholastic History](#)

Tempera colors and gold leaf on parchment

Leaf: 34.3 x 24.3 cm (13 1/2 x 9 9/16 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. Ludwig XIII 1, fol. 222v (83.MP.144.222v)



9. Unknown

[The Angel Slaying the Assyrians and the Death of Sennacherib](#), about 1300

Tempera colors and gold on parchment

Leaf: 7.3 x 17.5 cm (2 7/8 x 6 7/8 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. 35, leaf 1 (88.MS.125.1.recto)



10. Unknown

[The Vision of Zechariah](#), about 1300

Tempera colors and gold on parchment

Leaf: 7.3 x 17.5 cm (2 7/8 x 6 7/8 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Ms. 35, leaf 2 (88.MS.125.2.recto)



11. Master of Jean de Mandeville
French, active 1350 - 1370
Moses Receiving the Tablets of the Law, about 1360 - 1370
from [Historical Bible](#)
Tempera colors, gold, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 34.9 x 26 cm (13 3/4 x 10 1/4 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 1, v1, fol. 64 (84.MA.40.1.64)



12. Master of Jean de Mandeville
French, active 1350 - 1370
[Scenes from the Life of Solomon](#), about 1360 - 1370
Tempera on parchment
Leaf: 34.9 x 26 cm (13 3/4 x 10 1/4 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 1, v2, fol. 1 (84.MA.40.2.1)



13. First Master of the Bible Historiale of Jean de Berry
French, active about 1390 - about 1400
[The Building of the Tower of Babel](#), about 1390 - 1400
Tempera colors, colored washes, gold leaf, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 37.8 x 29.8 cm (14 7/8 x 11 3/4 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig XIII 3, leaf 2v (83.MP.146.2.verso)



14. Unknown
The Crossing of the Red Sea; The Egyptians Engulfed, about 1400 - 1410 with addition in 1487
from [World Chronicle](#)
Tempera colors, gold, silver paint, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 33.5 x 23.5 cm (13 3/16 x 9 1/4 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 33, fol. 77v (88.MP.70.77v)



15. Circle of the Master of the Golden Bull
Bohemian, active about 1400 - 1405
[Initial D: Melchizedek Feeding the Armies of Abraham](#), about 1405
Leaf from an antiphonal
Tempera colors, gold leaf, and gold paint on parchment
Leaf: 56.2 x 40 cm (22 1/8 x 15 3/4 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 97, leaf 2v (2005.33.2.verso)



16. Master of the Murano Gradual
Italian, active about 1430 - 1460
[Saint Jerome Extracting a Thorn from a Lion's Paw](#), second quarter of 15th century
Cutting from a gradual
Tempera and gold leaf on parchment
Leaf: 21 x 16.5 cm (8 1/4 x 6 1/2 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 106, recto (2010.21.recto)



17. Master of Guillebert de Mets
Flemish, active about 1410 - 1450
[The Last Judgment](#), about 1450 - 1455
from [Book of Hours](#)
Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 19.4 x 14 cm (7 5/8 x 5 1/2 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 2, fol. 127v (84.ML.67.127v)



18. Master of Guillebert de Mets
Flemish, active about 1410 - 1450
[David in Prayer](#), about 1450 - 1455
from [Book of Hours](#)
Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 19.4 x 14 cm (7 5/8 x 5 1/2 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 2, fol. 128 (84.ML.67.128)



19. Unknown
Judith Beheading Holofernes, 1469
from [Barlaam and Josaphat](#)
Ink, colored washes, and tempera colors on paper
Leaf: 28.6 x 20.3 cm (11 1/4 x 8 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig XV 9, fol. 61v (83.MR.179.61v)



20. Unknown
Moses before Pharaoh and Tharmutis, about 1475
from [Mirror of History](#)
Tempera colors, gold leaf, and gold paint on parchment
Leaf: 43.8 x 30.5 cm (17 1/4 x 12 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig XIII 5, v1, fol. 87 (83.MP.148.1.87)



21. Jean Bourdichon
French, 1457 - 1521, active Tours, France, Early 1480s - 1521
[Job on the Dung Heap](#), about 1480 - 1485
from [Katherine Hours](#)
Tempera colors, gold, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 16.4 x 11.6 cm (6 7/16 x 4 9/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 6, fol. 96 (84.ML.746.96)



22. Unknown
Canon Table Page, about 1480 - 1520
from Gospel Book
Tempera on parchment
Leaf: 34.5 x 25.6 cm (13 9/16 x 10 1/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 105, fol. 5v (2010.17.5v)



23. Unknown
The Prophets with Abraham Embracing Isaac and Jacob,
about 1480 - 1520
from Gospel Book
Tempera on parchment
Leaf: 34.5 x 25.6 cm (13 9/16 x 10 1/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. 105, fol. 6 (2010.17.6)



24. Master of James IV of Scotland
Flemish, before 1465 - about 1541
[The Crucifixion](#), about 1510 - 1520
from [Spinola Hours](#)
Tempera colors, gold, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 23.2 x 16.7 cm (9 1/8 x 6 9/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig IX 18, fol. 56v (83.ML.114.56v)



25. Master of James IV of Scotland
Flemish, before 1465 - about 1541
[Moses and the Brazen Serpent](#), about 1510 - 1520
from [Spinola Hours](#)
Tempera colors, gold, and ink on parchment
Leaf: 23.2 x 16.7 cm (9 1/8 x 6 9/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig IX 18, fol. 57 (83.ML.114.57)



26. Simon Bening
Flemish, about 1483 - 1561
[The Entombment of Christ](#), about 1525 - 1530
from [Prayer Book of Cardinal Albrecht of Brandenburg](#)
Tempera colors, gold paint, and gold leaf on parchment
Leaf: 16.8 x 11.4 cm (6 5/8 x 4 1/2 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig IX 19, fol. 328v (83.ML.115.328v)



27. Simon Bening
Flemish, about 1483 - 1561
[Border with Jonah and the Whale](#), about 1525 - 1530
from [Prayer Book of Cardinal Albrecht of Brandenburg](#)
Tempera colors, gold paint, and gold leaf on parchment
Leaf: 16.8 x 11.4 cm (6 5/8 x 4 1/2 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Ms. Ludwig IX 19, fol. 329 (83.ML.115.329)

