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)

Additional information about some of these works of art can be found by searching getty.edu at http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/

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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 Thermutis, 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)

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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)