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Dunham Bible Museum

Junior

Mentor: Professor Doni Wilson

“Creation: Genesis” from the Saint John’s Bible

Word Count: 1172

Medieval and Modern: Illuminating Creation in the Saint John’s Bible





display here; the first day of creation is dark and chaotic, with tongues of fire that hearken back to God's first commandment, "let there be light." The bottom left features the Hebrew words, "formless and void," representing the world before the commandment. The first day displays light and darkness being held in contention, separated both by God and by their place in the creation story. The second day similarly juxtaposes sky and sea as a microcosm for the worldly division. Both sea and sky are notably chaotic, with choppy swirling patterns underneath a pale dotted sky. The third day uses satellite images of the Ganges Delta, a prominent river in the Bengal region of South Asia

interspersed throughout the days, representing God's majesty and influence throughout the creation process.

“Creation” exemplifies the mission of, and passion behind, the whole of the Saint John's Bible. Donald Jackson and the team at Saint John's Abbey gave themselves a challenging task that was only possible through the guidance and grace of God. Jackson himself considers the process “the closest I have ever been to God,” and the Bible is currently featured at schools, churches, libraries, and museums around the country (“The Saint John's Bible”). “Creation” encapsulates the Bible's mission to marry modern and medieval, to embody monastic tradition, and to make the Word of God accessible to a new generation of followers of Christ. It is truly exciting to consider that this is only the beginning of the Saint John's Bible.

## Works Cited

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Trafton, Jennifer. "The Bible in Brush & Stroke: Medieval and Modern Join Forces in Saint John's Bible." *Christianity Today*, vol. 51, no. 9, Sept. 2007, p. 58. EBSCOhost, <https://search-ebscohost-com.libproxy.hbu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0001606590&site=eds-live&scope=site>