

 THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

Heritage Edition



“One of the extraordinary undertakings of our times.”

— SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE



The Saint John's Bible was commissioned by Saint John's Abbey and University and was created by Donald Jackson, Senior Scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office, along with a collaborative team of scribes and artists.

This is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible of monumental size to be commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in more than 500 years. All 73 books from the Old and New Testaments using the New Revised Standard Version are presented in seven volumes of approximately 1,150 pages.

The work of *The Saint John's Bible* was done in a scriptorium in Wales. Now complete, Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, is the Bible's home.

The Saint John's Bible was made using traditional materials such as vellum (calfskin), ancient inks, gold and silver leaf and platinum, and was written with quill pens fashioned from goose, turkey and swan feathers.

 THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

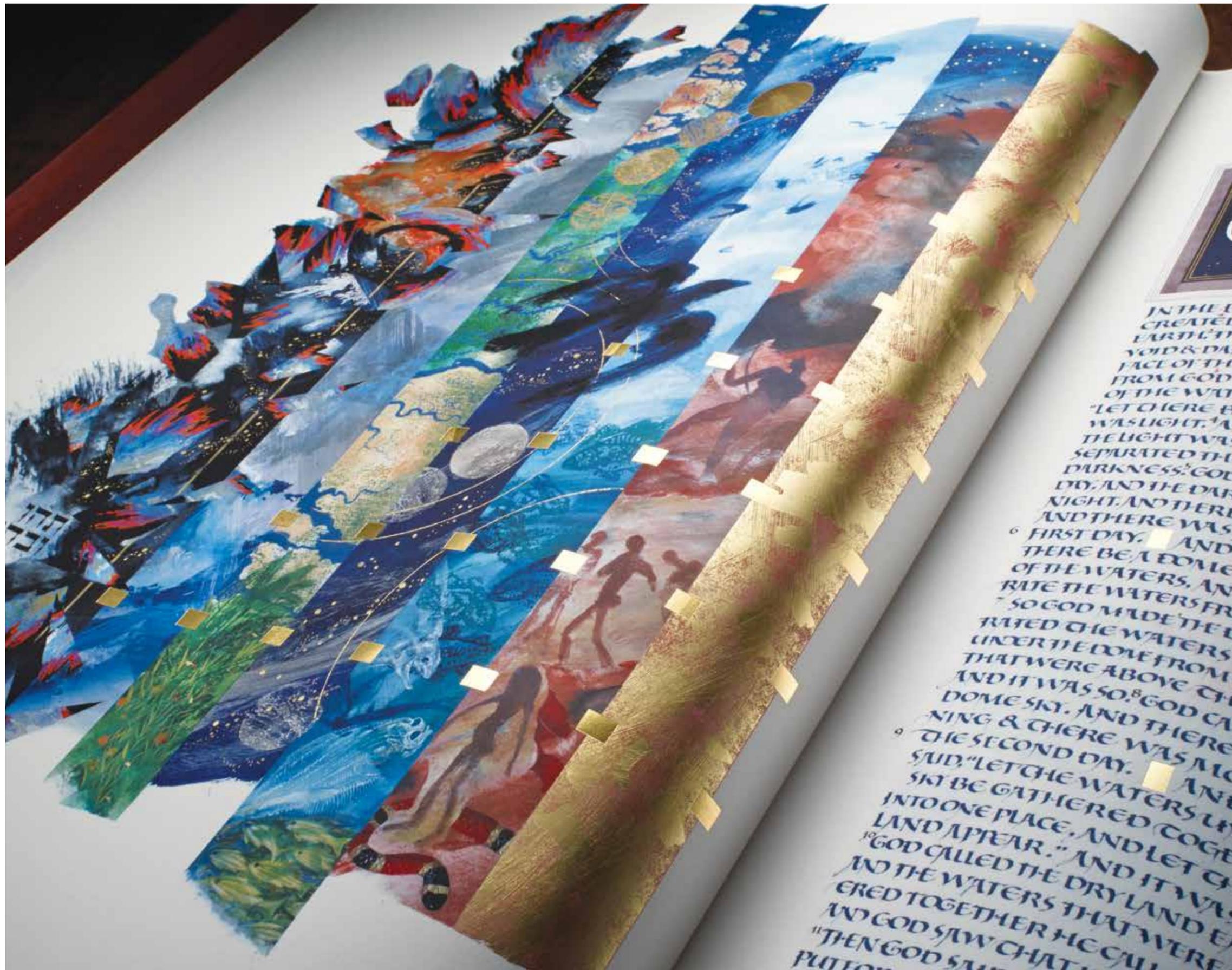


The Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition is a timeless gift of sacred art. Its breathtaking beauty offers hope today and will inspire future generations for centuries to come. While the original manuscript resides at Saint John's University, this fine art version has been created to ignite the spiritual imagination of people around the world.

The Heritage Edition is the only full-size, limited, signed and numbered fine art edition that will ever be produced. In all, 299 fine art editions have been created for families and religious, academic, and healthcare institutions around the world.

Bound in Italian leather and printed on 100 percent cotton paper, the Heritage Edition features the exquisite calligraphy, vibrant imagery and stunning gold and silver illuminations inspired by the original.

According to Donald Jackson, the creative director of the Heritage Edition, these volumes at some point "stopped being an imitation of the original and became a work of art in its own right." With many of the illuminated surfaces finished by hand, no two sets are identical.



VOLUME 1

Pentateuch

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Creation, Adam and Eve, the Ten Commandments, Abraham and Sarah, Exodus... some of the greatest moments of the Bible find expression in the first five books, the Pentateuch, also known as the Torah. The leather cover features the image of a menorah, a recurring image of light, covenant and relationship.

VOLUME 2

Historical Books

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Joshua | Ezra |
| Judges | Nehemiah |
| Ruth | Tobit |
| Samuel | Judith |
| 2 Samuel | Esther |
| 1 Kings | 1 Maccabees |
| 2 Kings | 2 Maccabees |
| 1 Chronicles | |
| 2 Chronicles | |

In purples, greens and gold, the illuminations in Historical Books explore the relationship of God's people to God's promise. Marginal text treatments trace the Israelites' rise and fall as they move through the era of judges and kings, with prophets guiding the way. The cover motif, from the Ark of the Covenant illumination, was inspired by the pilgrims' cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.



VOLUME 4
Psalms

- Book I
- Book II
- Book III
- Book IV
- Book V

Psalms is the prayer book of the church. Benedictines chant and pray the psalms several times a day. This volume is graced with digital prints of the monks at Saint John's Abbey chanting their daily prayer, as well as representations of other chant traditions throughout the world.





VOLUME 5
Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations — Baruch
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel — Amos
- Obadiah — Haggai
- Zechariah — Malachi

The visions of the prophets during the time of the Babylonian Exile provided inspiration for Jackson and his team. Modern and period images collide in vibrant illuminations full of promise, sorrow and, ultimately, joy. This book's full power is revealed by placing it alongside Historical Books and Revelation.

VOLUME 6

Gospels & Acts

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts of the Apostles

The first volume completed for *The Saint John's Bible* project, the pages of Gospels & Acts abound with significant illuminations and text treatments. The life of Christ and the journey of the early church are explored in theologically rich and startling new ways that inspire ongoing reflection.



VOLUME 7
Letters & Revelation

Romans	Titus
1 Corinthians	Philemon
2 Corinthians	Hebrews
Galatians	James
Ephesians	1 Peter
Philippians	2 Peter
Colossians	1 John
1 Thessalonians	2 John
2 Thessalonians	3 John
1 Timothy	Jude
2 Timothy	Revelation

In Letters, a series of text treatments highlight the foundational teachings of the Christian tradition. Then, in the final great letter to the churches, the Revelation to John at Patmos, Donald Jackson wrote the entire text and created each page's rich illumination, bringing the Heritage Edition to its culmination.





Heritage Edition Offering

The Heritage Edition is limited to just 299 seven-volume sets and includes the following:

- Seven full-scale illuminated volumes, each initialed and authenticated by Donald Jackson, and each protected by an archive-quality case.
- Handmade tabletop cradle for displaying one volume.
- Portfolio carrying case to make transporting volumes safe and easier.
- Guest lecturer to present *The Saint John's Bible* to your community.
- Workshops at Saint John's University and onsite to educate and inspire your community on all that is possible with the arrival of *The Saint John's Bible*.
- Permission to use digital images of the 160 major illuminations in *The Saint John's Bible*.
- Suite of Saint John's Bible-related books including *Illuminating the Word: The Making of The Saint John's*, *The Art of The Saint John's Bible*, and *Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of The Saint John's Bible*.



The Saint John's Bible Community

Under Donald Jackson's direction, the Heritage Edition was created "to ignite the spiritual imagination." To that end, pages are turned and explored every day in homes, churches, schools, libraries, hospitals and at special events around the world.

Many of the most creative and inspiring ways to use *The Saint John's Bible* have come from our Heritage Edition community around the world. Saint John's continuously shares these best practices through workshops, its biweekly blog, *The Scribe*, and a secure community website which encourages collaboration.

With the acquisition of the Heritage Edition, you become part of this community and your experience with *The Saint John's Bible* will grow richer over time.

Reflections

ON THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE EXPERIENCE



“The richly intense illuminations capture the imagination in perhaps a way that no other version of the Bible has accomplished.”

— SISTER CAROL KEEHAN, DC
FORMER PRESIDENT & CEO,
CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE
ASSOCIATION

“This is a work of art ...
a beautiful work of art ...
a work for eternity.”

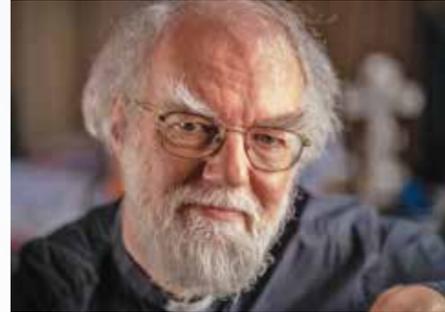
— HIS HOLINESS POPE
EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

“And because [the Heritage Edition] is not a cold reproduction but a carefully devised and crafted interpretation of the original, it has an integrity of its own.”

— CHRISTOPHER CALDERHEAD
AUTHOR OF *ILLUMINATING
THE WORD, THE MAKING OF
THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE*

“*The Saint John's Bible* brings the age-old tradition of illuminated Bibles into our own time. It allows the profusion of Spirit-filled images proposed by the biblical authors to come alive visually, infusing the imagination of the viewer with the spirit and power of the Word of God helping to shine its light out from the biblical text and onto our contemporary world, onto all of our joys and hopes, sorrows and griefs.”

— JOHN C. CAVADINI
MCGRATH-CAVADINI DIRECTOR
MCGRATH INSTITUTE FOR
CHURCH LIFE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME



“We tend to read greedily and hastily, as we do so many other things; this beautiful text shows us a better way. This project not only revives the ancient tradition of the church sponsoring creative arts, it also offers an insight into that lost skill of patient and prayerful reading.”

— THE MOST REVEREND ROWAN WILLIAMS
FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

“This beautiful resource adds to our canon of book history titles already in our rare collections. It helps connect everything with historical book creation techniques and modern artwork and processing. *The Saint John's Bible* answers the call to provide a transformational and unique experience for our students.”

— BETH FARWELL, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY



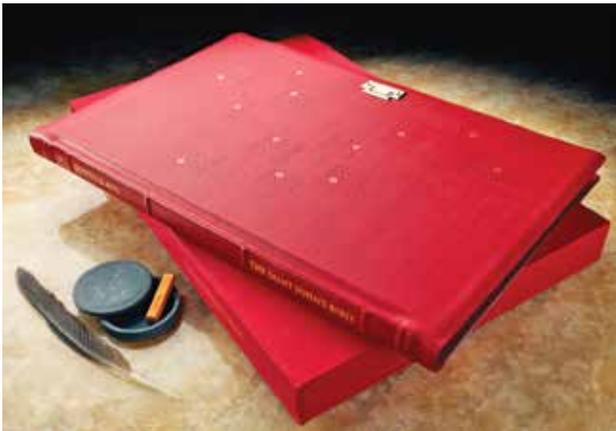
“When we placed [the Heritage Edition] side-by-side on a table in Cambridge with the great *Bible of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey* [c. 1135] and the even vaster *Bible of Dover Priory* [c. 1160], it hardly seemed to be a facsimile at all but a living manuscript, as heavy and as lovely to touch and feel as its medieval ancestors.”

— DR. CHRISTOPHER DE HAMEL, FSA
FELLOW OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

“America’s Book of Kells.”

— NEWSWEEK

 THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE



Heritage Program
Saint John's University
P.O. Box 7222
Collegeville, MN 56321

(320) 363-3209
sjbheritage@csbsju.edu
heritage.saintjohnsbible.org
www.saintjohnsbible.org