St. John from the Franco-Saxon Gospels 850 AD.

With Rome in deterioration and the Byzantine Empire slowly growing in the East, western Europe struggled for almost a millennium. The period from approximately 500 to 1400 is known as the Middle Ages, Dark Ages or the Medieval era. For the average citizen daily life in the Middle Ages was filled with physical and intellectual poverty, as well as a fear of war, famine and disease.

Use of Line, Value, Proportion & Detail: /12
Monastery of San Juan de la Pena, Jaco Spain 922 c.

During the Middle Ages religion was often in a state of unrest and change as well. As a result of the ongoing waves of invasions from different groups trying to gain power, the Christian religion was preserved primarily in monasteries where monks continued to practice the teachings of Jesus Christ.

They consisted of a series of buildings such as a church and living residence where the monks could live and pray and they were often well-protected structures throughout Europe. Christianity was preserved by the monks as they faithfully reproduced the Bible as Illuminated Manuscripts.

Use of Line, Value, Proportion & Detail: