THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

- Roman empire decline- authority replaced by Barbarians
  - hunters, fishermen, shepherds and farmers living in villages with social organization based on extended families and tribal loyalties
- system of Feudalism arouse: personal service and labor for protection
- Church emerged as the principal patron of the arts to fulfill growing needs for building and liturgical equipment (altars, altar vessels, crosses, candlesticks, reliquaries, vestments, images of Christian figures and stories, and copies of sacred texts such as the Gospels.

- The Art of People Associated with the Roman Empire
  - The Visigoths
    - adopted Latin for writing
    - superior metalworkers
    - *Eagle Broach*
  - The Lombards
    - *Cross*

- The Art of People Outside the Roman Sphere of Influence
  - The Norse
    - fondness for abstract patterning form early prehistoric times
    - first millennium BCE: trade, warfare, and migration had brought a variety of jewelry, coins, textiles, and other portable objects into northern Europe
    - solar disks and stylized animals
    - animal style: impressive array of serpents, four-legged beasts, and squat human figures
    - *Gummersmark Brooch*
  - The Celts and Anglo-Saxons
    - fusion of Celtic, Romanized British, Germanic and Norse cultures generated a new culture and style of art
    - *Beowulf*
    - *Sutton Hoo*
    - *Purse Cover from the Sutton Hoo Burial Ship*
  - The Coming of Christianity to the British Isles
    - Celtic Christian developed their own liturgical practices, church calendar, and distinctive artistic traditions
  - *Illustrated Books*
    - Gospel books essential for missionary activities
    - “good news” to glorify the World of God
    - bound in gold and jeweled covers
    - protect parishioners from enemies, predator, diseases and misfortune
    - created in Scriptoria
    - *Gospel Book of Durrow*
    - *Book of the Kells*
  - *Irish High Crosses*
    - monumental stone crosses
- circles enclose the arms of the cross/halo or glory
- South Cross of Ahenny

**THE MUSLIM CHALLENGE IN SPAIN**
- Mozarabic Art
  - Christians and Jews were left free to follow their own religious practices under Moorish rule
  - Christians in the Muslim territories were called Mozarabs
  - rich exchange of artistic influences
  - unique, colorful new style known as Mozarabic
  - *Beatus Manuscripts*
  - *Battle of the Bird and The Serpent*

**THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE**
- Charlemagne established the Carolingian Dynasty, northern Gaul (present day France and Germany)
- sought to restore the Western Empire
- revival of arts and learning
- emphasized education
- Benedictine monks= cultural army
- Carolingian Architecture
  - functional plans inspired by Roman and Early Christian architecture
  - *The Palace Chapel at Aachen*
  - *The Church of Saint Riquier*
  - *The Saint Gall Plan*
- The Scriptorium and Illustrated Books
  - promote learning, propagate Christianity, and standardize Church law and practice
  - authoritative copies, free of errors of earlier copies
  - edited versions of ancient and biblical texts
  - Alcuin of York: spent 8 years of his life producing a corrected copy of the Latin Vulgate Bible
  - standard text of the Bible for the remainder of the medieval period
  - shocking decline in penmanship
  - uniform letters
  - development of capitals (majuscules) used for very formal writing, titles and headings
  - minuscules (lower case letters) used for rapid writing and ordinary texts
  - did not use punctuation marks or spaces between words
  - human figure: returned to a central position
  - evangelist usually seen seated at a desk writing
  - *The Godescalc Gospel Lectionary*
  - *The Gospels of Charlemagne, known as the Coronation Gospels*
  - *The Gospels of Archbishop Ebbo of Reims*
  - *The Utrecht Psalter*
- Carolingian Goldsmith Work
  - enormous investment in time, talent, and materials
  - valuable materials- ivory, enamelwork, precious metals, and jewels
  - frequently reused or stolen
  - *Lindau Gospels*

**THE VIKING ERA**
- explored, plundered, traded with, and colonized a vast area during the 9th and 10th centuries
- targets were often wealthy isolated monasteries
- Norwegian and Danish Vikings: Iceland and Greenland
- The Oseberg Ship
- Picture Stones at Jelling
  - mostly with inscriptions called rune stones
    - early twiglike letters of an early Germanic alphabet
  - figural decoration called picture stones
  - Royal Rune Stones
  - The Urnes Church Portal
- Timber Architecture
  - stacked horizontal logs// log cabin design
  - wood on end to form a palisade or vertical plank wall
  - modes building consisted of wooden frames filled with wattle-and-daub
  - turf or thatched roof
  - The Borgund Stave Church
- The Ottonian Empire
  - present day Germany and Austria
  - The Magdeburg Ivories
  - Ottonian Architecture
    - buildings of Byzantium were another important influence
    - built large timber-roofed basilicas, vulnerable to fire
    - The Church of Saint Cyriakus, Gernrode
  - Ottonian Sculpture
    - ivory, bronze, wood and other materials
    - church furnishing and portable arts
    - The Gero Crucifix
    - The Hildesheim Bronzes
    - The Doors of Bishop Bernward
- Illustrated Books
  - not as varied as Carolingian manuscripts
  - Liuthar (Aachen) Gospels
  - Christ Washing the Feet of His Disciples