

CHRISTIAN HISTORY 101

SESSION SIX: “*TUEZ LES TOUS!*”

- Origins of the Crusade Movement
- Historical Context: A Timeline of the Crusades
- The First and Third Crusades
- Immediate and Longterm Aftermath

ORIGINS OF THE CRUSADE MOVEMENT

637: Jerusalem is taken peacefully by Umar the Great. Christians are granted freedom of worship along with Jews (for the first time since the Roman destruction of the city).

1054: The Great Schism. All Christians in Palestine fall under the authority of the Greek/Eastern Church.

1073: The Seljuk Turks capture Jerusalem from Syrian Muslims.

1091: The Seljuk Empire splinters, leaving the Middle East divided.

1095: The Byzantines ask Pope Urban II for military assistance in Constantinople. The Pope delivers an open-air sermon in Clermont in November calling the Christians of Europe to “take the sign of the cross” (meaning of “crusade”) and deliver the Holy Land from the Turks.

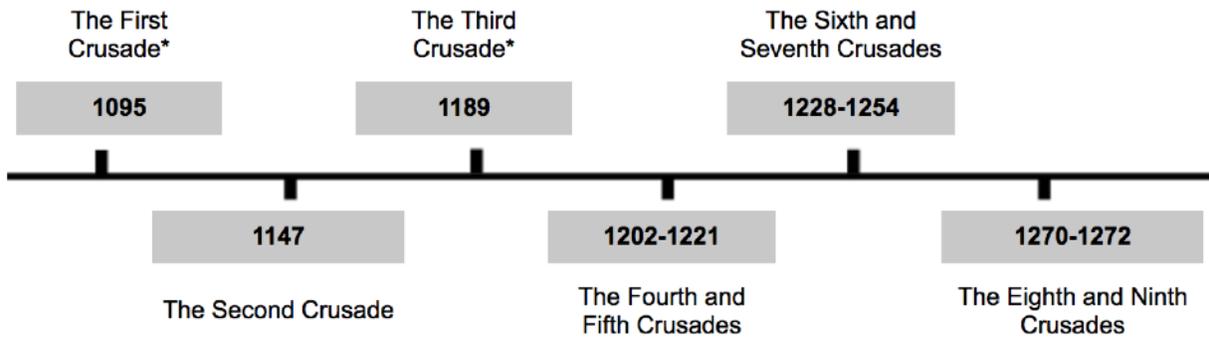
1099: Jerusalem falls to the Frankish Army led by French brothers Godfrey and Baldwin, and the Norman prince, Bohemond.

Pope Urban’s appeal was primarily a power grab, having little to do with liberation. It was his means of: 1) Uniting the warring factions of Europe behind his command; 2) Usurping Byzantine influence; 3) Creating “Crusader States” in the Holy Land.

The Pope motivated the royalty, knights, and commoners of Europe by offering: 1) Land and titles; 2) War loot and riches; 3) Absolution of sins and immediate entry into heaven upon death.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: A TIMELINE OF THE CRUSADES

The Crusades were launched in a series of nine major waves (1095 - 1272) and included every major prince, king, and royal family of Europe: King Louis VII of France, Conrad III of Germany, Richard I of England, Philip II of France, Frederick I the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry VI the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II the Holy Roman Emperor, Louis IX of France, and Edward I of England.



Crusade	Result
First*	The Capture of Jerusalem
Second	Attempt to recapture Odessa (failed)
Third*	Attempt to recapture Jerusalem (failed)
Fourth	Attempted Egyptian offensive (failed)
Fifth	Attempted Egyptian offensive (failed)
Sixth	Attempt to gain access to holy sites in Jerusalem (Success)
Seventh	Attempted Egyptian offensive (failed)
Eighth	Attempted Tunisian offensive in North Africa (failed)
Nine	Defense of Acre (withdrew)

THE FIRST AND THIRD CRUSADES

The First Crusade (1095-1099)

Byzantine’s request for a few specialized knights was answered with 60,000 soldiers and peasants (only 15,000 would arrive in Jerusalem three years later). Both the Byzantines and the Muslims viewed the European Crusaders as ignorant barbarians, uneducated, brutish, and fanatical in their faith.

The Muslims of the Holy Land could offer little resistance because of disunity. Jerusalem was returned to Christian hands for the first time in four centuries. Crusaders, referred to as “the Franks,” established four individual states or kingdoms: Odessa, Antioch, Tripoli, and Jerusalem.

The First Crusade was marked by Christian atrocity and what would be called “war crimes” today: 1) Antioch, 2) Marat al-N’man, and 3) Jerusalem. Never in European or Islamic history had such cruelty been inflicted, and in the name of religion it was completely new and monstrous.

Odessa was retaken by the Turk warrior Zengi in 1144 who retaliated with an atrocity matching the first crusade and the word *jihad* was resurrected and employed for the first time in a purely religious context.



The Third Crusade (1189-1192)

The Third Crusade was a clash of two titans: King Richard I (the Lionheart) of England and An-Nasir Saladin, Kurdish Sultan. Saladin succeeded in uniting Egypt and Syria which led to direct war with the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Saladin annihilated the Crusader army on July 4, 1187 at the "Horns of Hattin" on the banks of the Sea of Galilee and took the "true cross." Jerusalem fell shortly thereafter without a single casualty.

In Europe Pope Gregory VIII and Pope Clement III called for a Third Crusade, imposed the "Saladin Tithe" and King Richard "took the cross" immediately upon his coronation and led the Crusade in an effort to retake Jerusalem.

Richard recaptured much of the lost territory including Acre and Jaffa. He did not retake Jerusalem as he knew he could not defend the city. He and Saladin reached a truce which led to Richard's withdrawal.

Richard and Saladin's relationship is much studied as they reached mutual respect and often exchanged gifts.

IMMEDIATE AND LONGTERM AFTERMATH

For Europe

- 1) In Europe, the collapse of feudalism and the rise of nationalism
- 2) Technological and cultural rejuvenation, planting the seeds of the Renaissance
- 3) Galvanized Islamic resistance to Europe and Christianity to the present day
- 4) Europeans learned to “colonize” in the name of religious and state power
- 5) Long process of eroding Papal power
- 6) Decimation of the Eastern Church and the Rise of the Ottoman Empire (1270s)
- 7) The collapse of the Ottoman Empire destabilized Eastern Europe leading to World War 1. Coupled with the British discovery of oil in the Middle East in 1908, and European partitioning of the area pre-World War 2, Islamic resistance toward Europe is as intense as ever

