

## STUDY PACK 29

### THE CRUSADES

“From the confines of Jerusalem and from the city of Constantinople, a grievous report has gone forth and has been repeatedly brought to our ears; namely that a race from the kingdom of the Persians, an accursed race, a race wholly alienated from God, ‘a generation that set not their heart aright and whose spirit was not steadfast with God,’ \_\_\_\_\_ and has depopulated them by \_\_\_\_\_. They have led away a part of the captives into their own country and a part they have \_\_\_\_\_. They have either destroyed the churches of God or appropriated them for the rites of their own religion. They destroy the altars, after having defiled them with their uncleanness... – the kingdom of the Greeks is now dismembered by them and has been deprived of territory so vast in extent that it could be traversed in two months time... this royal city, however, situated at the center of the earth, is now \_\_\_\_\_ by the enemies of Christ and is subjected, by those who do not know God, to the worship of the heathen. She seeks therefore, and desires to be liberated, and ceases not to implore you to come to her aid. From you especially she asks succor because as we have already said, God has conferred upon you above all other nations great glory in arms.”  
~ Pope Urban II calling for the Crusades ~

#### I. THE PURPOSE OF THE CRUSADES

The land of Palestine was conquered in \_\_\_\_\_ by an army of Turks \_\_\_\_\_ who were followers of Islam. These Turkish Moslems were not pleased that Christians would visit the Holy Land and they attacked, killed, and made slaves of some of the Christians and those who wanted to travel to Jerusalem. The Pope raised an army by telling the people that they would be doing the work of God and that they would be forgiven their sins. “\_\_\_\_\_” soon became their battle cry.

Those who offered to help in the battle to regain Jerusalem took an oath and had a cross of cloth sewed on the front of their cloaks. Upon return from the Holy Land they were to sew the cross on the back. The men who took the oath were called crusaders, which comes from a Latin word meaning “Cross.”

#### II. THE FIRST CRUSADE

After Byzantine emperor Alexius I called for help with defending his empire against the Seljuk Turks, in 1095 at the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II called upon all Christians to join a war against the Turks, a war which would count as \_\_\_\_\_. Peter the Hermit led a peasant’s crusade into Palestine. They were immediately overrun by the Moslems. Three armies of knights from Europe invaded Palestine.

Crusader armies managed to defeat two substantial Turkish forces at Dorylaeum and at Antioch, finally marching to Jerusalem with only a fraction of their original forces. In 1099, they took Jerusalem by assault and massacred the population. As a result of the First Crusade, \_\_\_\_\_ were created, notably the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Following this crusade there was another, less successful wave of crusaders, the Crusade of 1101.

### III. THE SECOND CRUSADE

After a period of relative peace, in which Christians and Muslims co-existed in the Holy Land, Bernard of Clairvaux preached a new crusade when the town of Edessa was conquered by the Turks. French and German armies under Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany, marched to Asia Minor in 1147, but failed to accomplish any major successes, and indeed endangered the survival of the Crusader states with a foolish attack on Damascus. By 1150, both leaders had returned to their countries \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. THE THIRD CRUSADE

In 1187, Saladin, Sultan of Egypt, \_\_\_\_\_ . Pope Gregory VIII called for a crusade, which was led by several of Europe's most important leaders: Philip II of France, Richard I of England (Richard the Lion Hearted) and Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor. Frederick drowned in Cilicia in 1190, leaving an unstable alliance between the English and the French. Philip left in 1191, after the Crusaders had recaptured Acre from the Muslims. The Crusader army headed down the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. They defeated the Muslims near Arsuf and were in sight of Jerusalem. However, the inability of the Crusaders to thrive in the locale \_\_\_\_\_ resulted in an empty victory. Richard left the following year after establishing a truce with Saladin. On Richard's way home, his ship was wrecked and he ended up in Austria. In Austria, his enemy, Duke Leopold, captured him, delivered him to Frederick's son Henry VI and Richard was held for a king's ransom. By 1197, Henry felt himself ready for a Crusade, but he died the same year of malaria.

Soon other nations were reacting against French control of the pope. In England, the government reclaimed all the land \_\_\_\_\_ . The popes in France began to raise money by selling the office of bishop and other offices. The people's respect for the Catholic Church continued to decline.

### V. THE FOURTH CRUSADE

Jerusalem having fallen back into Muslim hands a decade earlier, the Fourth Crusade was initiated in 1202 by Pope Innocent III, with the intention of invading the Holy Land through Egypt. The Venetians, under Doge Enrico Dandolo, gained control of this crusade and diverted it first to the Christian city of Zara, then to Constantinople, where they attempted to place a Byzantine exile on the throne. After a series of misunderstandings and outbreaks of violence, \_\_\_\_\_ This crusade did far more damage to the Christian world than it did the Moslem world.

### VI. THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

Two children, Stephen and Nicholas, claimed that God had given them a prophecy. According to this prophecy the Holy Land would be rescued from the Moslems by an army of children. Thousands of children rallied to their banner and traveled to Palestine under their leadership. They were seized by the Moslems \_\_\_\_\_ .

### VII. THE FIFTH CRUSADE

By processions, prayers, and preaching, the Catholic Church attempted to set another crusade on foot, and the Fourth Council of the Lateran (1215) formulated a plan for the recovery of the Holy Land. In the first phase, a crusading force from Hungary and Austria joined the forces of the king

of Jerusalem and the prince of Antioch to take back Jerusalem. In the second phase, crusader forces achieved a remarkable feat in the capture of Damietta in Egypt in 1219, but under the urgent insistence of the papal legate, Pelagius, they proceeded to a foolhardy attack on Cairo. An inundation of the Nile compelled them to choose between surrender and destruction.

### **VIII. THE SIXTH CRUSADE**

In 1228, Emperor Frederick II set sail from Brindisi for Syria, though laden with a papal excommunication. Through diplomacy, he achieved unexpected success, \_\_\_\_\_ . This was the first major crusade not initiated by the Papacy, a trend that was to continue for the rest of the century.

### **IX. THE SEVENTH CRUSADE**

The papal interests represented by the Templars brought on a conflict with Egypt in 1243, and in the following year, a force summoned by the latter, stormed Jerusalem. Although this provoked no widespread outrage in Europe as the fall of Jerusalem in 1187 had done, Louis IX of France organized a crusade against Egypt from 1248 to 1254, leaving from the newly constructed port of Aigues-Mortes in southern France. It was a failure and Louis spent much of the crusade living at the court of the Crusader kingdom in Acre. In the midst of this crusade was the first Shepherd's Crusade in 1251.

### **X. THE EIGHTH CRUSADE**

The Eighth Crusade was organized by Louis IX in 1270, again sailing from Aigues-Mortes, initially to come to the aid of the remnants of the Crusader states in Syria. However, the crusade was diverted to Tunis, where Louis spent only two months before dying. The Eighth Crusade is sometimes counted as the Seventh, if the Fifth and Sixth Crusades are counted as a single crusade. The Ninth Crusade is sometimes also counted as part of the Eighth.

### **XI. THE NINTH CRUSADE**

The future Edward I of England undertook another expedition in 1271, after having accompanied Louis on the Eighth Crusade. He accomplished very little in Syria and retired the following year after a truce. With the fall of Antioch (1268), Tripoli (1289), and Acre (1291) the last traces of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

### **XII. THE RESULTS OF THE CRUSADES**

The Crusades did not free the Holy Land from the Turkish Moslems, but they did accomplish several things. The Christians who returned home told of the luxuries of the Byzantine Empire and awakened a desire for such items as spices, cotton cloth, silk, perfumes, carpets, and paper. New fruits and plants were brought back, resulting in \_\_\_\_\_ .

At first the Crusaders seemed to have been led by a real desire to free the Holy Land, but they also began to plunder and gain free land. The Crusaders did open up the Mediterranean Sea to trade between \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Crusades also brought about other kinds of learning. With so many people traveling, men became interested in geography as maps were needed for travelers as well as traders. Some of the

Crusaders learned much about mathematics from the Moslems. There was aroused interest in the libraries which contained many books by ancient Greek and Roman writers. Though the Crusades did not return Jerusalem to Christian control, they helped to change life in Western Europe by contact with new products, new information, and new ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_ grew and town life became important as trade increased after the beginning of the Crusades. Walls with watchtowers surrounded medieval towns which had in their center an open square with a church, town hall, and shopkeepers' houses around the square. The houses were built close together in narrow, unlit streets. Kings and lords who needed money sold charters which granted self-government rights to the townsmen.

With the growth of trade there was the formation of merchant and craft \_\_\_\_\_ which were formed to protect their members and the buyers. The guilds set standards of workmanship through their apprenticeship programs. Guilds often became rich and enjoyed extensive political influence in the towns. They often tried to prevent competition.

The failure of the Crusades to take control of Palestine weakened respect for the Catholic Church \_\_\_\_\_. Most of all, the Crusades diverted the resources of Islamic countries to protecting their holdings in Palestine rather than to \_\_\_\_\_.

“Notwithstanding their final overthrow, the Crusades hold a very important place in the history of the world...It must be said that the advantages thus acquired by the popes were for the common safety of Christendom. From the outset, the Crusades were \_\_\_\_\_ and checked the advance of the Mohammedans who, for two centuries, concentrated their forces in a struggle against the Christian settlements in Syria; hence Europe is largely indebted to the Crusades \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(*Catholic Encyclopedia*).

### XIII. THE CRUSADES MYTH

Islamic leaders have long taught that the Crusades were simply an attempt by imperialistic Christian Europeans to invade and conquer a peaceful Moslem world. Incredibly, this myth has been repeated in recent years by western historians and politicians in an amazing display of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The sack of Jerusalem and the resulting massacre were horrible but they were normal for the time and standard practice for Moslems. When Saladin took Hattin in 1187 A.D., he ordered the massacre of all Christian inhabitants – Moslem armies massacred the inhabitants of \_\_\_\_\_ when it fell in 1453 A.D.

The conquest of Jerusalem for Islam in 638 A.D. took place \_\_\_\_\_. From the beginning, persecutions of the Christian inhabitants of Palestine and attacks upon European pilgrims were common though not constant.

The territory of Palestine had recently been conquered \_\_\_\_\_ by the Turks who took it from other Moslems. \_\_\_\_\_  
The record of the Roman Catholic Crusades had many blemishes upon it. As bad as it is however, it is better than the record of the Moslem invaders of Palestine.

As Robert Spencer writes: “When the Crusaders were victorious and established kingdoms and principalities in the Middle East, they generally let the Muslims in their domains live in peace, practice their religion freely, build new mosques and schools, and maintain their own religious tribunals.” ~ ~ *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam and the Crusades*, p. 131 ~ ~

Recommended reading would include *The New Concise History of the Crusades*, by Thomas F. Madden, pub. 2005.