

STUDY PAK 10

THE GREAT SCHISM AND THE CRUSADES

This event is also known as the East-West Schism or the Western Schism

“The shock of Islam in the seventh century and the loss of people and land to the Moslems, coupled with two centuries of unrest over the use of images left Christianity in the East to become stagnant. Little change in ritual, policy, or theology has appeared in that church until the present time. Consequently it has not had the influence on the world that Christianity in the West has had, although in the ancient period of church history it had led in the formation of theology.”

~~Earle Cairns, *Christianity through the Centuries*, p. 206)~~

I. THE EASTERN AND WESTERN BRANCHES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD DRIFTED APART FOR CENTURIES

- A. The former Roman Empire had collapsed. The Eastern part of the Empire remained under one government (the Byzantine Empire). In the West the Catholic Church replaced the Roman government as the closest thing to _____ . This caused dramatically different roles for church leaders.
- B. The Eastern churches used Greek Scriptures and Greek in church services. The Western churches used Latin scriptures and Latin in their church services.
- C. The Pope ruled as a dictator over the churches in the west. In the east the Patriarch (the eastern version of a pope) answered to _____ .
- D. Priests in the east were allowed to marry. Priests in the west were not.
- E. Serious differences arose over the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

II. THE CONFLICT OF 1054

“In 1048 a French bishop was elected as Pope Leo IX. He and the clerics who accompanied him to Rome were intent on reforming the papacy and the entire church. Five years earlier in Constantinople, the rigid and ambitious Michael Cerularius was named patriarch.

Problems arose in Southern Italy (then under Byzantine rule) in the 1040s, when Norman warriors conquered the region and replaced Greek (Eastern) bishops with Latin (Western) ones. People were confused, and they argued about the proper form of the liturgy and other external matters. Differences over clerical marriage, the bread used for the Eucharist, days of fasting, and other usages assumed an unprecedented importance.

When Cerularius heard that the Normans were forbidding Greek customs in Southern Italy, he retaliated, in 1052, by closing the Latin churches in Constantinople. He then induced bishop Leo of Ochrid to compose an attack on the Latin use of unleavened bread and other practices. In response to this provocative treatise, Pope Leo sent his chief adviser, Humbert, a tactless and narrow-minded man with a strong sense of papal authority, to Constantinople to deal with the problem directly.

On arriving in the imperial city in April 1054, Humbert launched into a vicious criticism of Cerularius and his supporters. But the patriarch ignored the papal legate, and an angry Humbert stalked into Hagia Sophia and placed on the altar the bull of excommunication. He returned to Rome convinced he had gained a victory for the Holy See.” *Christian History Magazine*, October 1990.

III. THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

After 1054 the Eastern churches were known as the Orthodox or Byzantine churches.

After the Byzantine Empire fell in 1453 the Orthodox Church began to be organized on _____ e.g. Russian Orthodox Church, Ukrainian Church, etc.

National Orthodox denominations recognized each other as representative of the one true church but they began to develop differently along national lines.

IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE CRUSADES

The land of Palestine was conquered in 1071 by an army of Turks from Central Asia who were followers of Islam. This was a recently developed sect of Islam which took control of the land of Palestine by force. Islam had not always controlled this land. Islam, itself, had not begun until the 7th century A.D. 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 traveling to Jerusalem.

The Pope raised an army by telling the people that they would be doing the work of God and that they would _____; again, demonstrating that political philosophy ultimately extends from the understanding of the Gospel. Islam is incorrect in saying all who die in a holy war will go directly to paradise; and the Pope was just as incorrect in saying that all those who fight in this holy war will have their sins paid for, paving their entrance to Heaven. “ _____ ”

soon became the battle cry, heard everywhere among the troops and shouted out before

they entered a battle. Consequently, the crusades were undertaken with a belief that God would help the crusaders.

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.”

This cross that the crusaders identified with represents two doctrines which, even today, create a barrier between Christianity and Islam. All of Christianity is not offensive to Islam, only the concept of the Trinity and of the cross. This is a result of Islam’s concept of the Creator God. Any concept of the Trinity or the deity of Christ is rejected. Christ’s death on the cross in atonement for our sins is rejected, and, the fact that Christ even died on the cross at all, is rejected. Islam places man’s salvation entirely on submission to Allah and works. For this reason, the symbol of the cross was particularly offensive to the Moslem world at the time the crusades began to be organized and continues to be offensive today.

V. THE FIRST CRUSADE

The Byzantine emperor Alexius I had called for help with defending his empire against the Seljuk Turks in 1095 at the Council of Clermont. Pope Urban II responded by calling upon all Christians to join a war against the Turks; a war which would count as full penance (full payment for sins). At this point, the Turks had been in control of Palestine for 24 years.

Peter the Hermit, an itinerant preacher, began to preach that God was in the crusade and would use the poor people of Europe to deliver the Holy Land. He declared that God would miraculously intervene for those who would go. He, too, claimed this act would pay for all their sins. Peter the Hermit developed an army of poor peasants having no military training and only the crudest weapons. He led them into Palestine expecting to

overthrow Islam by the intervention of God. However, this mob of poorly armed peasants was immediately overrun by well trained Moslem military forces.

Throughout the crusades, the promise that _____
_____ was being propagated from both sides of the battle. However, God never did miraculously intervene on either side.

Three armies of knights from Europe invaded Palestine. Crusader armies managed to defeat two substantial Turkish forces at Dorylaeum and at Antioch. They finally marched in Jerusalem with only a fraction of their original forces. In 1099 they took Jerusalem by assault. They, then, massacred the population.

This particular assault is mentioned frequently in the public arena today as an example of the horrible acts of the Christians during the crusades. Unfortunately, this is true. There is no way to defend it and no reason to try. There was a Jewish population in Jerusalem that was massacred at the same time the Moslem population was massacred. Although inexcusable, this was the standard practice of the day. It is what the Moslems were doing, as well, and was not unique to the crusades. This act, truly, was not consistent with the crusaders "Christianity". But that is how wars were fought then, and is the record. History, however, is not being reported accurately when one piece is pulled out and presented as the whole story.

As a result of the First Crusade, several smaller crusader states were created, notably the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Following this crusade there was another, less successful wave of crusaders, the Crusade of 1101.

There are multiple methods of numbering the crusades. One historian will list 30 crusades, while another may lump two or more together as one. There is no set numbering, so, in attempt to get these all into perspective, the First Crusade, here, means the crusade successful in conquering part of Palestine, and includes all of its various military activity.

VI. 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. They failed to accomplish any major successes, and indeed endangered the survival of the crusader states with a foolish attack on Islam's capital, Damascus. Again, the crusaders were expecting a supernatural miracle to deliver Damascus to them, but there was none. By attacking Damascus, however, the Turkish Empire was stirred to an even greater desire to retake Palestine. By 1150, both the French and German leaders had returned to their countries without any result.

VII. THE THIRD CRUSADE

The Sultan of Egypt, Saladin, recaptured Jerusalem in 1187. Saladin was actually Kurdish, but served the Turks as a general and was given authority over Egypt. In recapturing Jerusalem, Saladin took authority over the entire Turkish Empire and is today revered by the world of Islam as a great conqueror. Saddam Hussein described himself as the reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar and also as the reincarnation of Saladin. Osama bin Laden often referred to Saladin as a great leader. Saladin is considered of great importance; he is greatly revered by the Moslems as the one who took Jerusalem back. Of course, one of the Moslem's current goals is to take Jerusalem.

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. Under the leadership of Richard I of England, the crusader army marched down the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, defeated the Muslims near Arsuf, and came in sight of Jerusalem.

The crusaders' horses and supplies, however, had not yet reached them. The crusaders had been trained to organize in formation around their knights on horseback but they had no horses. As a result, they had no perception of how to organize for battle. In an act of desperation, they collected cows and mounted their knights on the cows. This was the scene as they reached the battle position. Saladin, when he saw them approach with their ridiculous makeshift cavalry, immediately declared a truce. Saladin then sent two Arabian stallions over to Richard with the message that he could not bear to see a soldier of Richard's caliber on a cow and gave him the use of these war horses for the coming battle! While the crusaders were able to win some battles, they had still not received their supplies and were ultimately unable to conduct a campaign significant enough to take Jerusalem.

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. This is the background for the Robin Hood tales. A message was sent to King John requesting ransom, but John kept the message a secret and told the kingdom that he did not know where his brother was or what happened to him. The original Robin Hood stories tell of Robin Hood returning from the crusades and discovering that the Normans were stealing from the Saxons. Robin Hood then organized some of the Saxon people, who hid in Sherwood Forest. Today's politically correct version is that Robin Hood would steal from the rich and give to the poor when the actual story was that he stole from the Normans and gave to the Saxons. The classic Robin Hood stories end with Richard escaping and returning to England. However, historically, Richard did not escape; rather, enough people eventually learned the truth and ransomed him, allowing him to return to England. 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 through the Pope. In England, the government reclaimed all the land that King John had signed over to Innocent III. The

popes in France began to raise money by selling the office of bishop and other offices. The people's respect, naturally, for the Catholic Church continued to decline.

VIII. THE FOURTH CRUSADE

A decade after Jerusalem had fallen back into Muslim hands; the Fourth Crusade was initiated in 1202. The intent of Pope Innocent III was to invade the Holy Land through Egypt. The people of Venice, under Doge (a title similar to Mayor) Enrico Dandolo, however, diverted the crusade. They hired the crusaders to attack the Christian city of Zara. In conspiracy with the Venetians, the crusaders then went on to Constantinople where they attempted to place a Byzantine exile on the throne. After a series of misunderstandings and outbreaks of violence, the city was sacked in 1204. This crusade did far more damage to the Christian world than it did the Moslem world.

IX. 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 _____
_____. Thousands of children rallied to their banner and traveled to Palestine under their leadership. As they traveled from town to town, people would feed the children and send them on their way. This crusade was, literally, an army of children, all of which, expected supernatural intervention in their battle at Jerusalem. However, upon arrival, they were immediately seized by the Moslems and _____.

There are many today, as well, who will tell of having a vision or prophesy from God. Anyone can make such a claim. The record of the Children's Crusade may not be much of a history lesson, but it is a good lesson on trusting in visions.

X. THE FIFTH CRUSADE

The Catholic Church attempted to launch another crusade in 1215. The Fourth Council of the Lateran developed a plan to recover the Holy Land. During the first phase of this plan, crusaders from Hungary and Austria strengthened their forces by joining with the

king of Jerusalem and the prince of Antioch. In 1219 the crusader forces achieved a remarkable capture of Damietta in Egypt. The papal legate, Pelagius, then foolishly insisted the crusaders proceed to attack Cairo. During this time, the Nile began to overflow. The crusaders found themselves once again in the all too familiar scene by which they simply expected God to supernaturally provide. Just as with Peter the Hermit, the Third Crusade, and also the Children's Crusade, God did not.

XI. THE SIXTH CRUSADE

Emperor Frederick II undertook a crusade in 1228, even though he had been excommunicated by the Pope. Frederick set sail from Brindisi for Syria. Through his diplomacy, he achieved unexpected success in which Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem were delivered to the crusaders for a period of ten years. Frederick had essentially rented them by a deal in which he paid money to the leaders of Islam in exchange for this decade of peace. This would allow for the safe pilgrimage of people to the most popular areas of the Holy Land. It was actually Frederick's excommunication which helped him to secure this deal with the leaders of Islam. This was the first major crusade not initiated by the Papacy. This became a trend that would continue for the remainder of the century.

XII. THE SEVENTH CRUSADE

The interest of the Pope, as represented by the Templars, brought on a conflict with Egypt in 1243. The following year, a force summoned by Egypt stormed Jerusalem. Unlike the fall of Jerusalem in 1187, which had provoked a widespread outrage in Europe, this did not. It did, however, compel Louis IX of France to organize a crusade against Egypt. The crusade left from the newly constructed port of Aigues-Mortes in southern France and lasted from 1248 to 1254, during which, Louis spent much of his time living at the court of the crusader kingdom in Acre. The crusade turned out to be a failure. It was followed by the first Shepherd's Crusade in 1251. This was again, a situation where someone had a vision; this time, that God would use shepherds, not warriors, to deliver the Holy Land. A group of shepherds left for the Holy Land; this, too, was a failure. They were killed or enslaved.

XIII. THE EIGHTH CRUSADE

Louis IX was responsible for the Eighth Crusade, as well, in 1270. Again sailing from Aigues-Mortes, this crusade was initially intended to aid the remnants of the crusader states in Syria. During the First Crusade, enormous crusader castles had been built to guard the kingdoms. The castles would store vast amounts of food, having food storage rooms larger than the size of a school auditorium. Over a period of time, these castles were being conquered by Islam, one by one and, eventually, they all fell. At this time, the last remaining castles in Syria were being conquered. This crusade was designed to retake them. However, the crusade was diverted to Tunis where Louis spent only 2 months before dying.

XIV. THE NINTH CRUSADE

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

XV. THE RESULTS OF THE CRUSADES AND THE GREAT SCHISM

- A. The _____ was challenged from several different directions. No pope would ever demonstrate the kind of authority that Innocent III had again.
- B. People began to question the concept of _____. The actual nature of salvation began to be a major topic of theological discussion.
- C. Eastern and Western Christianity developed separately from each other.