

## The Crusades (*cruce signati*): Has God willed it?

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” Matthew 16:24, NKJV

### I. Introduction

A. Sources

B. Historiography

C. Methodology

### II. Historical Background

637 – Jerusalem captured by the Rashidun Caliphate. Christians and Jews become *dhimmi* (protected); must pay a tax, acknowledge Muslim rule, are free to practice religion, and remain mostly unmolested

732 – Battle of Tours; Charles Martel pushes Muslim forces out of Frankish territory back into Spain

1037 - Seljuk Empire established; Turkic people who conquered the Persian Abbasid rulers and started moving westward through Anatolia towards Byzantium

1054 - Great Schism; the East and West excommunicate each other

1071 - Battle of Manzikert: the Byzantine army was destroyed and the emperor Romanos IV Diogenes is captured by Alp Arslan, Sultan of the Seljuk Empire

~1072-5 - Pope Gregory VII reaches out to Emperor Michael VII attempting to repair relations and help Eastern Christians under attack by the Seljuks

1076 – Start of the Investiture Controversy – Gregory is distracted by more pressing concerns and forgets the East for a time

Spring 1096 – Emperor Alexios I Komnenos sends ambassadors to the Council of Piacenza, asking for Western military help in the retaking of what were Byzantine lands

Fall 1096 – Council of Clermont – Pope Urban II issues a call to arms in defense of Christian people and lands in the East

- III. Ecclesiastical and theological background
  - A. Just War Theory, via Augustine
  - B. Holy pilgrimages
  - C. Sacrament of Penance
  
- IV. The Crusade periods (numbered by later historians)
  - A. First Crusade period; 1095-1144
  - B. Second Crusade period; 1145-1149
  - C. Third Crusade period; 1189-1192
  - D. Fourth Crusade period; 1202-1204
  
- V. Conclusions

#### Primary source

Thomas Madden, *The Concise History of the Crusades*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1999, 2006, 2013, 2014

#### Secondary Sources

Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades: A Short History*, 1987

Christopher Tyerman, *God's War: A New History of the Crusades*, 2006