

The Crusades

SKETCHES FROM
CHURCH HISTORY

Why Church History?

Study the Faithfulness of Jesus in building His church

Examine and learn the common threads that hold us together

Wonder at the amazing impact the church has had over the millennia

Reflect on the repentance that was practiced or neglected by various eras of church events

Consider what our time in church history should communicate to those around us

The Crusades – A Mixture of Meaning

Crusades – The campaigns in the middle ages/ dark ages (early Fathers to the Fall of the Western Roman Empire) intended to liberate the lands of associated with important history of Christian influence (Nicea, Antioch, Jerusalem).

Crusade – Events held by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association with high levels of coordination with local church leaders that was intended to have many people make decisions to follow Jesus. (Before his death, Rev. Graham refrained from using the term)

Crusade or Cru – The shortened version of the Campus Crusade for Christ founded by the Brights in California schools that made famous the Four Spiritual Laws used to communicate the essence of the gospel. (Campus Crusade changed to Cru in 2011 to put distance between them and the word crusade)

Crusade – Marked by the Cross, “take up your cross”



“Take up your cross”



What do you know about the Crusades?

Timeframe: First in 1095 and last in 1989 with the best of Indiana Jones movies

Purpose: For all of the Crusades, the purpose was to bring Christian Control to areas historically associated with significant Christian Events or targeted by leaders who claimed to be Christian.

Types

- Military and Religious
- Peoples
- The Poor
- Children's

Issues -- Many

What do you know, continued?

There were lots of them (9 by most counts) from 1095 to almost 1400

They were mostly abject failures (several kings died, very few victories to speak of militarily, and plenty of negative outcomes in all respects)

Key Figures – Pope Urban II, Peter the Hermit (the People's crusade), Seljuk Turks and the Muslim Conquest of the Middle East and Asia Minor, even into Southern Europe, Frederick Barbarossa, Richard I, King (St.) Louis, Robin Hood

Why did anyone do it?

The First Crusade

Request from Constantinople/
Preaching of Urban II

Presented as Pilgrimages more than
Wars

Connected eternal reward to death
in battle early on

Pocked with horrendous violence
even on the way



The Third Crusade



Reflections on Crusading

Generally speaking, success or failure (money, war, children, etc) cannot be directly attributed to God's favor other than His sovereign purpose.

The weapons of Christ are abundantly clear, even in the final conquest described in Revelation.

The fusion of church and state (other than OT Israel, which had its own issues) is not a protestant view. Westminster CF Chapter 23

God, the Supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates to be under him, over the people, for his own glory and the public good, and to this end hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil-doers. (WCF 23.1)



Q&A
