

THE FIRST CRUSADE: POPE URBAN'S SPEECH AT THE COUNCIL OF CLERMONT

(VERSION OF FULCHER OF CHARTRES)

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/urban2-5vers.asp>

In the year 1095 Pope Urban II, leader of the Roman Catholic church, called a council (assembly) of prominent rulers, knights, nobles, etc from around Europe. At this council he proposed a revolutionary idea: that Christians from around Europe should stop fighting amongst each other and instead launch an attack against a common enemy: the 'infidels' and 'unbelievers' who were in control of one of the most important cities in Christianity – Jerusalem.

This speech helps us to understand why people went on the Crusades. We can figure out what the Pope was emphasising and what Crusaders were promised/believed they would gain from joining the crusade.

Paragraph 1

This paragraph establishes some of the problems that Europe is facing.

- *What is the purpose of the rhetorical questions that the Pope asks at the beginning of the speech? What ideas are they designed to make people think about?*
- *What problems does the pope identify?*

Paragraph 2

This paragraph emphasises the impact that these problems are having on these people's provinces/homelands. He is establishing the need for people to join the crusade.

- *What problems does the pope identify?*

Paragraph 3

This paragraph identifies the reasons why Christians in the Middle East need help. Note: this does not mean that these things were actually happening in Jerusalem (there is very little historical proof to support this), but it does tell us that these types rumours/stories/etc were common in Europe at this time.

- *Who needs the help of people in Europe?*
- *What does the pope say the "Turks and Arabs" have been doing to them?*
- *Who does the pope say is giving these "commands"?*

Paragraph 4

This paragraph outlines all of the benefits that wait for people who join the crusade. Some of the benefits are physical, some relate to status, and some relate to things that wait for them in the afterlife.

- *According to the Pope, what can people gain by going on the crusade?*
- *According to the Pope, why would it be bad let the Arab peoples win?*

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(VERSION OF ROBERT THE MONK)

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There exist 5 copies of Pope Urban II's speech at Clermont. Most of these accounts were written within a few years of his speech, which is quite good by medieval standards. Many of these speeches share similarities, some emphasise different things, some add new pieces of information, and there are even some differences. This version of what Pope Urban II said was written by a man called Robert the Monk. It claims to describe the same speech as that recorded by Fultcher of Chartres above.

Paragraph 1

This version of the speech opens with stories of horrible things which have been done to Christians in Jerusalem/the Holy Land. Again, this is evidence that this is what people in Europe believed happened; it is not proof that these things actually happened. However, it indicates that Christians in Europe believed this to be the case.

- *What horrible things does the Pope say Arabs are doing to Christians?*
- *Why is the Pope telling all of these horrible stories?*
- *Who does the Pope say has the responsibility for 'avenging these wrongs'?*
- *What similarities exist with the previous source by Fulcher of Chartres? What's different in what they emphasise?*

Paragraph 2

This paragraph serves two purposes. Firstly, it lists some reasons why people should leave where they are in Europe. Secondly, it lists reasons why people should want to journey to the Holy Land, and what they can gain.

- *What is the problem does the Pope identify regarding population in Europe?*
- *What does the Pope mean when he says that the Holy Land is 'the land of milk and honey'?*
- *In the last sentence, the Pope promises the forgiveness of all sins for people who go on the crusade. This is perhaps the most important thing a Christian could be given in the middle ages. Why would this be so attractive to medieval Christians?*

THE FIRST CRUSADE: THE TAKING OF JERUSALEM

(VERSION OF RAYMOND D'AUGILIERS)

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/cde-jlem.asp>

This is an account of the Christian crusaders' capture of Jerusalem in 1099. It begins with an account of how they captured the walls surrounding Jerusalem. Once these walls were captured, the Muslims defending the city tried to flee, but they, along with the civilian inhabitants of Jerusalem, were captured and killed in their tens of thousands. Through the actions of the crusaders, we can begin to see what they sought and/or hold important, and this in turn gives us an indication of what motivated them to participate in the First Crusade.

Paragraph 1

This paragraph describes how the crusaders captured Jerusalem.

- *How do the crusaders use to capture the walls of Jerusalem (and it turn the city)?*
- *What information can this source provide us about medieval warfare and tactics?*

Paragraph 2

This paragraph describes the bloodshed and atrocities which the Christians' committed when they took the city.

- *How are the defenders and inhabitants of Jerusalem treated by the crusaders?*
- *What does this tell us about the nature of the fighting during the First Crusade?*
- *Christians were promised the forgiveness of all their sins and entry into heaven if they killed an 'infidel' (i.e. a Muslim). Does this help to explain the crusaders' actions? What did they believe they would gain by committing this atrocity, and how does this help to explain why they joined the crusade?*
- *Does the author view all this death and horror as a good thing? What reason does he offer?*

Paragraph 3

This paragraph discusses the joy that the Crusaders felt after their victory and the religious aspects of their victory.

- *How do the crusaders celebrate their victory and give thanks to God?*
- *What does this tell us about the role that religion played in the crusaders' actions?*
- *According to the author of this account, what did this day 'symbolise' for believers in Christianity?*

THE FIRST CRUSADE: THE TAKING OF JERUSALEM

(VERSION OF FULCHER OF CHARTRES)

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/cde-jlem.asp>

This is another account of the taking of Jerusalem. It was written by the same person that provided one of the above versions of Pope Urban II's speech at Clermont. It emphasises different aspects of the Crusaders' actions after their conquest of Jerusalem, particularly in relation to the wealth and treasure that the Crusaders' claimed for themselves.

Paragraph 1

This paragraph describes the crusaders' victoriously taking the city of Jerusalem.

Paragraph 2

This paragraph describes an atrocity, where thousands of people (not just soldiers, but women and children too) were massacred by Christian crusaders in a church/temple.

- *What does this tell us about how the crusaders viewed and treated Muslims?*
- *Christians were promised the forgiveness of all their sins and entry into heaven if they killed an 'infidel' (i.e. a Muslim). Does this help to explain the crusaders' actions? What did they believe they would gain by committing this atrocity, and how does this help to explain why they joined the crusade?*

Paragraph 3

This paragraph describes how the crusaders would gather gold coins that enemy soldiers had swallowed in an attempt to keep them from being stolen.

- *Why would these people have swallowed their coins?*
- *What does this behaviour suggest about the greed of the crusaders and what some of them hoped to gain from participating in a crusade?*

Paragraph 4

This paragraph describes how crusaders claimed the property of the previous inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- *What do you think has happened to the previous inhabitants of these houses?*
- *What have these crusaders gained through participating in the crusade?*
- *What does this suggest about their motivations for going on a crusade?*

Paragraph 5

This paragraph describes some of the religious celebrations that took place after capturing Jerusalem.

- *What does this suggest about the religious motivations for the crusaders' actions?*