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This artistic interpretation, depicting Godfrey of Bouillon—leader of the first crusade—is from a fresco created by Giacomo Jaquerio. It is located at Manta Castle, in the town of Saluzzo (situated in the province of Cuneo, in the Piedmont region of Italy).

On the 6th of June, 1099, the First Crusaders finally reached Jerusalem.

Godfrey (a Charlemagne descendant for whom there really was no future in Europe since Emperor Henry IV had confiscated his lands) had been the first to put together an army. He and his men (including his brother Baldwin, an intelligent man educated at the cathedral school in Reims) left Europe in August of 1096.

When they arrived at the Italian port of Brindisi, in September of that year, they were joined by Count Bohemund of Taranto and his nephew, Tancred. All would play prominent roles in the battle for Jerusalem. All were French.

As Bohemund reportedly said, when he decided to join with Godfrey:

*Are we not Franks? [He was actually a Norman who had adopted a Frank identity.] Did not our ancestors come here from Francia and liberate this land with arms? What a disgrace! Will our blood relatives and brothers go to martyrdom and indeed to paradise without us?*

The Muslims holding Jerusalem that summer were well-armed and prepared.

The Crusaders had been through enormous struggles, costly victories and deprivation. They had lived, according to Jonathan Riley-Smith, “in an alien, suffering world of their own.” But now they had reached the point of their destination. They were hearing the Muslim call to prayer inside “the holy city.”

Would they be able to fulfill the destiny Pope Urban II had envisioned?

After they built two siege towers, the whole army marched around the city walls seven times (akin to Joshua’s march around the walls of Jericho). The walls failed to fall, and the city’s defenders must have been astonished by the Europeans’ efforts.

A five-week siege ensued.

On the 15th of July, however, the Crusaders found a way to penetrate Jerusalem’s defenses. Godfrey had fulfilled his mission. Tancred, one of the first to enter the city, tried (without success) to spare the lives of some of the inhabitants.

About 40,000 Jews and Muslims were killed in two days.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SLAUGHTER-IN-JERUSALEM-Kingdom-of-Heaven>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SLAUGHTER-IN-JERUSALEM-Kingdom-of-Heaven>

## Media Stream



23. Enthusiasm of Crusaders at the First View of Jerusalem  
At the sight of Jerusalem on June 10, 1099, the Crusaders shout out their battle cry with rapturous joy.

### First Crusaders See Jerusalem - June, 1099

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Crusaders-See-Jerusalem-June-1099>



### First Crusaders Reach Jerusalem - Map

Image online, courtesy Professor Ken Pennington, at the Catholic University of America.

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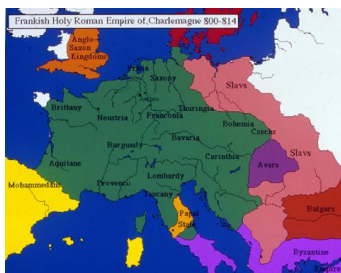
### Godfrey - Leader of the First Crusade

Image described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Frankish Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne - Map

Map image online, courtesy Boston College.

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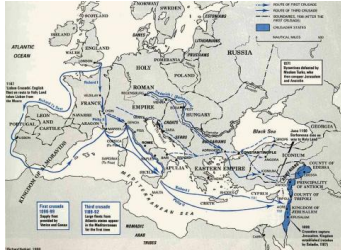


### Charlemagne and His Descendants

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Crusaders Route - Map

Image online, courtesy Missouri State University History Department.

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11. Godfrey Meets the Remnants of the Army of Peter the Hermit  
The few surviving soldiers of Peter's army apprise Godfrey and his crusaders about the massacre by the Seldjucks.

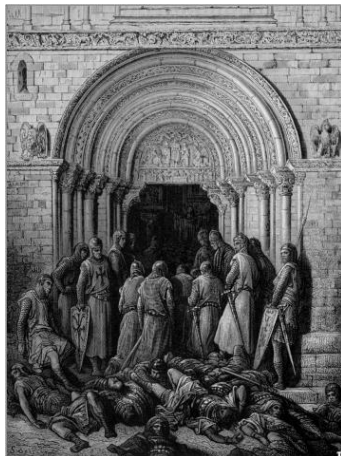
### Godfrey of Bouillon Meets Remnants of Hermit's Army

Image online, courtesy Archive.org.

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### Crusaders - Costly Battle for Both Sides

Image described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Crusaders - Fighting in a Suffering World

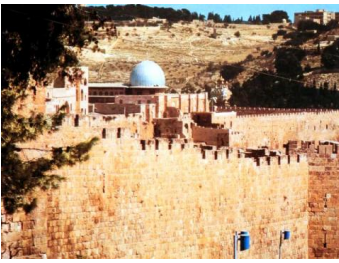
Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

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### Walls of Jerusalem

Image online, courtesy Professor Ken Pennington, at the Catholic University of America.

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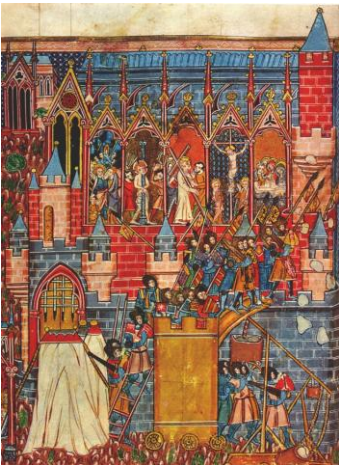


### Crusaders - Building Siege Towers

Image described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Crusaders - Siege Towers and Attacking Jerusalem

Guillame de Tyr (circa 1130-1190) - also known as William of Tyre - wrote about the Crusades. His work - *Historia rerum in partibus transmarinis gestarum* ["History of Deeds Done Beyond the Sea"] - contains many illustrations.

The full text of the Old French version, published in the 13th century, is maintained by the [Bibliothèque Nationale de France \(BNF\)](#) in Paris. This image is contained in that work.

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Crusaders - Enter Jerusalem

Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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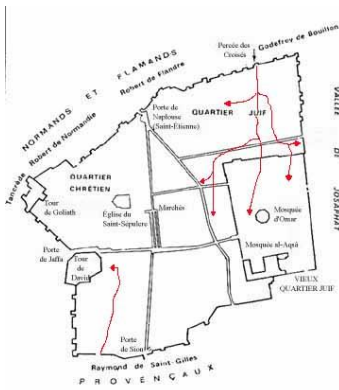
### Crusaders - Killed Thousands of Jews and Muslims

Image BNF MS FRANCAIS 22495 f. 69v, maintained at the BNF. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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## Crusaders - Penetrate Jerusalem's Defenses - Map

Map image online, courtesy University of Sherbrooke, in Quebec.

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## Defenders of Jerusalem

Image - "Siege of Jerusalem" - is from the *Codex Justinianus; Institutes, descriptio terrae sanctae*. It is written in Italian and is maintained at the Biblioteca Capitolare in Padua, Italy.

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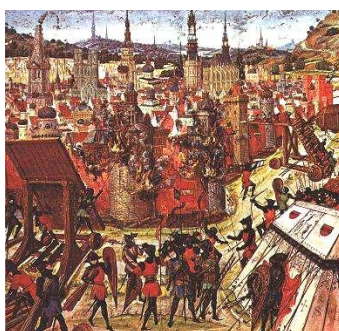
## First Crusade - Godfrey and the Fall of Jerusalem

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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## Siege at Jerusalem Leads to Fall of the City

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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