

0. KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM - Story Preface

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An unnamed medieval artist, likely working in France, created this illumination of Godfrey becoming head of the newly created Kingdom of Jerusalem. The manuscript is maintained by the British Library where it is known as Yates Thompson 12 f. 46. Public Domain. Click on the image for a full-page view.

Even contemporary French accounts tell us the slaughter in Jerusalem was merciless. The writer of *Gesta Francorum* ("Deeds of the Franks") says:

They killed all the Saracens and the Turks they found, they killed everyone whether male or female.

Raymund of Aguiles, a French eyewitness, records:

Some of our men (and this was more merciful) cut off the heads of their enemies; [as they had done after the battle at Nicea]; others shot them with arrows, so that they fell from the towers; others tortured them longer by casting them into the flames.

Piles of heads, hands and feet were to be seen in the streets of the city. It was necessary to pick one's way over the bodies of men and horses. But these were small compared to what happened at the Temple of Solomon, a place where religious services are normally chanted.

What happened there? If I tell the truth it will exceed your powers of belief. So let it suffice to say this much, at least, that in the Temple and porch of Solomon, men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins.

Thus was born the Latin/Frankish Kingdom of Jerusalem.

It included the city (pictured here is the Church of the Sepulchre) plus surrounding territory, along the shore of the Mediterranean, from Gaza to Beirut. To the north, three fiefs were established: the county of Tripoli, the principality of Antioch and the county of Edessa.

A kingdom needs a king, and that position was offered to Godfrey who refused the title. He assumed responsibilities as Duke or Advocate of the Holy Sepulchre.

Not long after he died, likely of plague. Baldwin, his brother, succeeded him as King Baldwin I.

Pope Urban, dead two weeks after the Crusader victory, would have been appalled - it is said - by the carnage. When Christians in Europe heard the news of Jerusalem's capture, they were ecstatic about the victory but shocked by reports of violence.

Jews and Muslims would never forget the bloodbath. Later, when wiser Christian rulers attempted to secure the

Kingdom by overtures to their Muslim neighbors, the massacre “always stood in the way of true friendship.” (Karen Armstrong, *Holy War*, page 180.)

The stage was set for a ferocious Crusader-Muslim battle at the Horns of Hattin.

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

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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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

Media Stream



Godfrey of Bouillon - Kingdom of Jerusalem

British Library, Unknown artist, likely working in France. At the British Library, this manuscript is known as Yates Thompson 12 f. 46. Public Domain.

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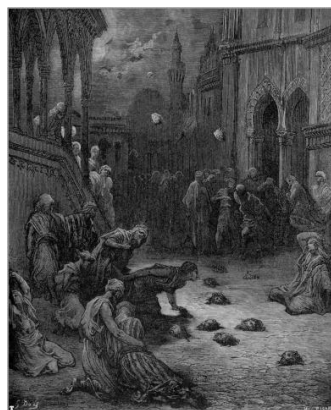
Slaughter in Jerusalem

Illustration from the 13th century version of *Histoire d'Outremer* by William of Tyre, maintained at the British Library in the Yates Thompson Collection (No. 12, f. 29).

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Crusaders Kill in Nicea

Image described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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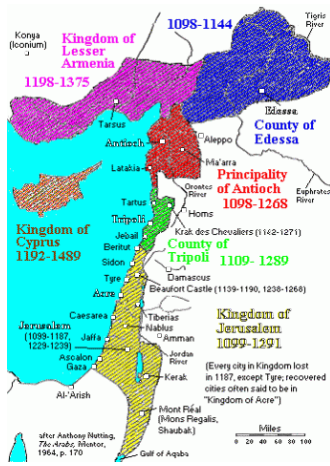


Church of the Sepulchre

Image described above, online courtesy the British Library.

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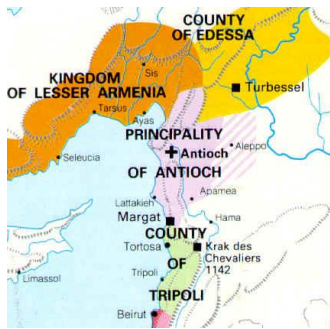
Latin/Frankish Kingdom of Jerusalem - Map

Image online, courtesy TransAnatolie.

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Crusading States and Latin/Frankish Kingdom of Jerusalem

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

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Godfrey of Bouillon Leading the First Crusade

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 (BN MS Fr. 9084, f. 20v).

Image online, courtesy BNF.

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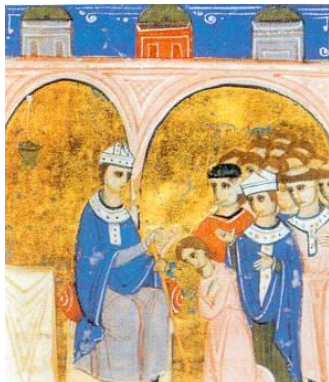


Death of Godfrey de Bouillon

Painting by Edouard (Francois Berthelemy Michel) Cibot (1799-1877). Currently maintained at the Palace of Versailles.

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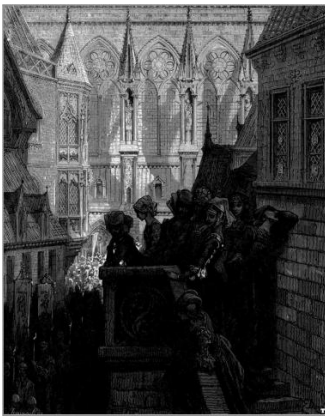


Baldwin Succeeds Godfrey

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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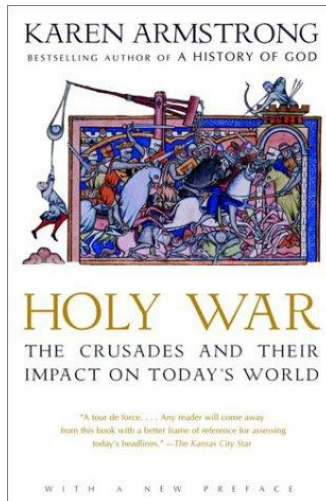


Christians Heard the News of Jerusalem

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

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Holy War - by Karen Armstrong

Book-cover image online, courtesy Random House and Google Books.

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King Baldwin I

Image online, courtesy BNF in Paris.

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