

READING

The origins of the Crusades are complex. When the Muslims occupied two former territories of the Eastern Roman Empire, Syria and Palestine, they allowed Christian pilgrims to visit the holy sites there, particularly Jerusalem. But from the middle of the eleventh century CE onward, a new and militant group, the Turks, began to occupy these areas and made access to the holy regions unsafe for pilgrims. At the Council of Clermont in 1095, the Bishop of Rome, Pope Urban II reacted by pronouncing a holy war to liberate the “Holy Land.” The pope’s pronouncement elicited a huge response from the poor and noble classes alike. In 1099, after many setbacks, the forces of the Crusaders laid siege to Jerusalem, and captured the city. A terrible slaughter of its inhabitants ensued, and the unrestrained greed and brutality of this event foreshadows many others in the subsequent history of imperialism.

Many of the narratives about the first crusade, and the crusades that followed, are written in Latin, the main literary language of Western Europe. Perhaps the best narrative about the first phase of the crusades is *Historia rerum in partibus transmarinis gestarum* (*The Narrative of Deeds Done in Regions Across the Sea*), written by William of Tyre. The passage below, which tells about the capture of Jerusalem in 1099 CE, is adapted from chapters 18 and 19 of Book VIII in this lengthy work.

William himself, a grandson of an original European crusader, was born in the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem at some time in the 1130s. After entering the church, he traveled to France and Italy as a young man to complete his studies of the liberal arts and theology. He returned to Palestine to pursue a career in the Latin Church there, and eventually became Bishop of Tyre, a major eastern Mediterranean port.

HIEROSOLYMA CAPIUNTUR A FRANCIS MILITIBUS

- 1 Ventus in vultū hostium flābat. Godefrīdus igitur mīlitēs incendium magnum prope mūrōs facere iussit. Hostēs, quī mūrōs dēfendere dēbēbant sed oculōs propter fūmum aperīre nōn valēbant, ē mūrīs fūgērunt. Nostrī, quī pontem ligneum aedificāverant ut mūrōs
- 5 scanderent, loca hostibus vacua iam occupāvērunt. Postquam nōn solum Godefrīdus, sed etiam Comes Flandrēnsium et Tancredus Normannus et aliī ducēs ūnā cum multis mīlitibus intrāvērunt, dux paucōs mīlitēs ad urbis portam septentrionālem, quae hodiē dīcitur Sanctī Stephānī, mīsit ut aliōs mīlitēs, quī extrā mūrōs expectābant,
- 10 statim admitterent. Tunc ingēns agmen nostrōrum in urbem prōcessit. Hostēs, quī mīlitibus nostrīs restitērunt, celeriter sunt occīsī. Aliī fūgērunt. At nostrī irā et dolōre incēnsī furēbant nec ūllīs pepercērunt incolīs, quōs cōspexērunt. Aliud simul agmen mīlitum nostrōrum,

- quod dūcēbat Comes Tolōsānus, in partem urbis merīdiānam violenter
 15 invāsīt. Hī cum hostibus prope montem Siōn pugnāre coepērunt.
 Tumultum autem in aliā urbis parte ēditum subitō audīvērunt. Prīmō
 nec nostrī nec hostēs sciēbant quid hominēs in aliā urbis parte fēcissent.
 Nōn enim sciēbant aliōs cum Godefrīdō urbem iam intrāvisse. Tunc
 hostēs intellēxērunt quanta esset clādēs. Territī fūgērunt et sē in arcem
 20 recēpērunt. At nostrī etiam in arcem intrāvērunt. Nē illī quidem, quī
 in templum fūgērunt, tūtī erant. Etiam victōrēs sentīre possunt quam
 terribilis fuerit haec clādēs.

READING VOCABULARY

admittō, ere, admīsī, admissum – to admit, let in

***agmen, agminis, n.** – marching column

***aperiō, ire, aperuī, apertum** – to open

arx, arcis, f. – citadel

***coepī, coepisse, coeptum** + *infinitive* – to begin (NB: *this verb has perfect forms only*)

Comes Flandrēnsium – Robert II, Count of Flanders‡

Comes Tolōsānus – Raymond IV, Count of Toulouse‡

***dēfendō, ere, dēfendī, dēfensum** – to defend

***ēdō, ere, ēdidī, ēditum** – to produce, give forth

***extrā** + *accusative* – outside of

flō, āre, āvī, ātum – to blow

Francī, ōrum, m. pl. – the Franks‡

***furō, ere, furuī, —** – to rage, be insane

Godefrīdus – Godfrey of Bouillon‡

Hierosolyma, ōrum, n. pl. – Jerusalem

incendō, ere, incendī, incēsum – to set fire, irritate

***ingēns, ingentis** – huge

***invādō, ere, invāsī, —** – to burst in

***ligneus, a, um** – made of wood

merīdiānus, a, um – southern

nē ... quidem – not even

***nec ... nec ...** – neither ... nor ...

nostrī, ōrum, m. pl. – our people, men

***parcō, ere, pepercī, —** + *dative* – to spare (somebody or something)

***pōns, pontis, m.** – bridge

***porta, ae, f.** – gate

***prīmō (adv.)** – at first

prōcēdō, ere, prōcessī, prōcessum – to advance, proceed

***quam (adv.)** – how (in indirect questions and exclamations)

quam terribilis fuerit ... clādēs – how terrible the disaster was

quanta esset clādēs – how great the disaster was

***quantus, a, um** – how great, how much

quid hominēs ... fēcissent – what men ... had done

***recipiō, ere, recēpī, receptum** – to receive; **mē recipiō** – I retreat

***resistō, ere, restitī, —** + *dative* – to resist (somebody or something)

Sanctī Stephanī <porta> – the gate of St. Stephen‡

scandō, ere, —, — – to climb over, mount

***(mē, tē, sē ...)** **recipiō, ere, recēpī, —** – to retreat

***simul (adv.)** – at the same time, simultaneously

Siōn, Siōnis, m./f. – a hill in Jerusalem

Tancredus Normannus – Tancred of Hauteville‡

territus, a, um – terrified

***tūtus, a, um** – safe

***vacuus, a, um** + *ablative* – empty of

***valeō, ēre, valuī, —** + *infinitive* – to be able; to be in good health

***victor, victōris, m.** – victor

violenter (adv.) – violently

*Words marked with an asterisk will need to be memorized.