

ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Godfrey, realizing the wind was blowing in the faces of the defenders, ordered a huge fire to be built in front of the walls. The defenders, unable to see because of the smoke blowing in their eyes, had to retreat.
2. They fled into the citadel and some even fled into the temple.
3. Though he favors the Franks, he admits the slaughter was a terrible disaster.



TEACHER BY THE WAY

Summary of the Crusades

The Crusades in general were wars deemed to be waged on behalf of Christendom and sanctioned by the Latin Church. Wars waged by the Christian inhabitants of Spain against the Islamic peoples who held the southern part of Spain, wars waged by the Christian knights in northeastern Germany against the non-Christian peoples who lived further to the east, and various campaigns against heretical groups in Europe itself, such as the infamous Albigensian Wars that took place in the south of France in the early thirteenth century, all technically counted as crusades. But the most famous crusades were the series of wars waged sporadically for nearly two centuries in Palestine and the Near East, which began as a contest over Jerusalem and the surrounding regions.

First Crusade 1095–1099

In 1095 at the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II called upon all Christians to join in a war against the Turks (who were currently attacking the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire) and to restore Jerusalem to Christian control. The European knights who answered the call finally captured Antioch in 1098 and Jerusalem itself in 1099, perpetrating brutal massacres of thousands of helpless civilians in each city. After the First Crusade, several crusader states were founded in Palestine along with bishoprics of the Latin Church. Most important of these states were the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Countships of Edessa and Tripoli, and the Principality of Antioch. Eventually the Muslims regrouped and began a new offensive against the Latins, i.e., the Europeans. They recaptured Edessa in 1144 and this prompted the pope to declare a new crusade.

Second Crusade 1147–1149

A number of important people helped Pope Eugenius III raise an army of crusaders, especially the eloquent Latin orator St. Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux, who was also one of the most important theologians of the day. Among the leaders of the armies were King Louis VII of France and Conrad III, then styled “King of the Romans,” but who was never crowned emperor. This crusade enjoyed no success in Palestine.

Third Crusade 1187–1192

The Sultan of Egypt, named Saladin, recaptured Jerusalem in 1187. In contrast to Christian behavior, the Muslim victors spared most of the Christian civilians they took in the captured city. Pope Gregory VIII called for a crusade and once again European warriors responded. Again their leaders included the most important rulers of Western Europe, Frederick I (“Barbarossa”) the Holy Roman emperor, Philip Augustus king of France, and Richard I (the “Lionhearted”)