

What really caused the Crusades and what was the outcome?

Prior to the first Crusade in 1095 A.D. there was 400 years of Muslim invasion in Europe.

711 A.D. Islam invades Spain.

715 A.D. By this year just about all of Spain is in Muslim hands. The Muslim conquest of Spain only took around three years but the Christian reconquest would require around 460 years.

717 A.,D. Second Siege of Constantinople (Eastern Christianities Capital)

719 A.D. Muslims attack Septimania in southern France.

724 A.D. Muslim forces make their deepest incursions into Western Europe before being stopped by Charles Martel at the Battle of Poitiers in 732.

October 10, 732 A.D. Battle of Tours. Charles Martel halts a Muslim force of around 40,000 to 60,000 cavalry under Abd el-Rahman Al Ghafiqi from moving farther into Europe. Many regard this battle as being decisive in that it saved Europe from Muslim control.

785 A.D. The Great Mosque in Cordoba, in Muslim controlled Spain, was built.

813 A.D. Muslims attack the Civi Vecchia near Rome.

827 A.D. Sicily is invaded by Muslims.

869 A.D. Arabs capture the island of Malta.

876 A.D. Muslims pillage Campagna in Italy.

902 A.D. The Muslim conquest of Sicily is completed when the last Christian stronghold, the city of Taorminia, is captured. Muslim rule of Sicily would last for 264 years.

911 A.D. Muslims control all the passes in the Alps between France and Italy, cutting off passage between the two countries.

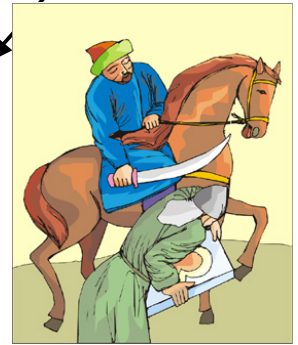
994 A.D. The monastery of Monte Cassino is destroyed a second time by Arabs.

1004 A.D. Arab raiders sack the Italian city of Pisa

1009 A.D. The Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem is destroyed by Muslim armies.

1045 - 1099 A.D. Life of Ruy Diaz de Vivar, known as El Cid (Arabic for "lord"), national hero of Spain. El Cid would become famous for his efforts to drive the Moors out of Spain.

November 18, 1095 A.D. Pope Urban II opens the Council of Clermont where ambassadors from the Byzantine emperor Alexius I Comnenus, asking help against the Muslims, were warmly received.



The Crusades were a defensive reaction to 400+ years of Muslim invasion and slaughter in Spain, France, Italy, and other parts of Europe! Christianity was decimated by Muslim killing and plunder. 711 A.D.-1095 A.D.

Key Fact: The Crusades lasted for 196 years. The Muslim invasion of Europe has lasted for more than 1300 years!

Timeline of the Crusades 1095-1248 A.D.

There were seven major Crusades. The era the Crusades the first began in 1095 with Pope Urban II's famous speech and the ended in 1291 when Acre, the last of the Latin holdings in Palestine, was lost. The major Crusades were:

- 1. The first, 1095-1099**, called by Pope Urban II and led by Peter the Hermit, Walter the Penniless, Godfrey of Bouillon, Baldwin and Eustace of Flanders, and others .
- 2. The second, 1147-49**, headed by King Louis VII who was enlisted by Bernard of Clairvaux, was a disastrous failure, including the loss of one of the four Latin Kingdoms, the Duchy of Edessa.
- 3. The third, 1188-92**, proclaimed by Pope Gregory VIII in the wake of the catastrophe of the second crusade, which conducted by Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, King Philip Augustus of France and King Richard "Coeur-de-Lion" of England.
- 4. The fourth, 1202-1204**, during which Constantinople was sacked.
- 5. The fifth, 1217-1221**, which included the conquest of Damietta.
- 6. The sixth**, in which Frederick II took part (1228-29); also Thibaud de Champagne and Richard of Cornwall (1239).
- 7. The seventh, 1248-50**, led by St. Louis (Louis IX of France).

Source: <http://gbgm-umc.org/UMW/bible/crusades.stm>

