

Lecture 26- God Wills It: Crusades or Missions?

History is too important to be left solely to historians.

Michael Cox, Introduction to The Oxford Book of Historical Stories

How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

Psalm 4:2

Assigned Reading

The Story of Christianity—Chapter 30

Key Terms

Crusade, Raymond Lull

Objectives

- Explain the purpose of the crusades
- Evaluate the results of the crusades
- Compare and contrast the crusades and missions during this period

Class Prayer

*“Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits which Thou hast given to me,
For all the pains and insults which Thou hast borne for me.*

*O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly and follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day. Amen.”*

Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

God Wills It: Crusades or Missions?

“The only missionary spirit of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was that of the crusaders. They took up the sword and perished by the sword. But Raymund Lull was raised up as if to prove in one startling case, to which the eyes of all Christendom were turned for many a day, what the crusades might have become and might have done for the world, had they been fought for the cross with the weapons of Him whose last words from it were forgiveness and peace.”

Samuel M. Zwemer, *Raymund Lull: First Missionary to the Moslems*, p. 18, quoting George Smith, *A Short History of Missions*

I. Crusades

- A. Christianity and Islam: 622 to 1095
- B. The Seven Crusades (see chart—“The Crusades”)
 1. Attack of the Franks (1097-1144)
 2. Islamic counterattack (1144-1187) of the great Saladin
 3. Downward spiraling (1187-1291)—St. Louis
 4. Children’s Crusade (referred to under point C)
- C. Motives
 1. Recovery of _____

2. Reunification of _____
 3. Personal _____
 4. Ambition and adventure
- D. Objections
- E. Results of the Crusades
1. Founding of new orders: Knights of the Temple (Templars), Knights of St. John (Hospitallers), Teutonic Knights
 2. Brief recovery of the Holy Land
 3. Bitterness of Muslims, Eastern Christians, and Jews
- F. Lasting Effects of the Crusades
- Elias Chacour, a Palestinian Christian: “We have to show our Muslim neighbors that we are not descendants of the crusaders but the descendants of Jesus Christ, eager to help them know who Jesus Christ is.” (interview in *Christianity Today*, March 4, 1996, p. 35)
- II. Missions
- A. St. Francis (1181-1226)
- Francis to the Sultan Al-Kamil of Egypt: “I am not sent of man, but of God, to show you the way of salvation.”
- B. Raymund Lull (1232-1315)
- “Lull was the greatest of the medieval missionaries, perhaps the grandest of all the missionaries from Paul to Carey and Livingstone. His career suggests those of Jonah the prophet, Paul the missionary, and Stephen the martyr” (Samuel Zwemer, *Raymund Lull: First Missionary to the Moslems*, 146).
- C. Franciscan and Dominican missions
- Prayer of G. Campbell Morgan, pastor of Westminster Chapel, London, printed and hung on the reading desk to face the congregation: “O God, to whom the whole Moslem world bows down in worship five times daily, have mercy upon its people and reveal to them Thy Christ.”

Questions for Consideration

1. Were there some motives of true sincerity among the Crusaders?
2. How does Israel’s becoming a nation this century compare to the Crusades?
3. Was it at this time that the sites and shrines were built on the sites of biblical events?
4. What was the early control of Palestine like?

For Further Study

“Retracing the First Crusade,” *National Geographic*, September 1989.

Read “Objections to Crusades Answered” by Humbert of Romans. Create your own “answers to the answers” of Humbert. Note his statement that “no man can reach [the Muslims] to preach the gospel to them.” Is this true?