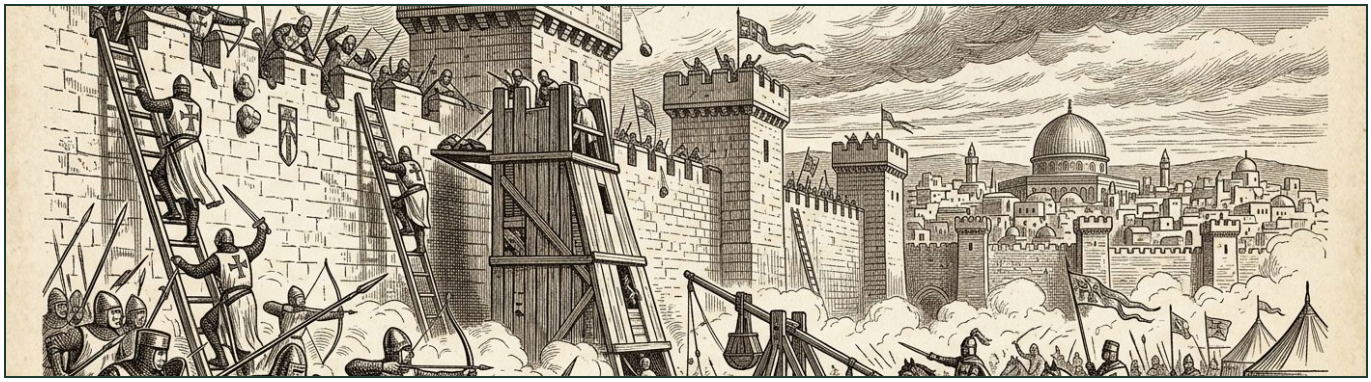


1095 – 1291

The Crusades Timeline

The Crusades were a series of religious wars launched by European Christians to reclaim the Holy Land from Muslim rule — nearly two centuries of warfare that shaped the medieval world and left a lasting mark on relations between Christianity and Islam.

1095 — Pope Urban II's Call

At the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II calls on European Christians to take up arms and reclaim Jerusalem from Muslim rule, promising spiritual rewards to those who join.

> **Why it mattered:** *The call launched the Crusading movement — uniting European nobles under the Church for the first time and setting off nearly two centuries of warfare between Christian Europe and the Islamic world.*

1099 — Crusaders Capture Jerusalem

The First Crusade reaches Jerusalem after a three-year march; Crusaders storm the city and establish four small Crusader states in the Holy Land.

> **Why it mattered:** *The capture of Jerusalem was the Crusaders' defining goal — it shocked the Islamic world, established a Christian presence in the Holy Land, and made the conflict between Christianity and Islam more intense than ever.*

1144 — Fall of Edessa

Muslim forces recapture Edessa, the northernmost Crusader state, sending shockwaves through Europe and triggering the failed Second Crusade.

> **Why it mattered:** *Edessa's fall proved that the Crusader states were vulnerable without constant European support — and the Second Crusade's failure showed that later Crusades would face far more organized opposition.*

The Crusades Timeline *continued*

1187 — **Saladin Retakes Jerusalem**

The Kurdish Muslim sultan Saladin defeats the Crusader army at the Battle of Hattin, then recaptures Jerusalem just 88 years after it was seized.

> **Why it mattered:** *Saladin's victory shocked Christian Europe and caused the Third Crusade — it also showed that Muslim rulers could unite against the Crusaders when they had strong leadership.*

1190–92 — **Third Crusade**

Europe's most powerful kings — including Richard I of England and Philip II of France — lead the Third Crusade; they retake coastal cities but cannot recapture Jerusalem.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Third Crusade ended in a negotiated settlement: Saladin kept Jerusalem but allowed Christian pilgrims to visit. It showed that military force alone could not resolve the conflict.*

1202–04 — **Fourth Crusade Sacks Constantinople**

Rather than fighting Muslims, the Fourth Crusade attacks and sacks Constantinople — the largest Christian city in the world — driven partly by Venetian financial interests.

> **Why it mattered:** *The sack of Constantinople permanently deepened the split between Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christianity, and fatally weakened the Byzantine Empire — contributing to its eventual fall to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.*

1291 — **Fall of Acre**

Muslim forces capture Acre, the last major Crusader stronghold in the Holy Land, ending nearly two centuries of European military presence in the region.

> **Why it mattered:** *The fall of Acre ended the Crusader era — the dream of a permanent Christian kingdom in the Holy Land was over, though the Crusades' legacy of cultural exchange and religious conflict shaped Europe and the Middle East for centuries.*