

NAME:  
COHORT:

MR. DELHAGEN  
PRIMARY SOURCES / POINT OF VIEW

## VIEWS FROM THE CRUSADES

In the Crusades, both Christians and Muslims believed that God was on their side. They both felt justified in using violence to win or to keep the Holy Land. The following excerpts show their belief in the rightness of their deeds.

**OBJECTIVE:** ANALYZE MUSLIMS' & CHRISTIANS' JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR ACTIONS IN THE CRUSADES

**DIRECTIONS:** The following excerpts provide different accounts of the Crusades. As you read each passage, imagine (as hard as it may be) what it would have been like to be in the shoes of the speaker at this time.

### Document 1: Pope Urban II

*In 1095, Pope Urban II issued a plea that resulted in the First Crusade. The pope assured his listeners that God was on their side.*

“Let the holy burial place of our Lord and Savior, which is held by the unclean Islamic Empire, arouse a fight in you...This royal city [Jerusalem], situated at the center of the earth, is now held captive by the enemies of Christ and is subjected, by those who do not know God, to the worship of the heathen. Accordingly, undertake this journey eagerly for the assurance of the reward or imperishable glory in the kingdom of heaven.”

**THINK:** Ask yourself... “What words and/or emotions does this speaker use to motivate his audience to fight the Muslims?”

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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## Document 2: William of Tyre

*A Christian bishop, William of Tyre, drew upon eyewitness accounts of the capture of Jerusalem by Crusaders.*

“It was impossible to look upon the vast numbers of the slain without horror; everywhere lay fragments of human bodies, and the very ground was covered with the blood of the slain. It was not alone the spectacle of headless bodies and mutilated limbs strewn in all directions that roused horror in all who looked upon them. Still more dreadful was it to gaze upon the victors themselves, dripping with blood from head to foot, an ominous sight that brought terror to all who met them. It is reported that within the Temple enclosure alone about ten thousand infidels were slaughtered, in addition to those who lay slain everywhere throughout the city in the streets and squares, the number of whom was estimated as no less.”

**THINK:** Ask yourself... “What is going on in this passage? What would motivate people to act in such a violent way?”

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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## Document 3: Saladin

*This is an excerpt of Saladin’s reply to a letter from Frederick I (Barbarossa) threatening Saladin. Saladin wrote the letter after he recaptured Jerusalem from the Christian Crusaders.*

“Whenever your armies are assembled we will meet you with the power of God. We will not be satisfied with the land on the seacoast, but we will cross over with God’s good pleasure and take from you all your lands in the strength of the Lord...And when the Lord shall have given us victory over you, nothing will remain for us to do but freely to take your lands by His power and pleasure. By the virtue and power of God we have taken possession of Jerusalem; and of the three cities that still remain in the hands of the Christians...we shall occupy them also.”

**THINK:** Ask yourself... “Why does the author believe that he will be able to take back the land from the Christian Crusaders? What are his goals?”

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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### Document 4: Luttrell Psalter

*The painting below is of Richard the Lion-Hearted (left) knocking Saladin off his horse during the Third Crusade. However, the two men never actually met in personal combat.*



**THINK:** Ask yourself... “What evidence is reveals the artist’s bias about the confrontation between Islam and Christianity?”

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS...

- 1) Using specific phrases or passages from Source 1 and Source 2, demonstrate how their attitudes were similar.

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- 2) What command in Source 1 might have been at the root of the action described in Source 2?

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