**The Crusades Through Their Eyes**

**Directions:** Read all the documents and answer the corresponding questions.

**Document 1- They Bore the Sign of the Cross**

*Ekkehhard of Aura, a German monk and historian, wrote about the reaction of Christians across Western Europe to the speech given by Pope Urban II.*

[After Urban had aroused the spirits of all by the promise of forgiveness to those who undertook the expedition with single-hearted devotion,] toward one hundred thousand men were appointed to the immediate service of God from Aquitaine and Normandy, England, Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, Galicia, Gascony, France, Flanders, Lorraine, and from other Christian peoples, whose names I no longer retain. It was truly an army of “crusaders,” for they bore the sign of the cross on their garments as a reminder that they should mortify {severely discipline} the flesh, and in the hope that they would in this way triumph over the enemies of the cross of Christ, as it had once come to pass in the case of the great Constantine. Thus, through the marvelous and unexampled working of divine dispensation {release}, all these members of Christ, so different in speech, origin, and nationality, were suddenly brought together as one body through their love of Christ.

**SOURCE:** Ekkehard’s Hierosolymita, a history, 1099

According to Ekkehard, what was the response all over Europe to the speech by Pope Urban II?

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What was surprising or amazing about this event?

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**Document 2- The Franks Conquer Jerusalem**

*Arab Historian Ibn Al-Athir recounts the Siege of Jerusalem by the Crusaders during the First Crusade in 1099.*

“The population was put to the sword by the Franks, who pillaged (raided) the area for a week… In Masjid al-Aqsa [mosque next to the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount] the Franks slaughtered more than 70,000 people, among them a large number of Imams and Muslim scholars… The Franks stripped the Dome of the Rock of more than forty silver candelabra… and a great silver lamp weighing forty-four Syrian pounds, as well as a hundred and fifty smaller silver candelabra and more than twenty gold ones, and a great deal more booty.”

**SOURCE:** The Perfect History by Ibn Al-Athir (Arab Muslim Historian), 1200s.

What are the financial benefits of fighting as a Crusader?

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According to Fulcher of Chartres, what is happening to those Europeans who come to fight in the Middle East?

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**Document 3- Call to the Muslims**
In this excerpt, an Iraqi poet responds to the Crusader attacks against Muslims in Syria (in the “Holy Land”) with this message to Muslims living in other parts of the Middle East.

“…Sons of Islam, behind you are battles in which heads rolled at your feet. Dare you slumber in the blessed shade of safety, where life is soft as an orchard flower? How can the eye sleep between the lids at a time of disasters that would waken any sleeper? While your Syrian brothers can only sleep on the backs of their chargers or in vultures' bellies!...”

**SOURCE:** Abu l-Musaffar al Abiwardi: Iraqi poet of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

What point is the poet making? What reaction do you think he is trying to provoke from fellow Muslims?

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**Document 4- The Good Life in the East**
After the Franks had settled and created the Crusader states, the chronicler Fulcher of Chartres had this observation:

“…[W]e who were Occidentals (Westerners) now have been made Orientals (Easterners). He who was a Roman or a Frank is now a Galilean or a Palestinian. One who was a citizen of Rheims or of Chartres (in France) now has been made a citizen of Tyre or of Antioch (in the Levant). We have already forgotten the places of our birth… Some already possess here homes and servants which they have received through inheritance. Some have taken wives not merely of their own people, but Syrians, or Armenians, or even Saracens who have received the grace of baptism… For those who were poor [in Europe], here God makes rich. Those who had few coins, here possess countless [coins]; and those who had not had a villa, here, by the gift of God, already possess a city. Therefore why should one who has found the East so favorable return to the West?

**SOURCE:** Chronicles of Fulcher of Chartres, 1127.

What are the financial benefits of fighting as a Crusader?

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According to Fulcher of Chartres, what is happening to those Europeans who come to fight in the Middle East?

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