

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE QUESTION SET #2

Document 1

Raymond d'Aguiliers was an eyewitness to the First Crusade. He followed the crusading armies army to Jerusalem and wrote a history of his experiences. The passage below is a modified excerpt from his account of the Crusaders' siege of Jerusalem that he wrote sometime after the First Crusade.

Finally, our men took possession of the walls and towers, and wonderful sights were to be seen. Some of our men (and this was more merciful) cut off the heads of their enemies; others shot them with arrows, so that they fell from the towers. It was necessary to pick one's way over the bodies of men and horses. In the Temple of Solomon, men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins. Indeed, it was a just and splendid judgment of God that this place should be filled with the blood of the unbelievers, since it had suffered so long from their blasphemies. Some of the enemy took refuge in the Tower of David, and, petitioning Count Raymond for protection, surrendered the Tower into his hands.

How the pilgrims rejoiced and exalted and sang a new song to the Lord! On this day, the children of the apostles regained the city and fatherland for God and the fathers.

Source: Raymond d'Aguiliers, "The Siege and Capture of Jerusalem," in *The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants*, ed. August. C. Krey (Princeton: 1921), 257-62. From the Stanford History Education Group, <https://sheg.stanford.edu/first-crusade>.

Historical Context- refers to the historical circumstances that led to this event/idea/historical development

1. Explain the historical circumstances that led to the Crusades. [1]

Emperor Alexius comnenus' letter to Pope Urban II asking for help against the Turks, Pope Urban II then made a speech to his people about the Muslims humiliating the Christian, which then led to the Christians invading Jerusalem and killing almost every Muslim with little mercy