Faith Studies with the ACHS

CRUSADES

Week 1
Introduction & Islam

1. Most people claim that Allah and God are one in the same just different cultural expressions as understood by the various people groups, is this true? _____

2. The feminist movement praises Islam. Are women honored in Muslim culture?

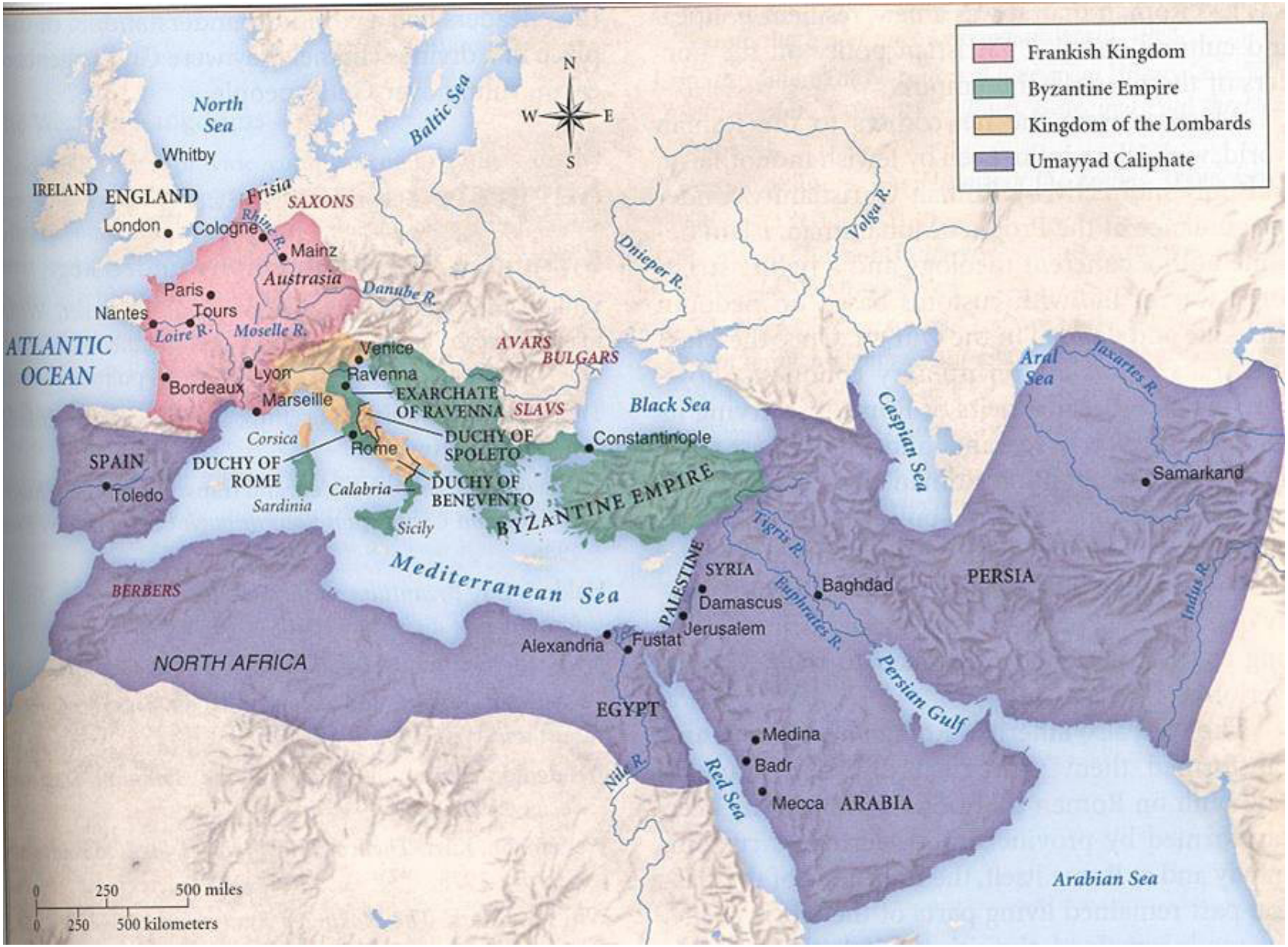
3. Was Muhammad an example beyond reproach considering he holds greater status than the Prophet Jesus? _____

4. Is it appropriate to lie and steal in certain circumstances? _____

5. Explain the "Golden age" of Islamic culture? _____

CRUSADES

The Umayyad Caliphate 661–750



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Week 2
Pre Crusades Event Timeline

0355 After removing a Roman temple from the site (possibly the Temple of Aphrodite built by Hadrian), Constantine I has the Church of the Holy Sepulcher constructed in Jerusalem. Built around the excavated hill of the Crucifixion

0613 Persians capture Damascus and Antioch

0614 Persians sack Jerusalem. damaging the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the process.

0633 Muslims conquer Syria and Iraq.

0635 Muslims begin the conquest of Persia and Syria.

0635 Arab Muslims capture the city of Damascus from the Byzantines.

August 20, 0636 Battle of Yarmuk (also: Yarmuq, Hieromyax): Following the Muslim capture of Damascus and Edessa, Byzantine Emperor Heraclius organizes a large army which manages to take back control of those cities. However, Byzantine commander, Baänes is soundly defeated by Muslim forces under Khalid ibn Walid in a battle in the valley of the Yarmuk River outside Damascus. This leaves all of Syria open to Arab domination. 0637 The Arabs occupy the Persian capital of Ctesiphon. By 0651, the entire Persian realm would come under the rule of Islam and continued its westward expansion.

0637 Syria is conquered by Muslim forces.

0637 Jerusalem falls to invading Muslim forces.

0638 Caliph Umar I enters Jerusalem.

0639 Muslims conquer Egypt and Persia.

0641 Islam spreads into Egypt. The Catholic Archbishop invites Muslims to help free Egypt from Roman oppressors.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

0641 Under the leadership of Abd-al-Rahman, Muslims conquer southern areas of Azerbaijan, Daghestan, Georgia, and Armenia.

0641 Under the leadership of Amr ibn al-As, Muslims conquer the Byzantine city of Alexandria in Egypt. Amr forbids the looting of the city and proclaims freedom of worship for all. According to some accounts, he also has what was left of the Great Library burned the following year. Al-As creates the first Muslim city in Egypt, al-Fustat, and builds there the first mosque in Egypt.

0644 Muslim leader Umar dies and is succeeded by Caliph Uthman, a member of the Umayyad family that had rejected Muhammad's prophesies. Rallies arise to support Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, as caliph. Uthman launches invasions to the west into North Africa.

0649 Muawiya I, a member of the Umayyad family, leads a raid against Cyprus, sacking the capital Salamis-Constantia after a short siege and pillaging the rest of the island.

0652 Sicily is attacked by Muslims coming out of Tunisia (named Ifriqiya by the Muslims, a name later given to the entire continent of Africa).

0653 Muawiya I leads a raid against Rhodes, taking the remaining pieces of the Colossus of Rhodes (one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world) and shipping it back to Syria to be sold as scrap metal.

0654 Muawiya I conquers Cyprus and stations a large garrison there. The island would remain in Muslim hands until 0966.

0668 First Siege of Constantinople: This attack lasts off and on for seven years, with the Muslim forces generally spending the winters on the island of Cyzicus, a few miles south of Constantinople. The Greeks are able to fend off repeated attacks with a weapon desperately feared by the Arabs: Greek Fire. It burned through ships, shields, and flesh and it could not be put out once it started.

0669 The Muslim conquest reaches to Morocco in North Africa. The region would be

open to the rule of the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates until 800 CE.

0672 Muslims under Mauwiya I capture the island of Rhodes.

0674 Arab conquest reaches the Indus River.

0698 Muslims capture Carthage in North Africa.

0711 With the further conquest of Egypt, Spain and North Africa, Islam included all of the Persian empire and most of the old Roman world under Islamic rule. Muslims began the conquest of Sindh in Afghanistan.

April 0711 Tariq ibn Malik, a Berber officer, crosses the strait separating Africa and Europe with a group of Muslims and enters Spain (al-Andalus, as the Muslims called it, a word is etymologically linked to "Vandals"). The first stop in the Muslim conquest of Spain is at the foot of a mountain that comes to be called Jabel Tarik, the Mountain of Tarik. Today it is known as Gibraltar.

July 19, 0711 Battle of Guadalete: Tariq ibn Ziyad kills King Rodrigo (or Roderic), Visigoth ruler of Spain, at the Guadalete River in the south of the Iberian peninsula. Almost the entire Iberian peninsula would come under Islamic control by 0718 CE.

0715 By this year just about all of Spain is in Muslim hands. The Muslim conquest of Spain only took around three years but the Christian reconquest would require around 460 years (it might have gone faster had the various Christian kingdoms not been at each other' throats much of the time).

0716 Lisbon is captured by Muslims.

0717 Cordova (Qurtuba) becomes the capital of Muslim holdings in Andalusia (Spain).

August 15, 0717 Second Siege of Constantinople: Taking advantage of the civil unrest in the Byzantine Empire, Caliph Sulieman sends 120,000 Muslims under the command of his brother, Moslemah, to launch the second siege of Constantinople. Another force of around 100,000 Muslims with 1,800 galleys soon arrives from

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

Syria and Egypt to assist. Most of these reinforcements are quickly destroyed with Greek Fire. Eventually the Muslims outside Constantinople begin to starve and, in the winter, they also begin to freeze to death. Even the Bulgarians, usually hostile to the Byzantines, send a force to destroy Muslim reinforcements marching from Adrianopolis.

August 15, 0718 Muslims abandon their second siege of Constantinople. Although the Byzantine Empire also sustains heavily casualties and loses most its territory south of the Taurus Mountains, by holding the line here they prevent a disorganized and militarily inferior Europe from having to confront a Muslim invasion along the shortest possible route. Instead, the Arabic invasion of Europe must proceed along the longer path across northern Africa and into Spain, a route which prevents quick reinforcement and ultimately proves ineffective.

0719 Muslims attack Septimania in southern France (so named because it was the base of operations for Rome's Seventh Legion)

July 09, 0721 A Muslim army under the command of Al-Semah and that had crossed the Pyrenees is defeated by the Franks near Toulouse.

0722 Battle of Covadonga: Pelayo, (0690-0737) Visigoth noble who had been elected the first King of Asturias (0718-0737), defeats a Muslim army at Alcama near Covadonga. This is generally regarded as the first real Christian victory over the Muslims in the Reconquista.

0724 Under the command of Ambissa, Emir of Andalusia, Muslim forces raid southern France and capture the cities of Carcassone and Nimes. Primary targets in these and other raids are churches and monasteries where the Muslims take away holy objects and enslave or kill all the clerics.

0725 Muslim forces occupied Nimes, France.

0730 Muslim forces occupy the French cities of Narbonne and Avignon.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

October 10, 0732 Battle of Tours: With perhaps 1,500 soldiers, Charles Martel halts a Muslim force of around 40,000 to 60,000 cavalry under Abd el-Rahman Al Ghafiqi from moving farther into Europe. Many regard this battle as being decisive in that it saved Europe from Muslim control. Gibbon wrote: "A victorious line of march had been prolonged above a thousand miles from the rock of Gibraltar to the banks of the Loire; the repetition of an equal space would have carried the Saracens to the confines of Poland and the Highlands of Scotland; the Rhine is not more impassable than the Nile or Euphrates, and the Arabian fleet might have sailed without a naval combat into the mouth of the Thames. Perhaps the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford, and her pulpits might demonstrate to a circumcised people the sanctity and truth of the revelation of Muhammad." Others, though, argue that the battle's importance has been exaggerated. The names of Tours, Poitiers, and Charles Martel do not appear in the Arab histories. They list the battle under the name Balat al-Shuhada, the Highway of Martyrs, and is treated as a minor engagement.

0735 Muslim invaders capture the city of Arles.

0737 Charles Martel sends his brother, Childebrand, to lay siege to Avignon and drive out the Muslim occupiers. Childebrand is successful and, according to records, has all the Muslims in the city killed.

0739 Already having retaken Narbonne, Beziers, Montpellier, and Nimes during the previous couple of years, Childebrand captures Marseille, one of the largest French cities still in Muslim hands.

April 04, 0742 Birth of Charlemagne, founder of the Frankish Empire.

0743 Death of Hisham, 10th caliph of the Umayyad Dynasty. It was under Hisham that Muslim forces made their deepest incursions into Western Europe before being stopped by Charles Martel at the Battle of Poitiers in 0732.

0750 The Arabian Nights, a compilation of stories written under the reign of the Abbasids, became representative of the lifestyle and administration of this Persian influenced government.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

0750 The Abbasids assume control of the Islamic world (except Spain, which falls under the control of a descendant of the Umayyad family) and moved the capital to Baghdad in Iraq. The Abbasid Caliphate would last until 1258.

September 0755 Abd al-Rahman of the Umayyad dynasty flees to Spain to escape the Abbasids and would be responsible for creating the "Golden Caliphate" in Spain.

0759 Arabs lose the city of Narbonne, France, their furthest and last conquest into Frankish territory. In capturing this city Pippin III (Pippin the Short) ends the Muslim incursions in France.

0768 Pepin's son, Carolus Magnus (Charlemagne), succeeded his father and became one of the most important European rulers of medieval history.

0787 Danes invade England for the first time.

0792 Hisham I, emir of Cordova, calls for a Jihad against the infidels in Andalusia and France. Tens of thousands from as far away as Syria heed his call and cross the Pyrennes to subjugate France. Cities like Narbonne are destroyed, but the invasion is ultimately hated at Carcassone.

0800 - 1200 Jews experience a "golden age" of creativity and toleration in Spain under Moorish (Muslim) rule.

0800 Ambassadors of Caliph Harunu r-Rashid give keys to the Holy Sepulcher to the Frankish king, thus acknowledging some Frankish control over the interests of Christians in Jerusalem.

0801 Vikings begin selling slaves to Muslims.

0806 Hien Tsung becomes the Emperor of China. During his reign a shortage of copper leads to the introduction of paper money.

April 04, 0814 Death of Charlemagne, founder of the Frankish Empire.
June 0827 Sicily is invaded by Muslims who, this time, are looking to take control of

the island rather than simply taking away booty. They are initially aided by Euphemius, a Byzantine naval commander who is rebelling against the Emperor. Conquest of the island would require 75 years of hard fighting.

0831 Muslim invaders capture the Sicilian city of Palermo and make it their capital.

0846 Muslim raiders sail a fleet of ships from Africa up the Tiber river and attack outlying areas around Ostia and Rome. Some manage to enter Rome and damage the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul. Not until Pope Leo IV promises a yearly tribute of 25,000 silver coins do the raiders leave. The Leonine Wall is built in order to fend off further attacks such as this.

0849 Battle of Ostia: Aghlabid monarch Muhammad sends a fleet of ships from Sardinia to attack Rome. As the fleet prepares to land troops, the combination of a large storm and an alliance of Christian forces were able to destroy the Muslims ships.

0850 The Acropolis of Zimbabwe was built in Rhodesia.

0850 Perfectus, a Christian priest in Muslim Cordova, is executed after he refuses to retract numerous insults he made about the Prophet Muhammed. Numerous other priests, monks, and laity would follow as Christians became caught up in a zest for martyrdom.

0851 Abd al-Rahman II has eleven young Christians executed in the city of Cordova after they deliberately seek out martyrdom by insulting the Prophet Muhammed.

0859 Muslim invaders capture the Sicilian city of Castrogiovanni (Enna), slaughtering several thousand inhabitants.

0863 Under Cyril (0826 - 0869) and Methodius (c. 0815 - 0885) the conversion of Moravia begins. The two brothers were sent by the patriarch of Constantinople to Moravia, where the ruler, Rostilav, decreed in 863 that any preaching done had to be in the language of the people. As a result, Cyril and Methodius developed the first usable alphabet for the Slavic tongue - thus, the Cyrillic alphabet.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

0866 Emperor Louis II travels from Germany to southern Italy to battle the Muslim raiders causing trouble there.

0868 The Sattarid dynasty, whose rule would continue until 0930 CE, extended Muslim control throughout most of Persia. In Egypt, the Abbasid and Umayyad caliphates ended and the Egyptian-based Tulunid dynasty took over (lasting until 904 CE).

0869 Arabs capture the island of Malta.

0870 After a month-long siege, the Sicilian city of Syracuse is captured by Muslim invaders.

0871 King Alfred the Great of England created a system of government and education which allowed for the unification of smaller Anglo-Saxon states in the ninth and tenth centuries.

0874 Iceland is colonized by Vikings from Norway.

0876 Muslims pillage Campagna in Italy.

0879 The Seljuk Empire unites Mesopotamia and a large portion of Persia.

0900 Mayans emigrate to the Yucatan Peninsula.

0902 The Muslim conquest of Sicily is completed when the last Christian stronghold, the city of Taorminia, is captured. Muslim rule of Sicily would last for 264 years.

0911 Muslims control all the passes in the Alps between France and Italy, cutting off passage between the two countries.

0916 A combined force of Greek and German emperors and Italian city-states defeat Muslim invaders at Garigliano, putting Muslim raids in Italy to an end.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

0920 Muslim forces cross the Pyrenees, enter Gascony, and reach as far as the gates of Toulouse.

0939 Madrid is recaptured from Muslim forces.

c. 0950 Catholicism becomes prevalent and dominant religion throughout Europe.

0950 According to traditional historiography, Europe enters Dark Ages.

0961 Under the command of general Nicephorus Phokas, the Byzantines recapture Crete from Muslim rebels who had earlier fled Cordova.

0965 Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus Phokas reconquers Cyprus from the Muslims.

0965 Grenoble is recaptured from the Muslims.

0969 Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus II Phocas reconquers Antioch (modern Antakya, capital of the province Hatay) from the Arabs.

0972 The Fatimids of Egypt conquer north Africa.

0972 The Muslims in the Sisteron district of France surrender to Christian forces and their leader asks to be baptized.

0981 Eric the Red is exiled from Iceland and settles in a new land he called Greenland in order to attract settlers.

0998 Venice conquers the Adriatic port of Zara. The Venetians would eventually lose the city to the Hungarians and, in 1202, they offer a deal to soldiers of the Fourth Crusade: capture the city again for them in exchange for passage to Egypt.

1004 Arab raiders sack the Italian city of Pisa.

1009 The Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem is destroyed by Muslim armies.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

1009 Caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, founder of the Druze sect and sixth Fatimid Caliph in Egypt, orders the Holy Sepulcher and all Christian buildings in Jerusalem be destroyed. In Europe a rumor develops that a "Prince of Babylon" had ordered the destruction of the Holy Sepulcher at the instigation of the Jews. Attacks on Jewish communities in cities like Rouen, Orelans, and Mainz ensue and this rumor helps lay the basis for massacres of Jewish communities by Crusaders marching to the Holy Land.

1012 Caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, founder of the Druze sect and sixth Fatimid Caliph in Egypt, orders the destruction of all Christian and Jewish houses of worship in his lands.

1012 Berber forces capture Cordova and order that half the population be executed.

1013 Jews are expelled from the Umayyad Caliphate of Cordova, then ruled by Sulaimann.

1015 Arab Muslim forces conquer Sardinia.

1016 The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is partially destroyed by earthquakes.

1020 Merchants from Amalfi and Salerno are granted permission by the Egyptian Caliph to build a hospice in Jerusalem. Out of this would eventually grow The Order of Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (also known as: Knights of Malta, Knights of Rhodes, and most commonly as Knights Hospitaller).

1025 The power of the Byzantine Empire begins to decline.

1026 Richard II of Normandy leads a group of several hundred armed men on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the belief that the Day of Judgment had arrived. Turkish control of the region hampers their goals, however.

1027 The Frankish protectorate over Christian interests in Jerusalem is replaced by a f protectorate. Byzantine leaders begin the reconstruction of the Holy Sepulcher.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

1035 The Byzantines make a landing in Sicily, but don't try to recapture the island from the Muslims.

1050 - 1200 The first agricultural revolution of Medieval Europe begins in 1050 CE with a shift to the northern lands for cultivation, a period of improved climate from 700 CE to 1200 CE in western Europe, and the widespread use and perfection of new farming devices. Technological innovations include the use of the heavy plow, the three-field system of crop rotation, the use of mills for processing cloth, brewing beer, crushing pulp for paper manufacture, and the widespread use of iron and horses. With an increase in agricultural advancements, Western towns and trade grow exponentially and Western Europe returns to a money economy.

July 16, 1054 Great Schism: The Western Christian Church, in an effort to further enhance its power, had tried to impose Latin rites on Greek churches in southern Italy in 1052; as a consequence, Latin churches in Constantinople were closed. In the end, this leads to the excommunication of Michael Cerularius, patriarch of Constantinople (who in turn excommunicates Pope Leo IX). Although generally regarded as a minor event at the time, today it is treated as the final event that sealed the Great Schism between Eastern and Western Christianity.

1061 Roger Guiscard lands at Sicily with a large Norman force and captures the city of Masara. The Norman reconquest of Sicily would require another 30 years.

September 29, 1066 William the Conqueror invades England and claims the English throne at the Battle of Hastings. Because William is both the King of England and the Duke of Normandy, The Norman Conquest fuses French and English cultures. The language of England evolves into Middle English with an English syntax and grammar and a heavily French vocabulary.

1068 Alp Arslan invades the Byzantine Empire and is repulsed by Romanus IV Diogenes over the course of three campaigns. Not until 1070, though, would the Turks be driven back across the Euphrates river.

1070 Brother Gerard, a leader of the Benedictine monks and nuns who run the hospices in Jerusalem. beings to organize The Order of Knights of the Hospital of

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

St. John of Jerusalem (also known as: Knights of Malta, Knights of Rhodes, and most commonly as Knights Hospitaller) as a more military force for the active protection of Christian pilgrims.

1071 Normans conquer the last Byzantine holdings in Italy.

1071 - 1085 Seljuk Turks conquer most of Syria and Palestine.

August 19, 1071 Battle of Manzikert: Alp Arslan leads an army of Seljuk Turks against the Byzantine Empire near Lake Van. Numbering perhaps as many as 100,000 men, the Turks take the fortresses of Akhlat and Manzikert before Byzantine Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes can respond. Although Diogenes is able to recapture Akhlat, the siege of Manzikert fails when a Turkish relief force arrives and Andronicus Ducas, an enemy of Romanus Diogenes, refuses to obey orders to fight. Diogenes himself is captured and released, but he would be murdered after his return to Constantinople. Partly because of the defeat at Manzikert and partly due to the civil wars following the murder of Digoenes, Asia Minor would be left open to Turkish invasion.

1080 Order of the Hospital of St. John is founded in Italy. This special order of knights was dedicated to guarding a pilgrim hospital, or hostel, in Jerusalem.

1080 An Armenian state is founded in Cilicia, a district on the southeastern coast of Asia Minor (Turkey), north of Cyprus, by refugees feeling the Seljuk invasion of their Armenian homeland. A Christian kingdom located in the midst of hostile Muslim states and lacking good relations with the Byzantine Empire, "Armenia Minor" would provide important assistance to Crusaders from Europe.

October 25, 1085 The Moors are expelled from Toledo, Spain, by Alfonso VI.

March 12, 1088 Urban II is elected pope. An active supporter of the Gregorian reforms, Urban would become responsible for launching the First Crusade.

1089 Byzantine forces conquer the island of Crete.

1090 Yusuf Ibn Tashfin, King of the Almoravids, captures Granada.

Pre Crusades Event Timeline

1091 The Normans recapture Sicily from the Muslims.

November 18, 1095 Pope Urban II opens the Council of Clermont where ambassadors from the Byzantine emperor Alexius I Comnenus, asking help against the Muslims, were warmly received.

Week 2
Purpose of the Crusades

Skim over your timeline if time permits.

1. Modern historians due to a more enlightened world view are correct to interpret the crusades by modern cultural understanding, how is this done and what are the conclusions? _____

2. Are the Crusades a black mark on the history of Western Civilization and the Church? _____

3. For centuries the Muslim culture evolved from warlike preservation to a beautiful advanced culture. Why would barbaric middle ages Europe want to destroy that culture. Was it greed, envy, racism? _____

4. Did the common European man / woman disagree with the notion of the Crusades? Were they pretty much forced to do the bidding of their Lords and Kings?

5. Did the Church relish in the prospect of wealth that would be attained from the Crusades? _____

Week 3
If the world ended...

If you and a group of people found yourselves as the last known people on earth with the job of beginning civilization a new.....

1. What subjects would you categorize as the primary focus in education?

2. What two books would you hope to have available to you? _____

3. What one tradition would you start with as a basis for new civilization?

4. What remnants of previous cultures would you attempt to restore? _____

5. Who would you vote off the island?

- ☐ Liberal PHD scientist
- ☐ Climate concerned farmer
- ☐ Blue collar GED level educated former soldier
- ☐ Communist PHD water engineer
- ☐ Feminist PHD Educator
- ☐ Woke Electronics Technician
- ☐ Backwoods Handyman
- ☐ Conservative Pastor

1. With money and resources available, did the Templars discover Nova Scotia 100 years before other Europeans? _____

2. Are the Templars responsible for Friday the 13 being considered unlucky?

3. Is Freemasonry a continuation of the Templar order? _____

4. Did power and wealth turn the loyalty of the Templars to satanic influence?