



LENTEN STUDY SERIES 2024

Reckoning and Repentance: The Church, Power, and the Crusades

Wednesday evenings, February 14 - March 20
7:15 PM
St. Augustine's Church, Lethbridge, Alberta

How do we reckon with difficult moments in the history of the Church? Using the medieval crusades as a case study, this series asks what it means to think about one particular difficult moment with sensitivity, humility, and conviction.

Series Outline:

- 1) Feb. 14: Course Introduction - Reckoning With History
- 2) Feb. 21: What Were the Crusades?: Beginnings and Motives
- 3) Feb. 28: Mission Creep: Crusades Against Enemies Closer to Home
- 4) March 6: The End of the Crusades and Common Misconceptions
- 5) March 13: The Crusades in Christian Memory - What Have the Crusades Meant for the Church Since They Ended?
- 6) March 20: What Now? - Repentance

Recommended Reading

General Introductions – Short and Sweet and Readable:

Susanna Throop, *The Crusades: An Epitome*, Leeds: Kismet Press, 2018.
-Open source and available to read for free at archive.org

Jay Rubenstein, *Armies of Heaven: The First Crusade and the Quest for Apocalypse*, 2011

Christopher Tyerman, *The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction*, 2005

Tom Holland, *Millennium: The End of the World and the Forging of Christendom*, 2008
-great as a general background and introduction to medieval Europe -- explores European culture in the century before the crusades

Dan Jones, *Crusaders: An Epic History of the Wars for the Holy Lands*, 2019

General Introductions – Long and Thorough

Steven Runciman, *A History of the Crusades*, 3 volumes, 1951-1954
-available to read for free at archive.org

Christopher Tyerman, *God's War: A New History of the Crusades*, 2006

Crusades from the Islamic Perspective

Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*, 2014

Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*, 1989

Crusades from the Jewish Perspective

Jeremy Cohen, *Sanctifying the Name of God: Jewish Martyrs and Jewish Memories of the First Crusade*, 2004

David Nirenberg, *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition*, 2013
-important background on Jewish-Christian relations

Crusades from the Eastern Christian Perspective

Jonathan Harris, *Byzantium and the Crusades*, 2022

Christopher MacEvitt, *The Crusades and the Christian World of the East: Rough Tolerance*, 2008

Other

Malcolm Barber, *The Crusader States*, 2012

Malcolm Barber, *The New Knighthood: A History of the Order of the Temple*, 1994

Nicholas Morton, *The Field of Blood: The Battle for Aleppo and the Remaking of the Medieval Middle East*, 2018

John Tolan, *Saint Francis and the Sultan: The Curious History of a Christian-Muslim Encounter*, 2009

Jonathan Philips, *The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin*, 2019

Primary Sources

Albert of Aachen, *History of the Journey to Jerusalem*

Geoffrey of Villehardouin, *The Conquest of Constantinople*
-deals with the Fourth Crusade and the sack of Constantinople in 1204

John of Joinville, *The Life of Saint Louis*
-the story of Louis IX, King of France, who led the seventh and eighth crusades

Baha al-Din Ibn Shaddad, *The Rare and Excellent History of Saladin*

-a biography of the ruler who took Jerusalem back from the crusaders in 1187

Usama ibn Munqidh, *The Book of Contemplation*

-the recollections of an "Arab gentleman" who lived side-by-side with the crusaders

Bernard of Clairvaux, "In Praise of the New Knighthood"

-an influential medieval theologian's defense of the military orders, available for free at:
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/Bernard-praiseofnewknighthood.asp>

Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

-the work of a Byzantine princess about the life of her father Alexios I Komnenos

Matthew of Edessa, *Chronicle*

-provides an Armenian perspective on the first crusade

William of Tyre, *A History of Deeds Done Beyond the Sea*

-the only crusades history written in Latin by someone born in the crusader states

Schlomo Eidelberg, editor and translator, *The Hebrew Chronicles of the First and Second Crusades*, 1996