



**TEDUTRAIN' 21**

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# JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE



CRUSADES

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL  
YÜKSEL ÇAĞLAR BAYPINAR



TED UNIVERSITY TRAINING  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE 2021

## LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Highly esteemed participants,

I am Hüseyin Hikmet Findık, a junior student at TED University, under the Department of Computer Engineering. I proudly would like to welcome you all to the TEDUMUN Training and Development Conference 2021, which we all believe will lead to a lot of new beginnings.

While thinking about a training and development conference, it is impossible not to refer to what annoys us in real life. There is no doubt that day by day, the 21st century shows us the value of equality, democracy, justice, and every democratic norm that we deeply needed for peaceful communities. In the Turkey of the 21st century, it is obvious that we are stumbling at every single one of those values. These values create an environment that makes us happy, peaceful. It has been hard, sad, and desperate for us to see every single democratic norm being violated one by one, every day, right in front of our eyes.

When he first stepped into Havza, Samsun, while everything around was worse than ever, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk said “They do not want to kill us, they want to put us into the grave alive. We are now at the edge of the pit. One last tenacity can save us.”. When the hope ends, tenacity begins. Today is the day to show that tenacity to build a better society, to build a better Turkey, and to build a better world. On this road, we believe that we need every single piece of an idea to ensure the rights of every single one of us.

It was a privilege to work with Yüksel, who is a friend of mine for some quite long time. His dedication and love to the Joint Crisis Committees was the obvious reason to be sure about a brilliant outcome, which you are about to read. Without a doubt, JCC: The Crusades will be one of the best crisis simulation that has the Seljuks in it. I hope that every member of the cabinet can foresee and have a chance to play their part in the history books.

Sincerely,

Hüseyin Hikmet Findık

Secretary-General of TEDUTRAIN'21

## LETTER FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Most esteemed participants,

Before introducing myself, I would like to welcome you all to TEDUTRAIN'21.

I am Yüksel Çağlar Baypınar and I'm a junior at TED University Engineering Faculty and I will be serving you as the Under-Secretary-General responsible for JCC- The Crusades.

Following the formation of the Sultanate of Rum, with the ever-growing threat of Muslims in the Middle East and Asia Minor, Both Catholic and Orthodox Christians knew something had to be done. Unhappy with the Muslim occupation of the Holy Land, and wanting to preserve the byzantine empire as a tampon zone between them and the Seljuks, Western Europe unified under a common goal and thus, the crusades began.

Please bear in mind that this study guide is not a comprehensive total review of history, and it merely serves as a path through which every delegate can start researching. The course of the committee will require agile reactions to many events, so it is in the best interest of every member of the committee to complement this study guide with other resources and develop a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General of TEDUTRAIN'21, Hüseyin Hikmet Findık for putting together such an impressive academic team and working sleepless nights for all of our problems. I am pleased to welcome you all once again and looking forward to the copious debate sessions that will take place in the JCC committee of TEDUTRAIN'21

Should you have any further inquiries about the subject, the guide, the committee, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me via the email provided below. I wish you all the best of luck and look forward to meeting you.

You can contact me via [yuksel.baypınar@tedu.edu.tr](mailto:yuksel.baypınar@tedu.edu.tr)

Yüksel Çağlar Baypınar

Under-Secretary-General  
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Crusades

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## **A. Historical Background of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century**

### **1. Asia Minor and the Byzantine Empire**

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Anatolia was home to many conflicts between the Seljuk Turks and Christians, whether that would be the Byzantine Empire or European Catholics. After the decisive victory of the Seljuk Empire against the Byzantine Empire at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071, the Turks were rapidly progressing through and “Turkifying” Anatolia<sup>[1][2]</sup>, as the Byzantine referred to. According to many historians, the battle was one of, if not the most devastating event throughout the entire existence of the Byzantine Empire. As John Julius Norwich wrote, the defeat was “its death blow, though centuries remained before the remnant fell...”.<sup>[3]</sup>

Unlike what the legends say, the battle itself was not a massacre that crippled the byzantine military to a dying state, as a matter of fact, casualties are considered to be relatively low even for the time. However, with the loss of Anatolia, their main ground for military recruiting, the denial of the Byzantine empire is obvious in hindsight.<sup>[4]</sup>

A western perspective on this battle signaled to the European Catholics that the byzantine empire was ill-prepared to protect Christian pilgrims to the holy lands in the middle east, and in general, would be unable to deal with a possible Muslim advance to the west, as was the case.<sup>[5]</sup>

As Turk Beyliks were established in Anatolia, stretching as far as the Aegean Sea, Alp Arslan focused on the eastern wing of their territorial gains, as they were threatened by the Fatimid dynasty in Egypt. Previously within the same year, the Seljuk Turks had taken Jerusalem from the Fatimids, and less than a decade later, Antioch was also taken from the

byzantine. <sup>[6]</sup> The fall of holy lands such as Jerusalem and Antioch, under the hands of Seljuk Turks, who were slowly unifying the Sunni Muslims within their roof, stirred a lot of drama within western Christians. The Seljuks Turks, while not officially cutting off Christian pilgrims, made their journey all the more difficult solemnly by their existence. While the concept of pilgrimage included danger, effort, expenses, and such in god's way, Seljuks making it far worse created a strong negative public opinion among the Europeans. The effects of this were definitively observed during the Crusades after the Council of Clermont.<sup>[7]</sup>

With Anatolia almost entirely occupied, Alp Arslan held great power within his grasp. The resistance of the Byzantine Empire was almost entirely neutralized and the Seljuk Turks had a clear path to glory laid in front of them. As they were getting closer to the Balkans, knocking on the doors of Constantinople, the western Christians had already taken notice of the threat they imposed.<sup>[8]</sup>

## ***2. Catholics Christians of Europe***

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Christianized Europe saw the emergence and subsequent development of the peace and truce of god movements, which was an attempt by the church to civilize the feudal society structure without resorting to violence. These movements helped reduce local wars as states such as France, which were divided into small counties, were home to a lot of in-fighting between lords for authority. In turn, the relatively calmer environment among many other factors, resulted in the subtle but much-needed economic re-growth, slowly giving back Europe the vitality it had lost against the Normans.<sup>[9]</sup>

What came in the following decades was the Great Schism of 1054, the inevitable climax of centuries worth of tension between the catholic church and eastern orthodox church due to varying political, cultural, and theological ideologies of respective sides. <sup>[10]</sup>

After several decades, in March 1095, Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos, with the Seljuks in close proximity to Constantinople, appealed to Pope Urban II for assistance, as the relationship between the two sides of the Christian world was showing signs of possible improvement. The pope accepted this plea for aid, possibly as a way to end the East-West Schism between the Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches and restore ecclesiastical unity, or simply to deal with the Seljuks from far away, using the Byzantine as a pair of tongs so to say. He travelled Europe, seeking support from the nobles and clergy. His words of a so-called pilgrimage to the holy land of Jerusalem were spreading, and his efforts culminated at the Council of Clermont. Due to Christianity lacking a concept for holy war, the pope took liberty in making his own, under the name of an armed-pilgrimage, promising immediate absolution to all who die either on the way or in the battle against the infidels. <sup>[11]</sup>

Pope's call to arms spread like wildfire in Europe, with many reasons such as but not limited to the peasants seeing this pilgrimage as a chance to escape poverty and famine, the noble and knights seeing this as the golden opportunity that will help them expand in the middle east, and the primary factor, a wish of Christians for eternal salvation. The Clermont era set the stage for the Crusade, as the war towards the infidel now had a cause deeply ingrained within the public, was a work to please God, and Europe had developed the ecclesiastical and secular means to unify towards and carry out such an ambition. <sup>[12]</sup>

### ***B. Preparation for the Crusade in Europe***

When Pope Urban addressed the people, preparations began in Europe, and not long after, an unorganized band of knights and peasant pilgrims, the People's Crusades, set out across Europe. Those who joined this initial movement had very little to gain with their lives as is, so it was not uncommon for them to commit all they owned, sometimes beyond that, for equipment and other subsidiaries required for this long journey. The People's Crusades were neither uniform, nor orderly, and they were led by the likes of Peter the Hermit and Walter Sansavoir, popular preachers of the time that led not with authority, but with charisma and public affection. <sup>[13]</sup>

The People's Crusade's march across Europe, inspired other to-be crusaders to band together and follow in their steps. One of these formations, in Germany, was led by the infamous Count Emicho. The people under his command were responsible for the Rhineland Massacres, a series of violent attacks on Rhineland's Jews, forcing them into a choice between conversion to Christianity, or execution. Many of the Jews chose the latter, as they did not wish to join those who indiscriminately plowed through their population. The Crusaders continued their journey down the Danube, following it into Hungary. Having burned through their supplies and funds in the prior massacres, they started to pillage an unsuccessful attempt that saw most of their forces killed by the Hungarians. The remainder of these forces split into other crusader armies. <sup>[14][15]</sup>

The main crusade force, unlike the People's Crusade, was a combination of proper armies, led by noblemen and commanders. These forces consisted of four major groups that departed Europe with the intention of merging together in Byzantium. Led by Godfrey of Bouillon was the German forces, reaching Constantinople with minimal issues by late 1096. Soon after, Bohemond departed from southern Italy, arriving at Constantinople in early



1097. One of the most important figures of the first crusade, Raymond of Saint-Gilles, Toulouse Count, led his followers across northern Italy. As he was commanding the largest army to join the crusade, trouble was to be expected on their journey, as his forces had several confrontations with Byzantine troops on their way to Constantinople, where they arrived soon after Bohemond. The fourth group to arrive at Constantinople was Robert of Flanders's army, April of 1097.<sup>[15]</sup>

Alexius, emperor of the Byzantine Empire, who foresaw the mustering of a joint military force in the west, knew he had to prepare to be able to provide for, police and accommodate these forces, as was his responsibility. However, as prepared as he may have been, the presence of thousands of mounted knights, tens of thousands of infantry, and noncombatant pilgrims with numbers reaching up to a hundred thousand, posed all kinds of threats to the Byzantine.<sup>[16]</sup>

Alexius, to secure his own interest, had each leader give him an oath to give the lands they took from Turkish invasions back to the Byzantine Empire. All the leaders, most with great insincerity, gave this oath and swore loyalty to him.<sup>[15]</sup>

### ***C. The Military Formation of the Seljuks***

The military formation of the Sultanate of Rum, the Anatolian Seljuks, was not dissimilar to the Seljuk Empire, with the most notable difference being the additional value of naval forces within the Anatolian Seljuks.<sup>[17]</sup>

The main body of the Seljuk army consisted of 3 primary and 2 auxiliary groups. Gulaman-l Saray were soldiers raised from childhood for many positions in the government ranging from army commanders to local governors. Hassa soldiers, the main body of soldiers under

Gulaman-I Saray, were the forces that the sultan personally commandeered. They were considered the most elite forces of the sultanate. They had regular salaries and were always available and prepared for battle.<sup>[17]</sup>

However, the primary military force of the Seljuks was the timariots. As was their tradition, the Seljuks of Anatolia followed a pseudo-feudal system, and the governors that were appointed had several responsibilities to the central government. To protect the peace and wellbeing of the citizens, to farm the land efficiently, and most importantly for our case, to use their funds towards the timariots, which in turn gave the Sultan access to a respectable army that has no additional cost to the government. These soldiers did not have a regular salary, but were still always ready for a battle, awaiting a call to arms by the sultan.<sup>[17]</sup>

The third part of the regular army was the Turkmens. They lived by the borders of the sultanate and were also battle-ready.<sup>[17]</sup>

The sultan, if he saw the need, could also gain access to private mercenaries, or could ask for support from his atabegs. However, unlike the primary groups of the army, regular use of these auxiliary forces, by nature, would most likely cause economic or political stress for the government.<sup>[17]</sup>

#### ***D. The First Crusade***

##### ***1. The People's Crusade's Demise***

The People's crusade was the first wave of pilgrims to reach Constantinople. Alexius, aware of the indiscriminate havoc they had caused on their journey so far, knew that their presence in Constantinople would create many issues. Thus, the people's crusade was almost literally dropped on the Seljuk borders, with hopes that by sheer numbers alone,

they would create significant turmoil and chaos on their path to Jerusalem, crippling the Seljuk forces.

Peter the hermit and his followers embarked on their journey, with their first stop being İzmit. The city was quickly overwhelmed under the siege of the crusaders and was returned to the Byzantine Empire. These forces then trailed the gulf of İzmit to Yalova, where they were instructed to await further reinforcements. Not heeding said instructions, the people's crusade split into two groups and started plundering nearby villages, Christian and Muslim alike. One of these groups occupied the castle of Xerigordon, with intentions of using it as an outpost. However only three days later, Turkish commander Elchanes arrived and sieged the castle back. With no water supplies, the castle surrendered approximately a week after. Following this disaster of a siege, two Turkish spies created a false rumor among the other group of crusaders, that Nicaea (İzmit) had also fallen. The other group, wanting to take part in the pillaging of the capital, quickly made their way there. As they traversed a valley full of trees and low visibility, they were ambushed by the Seljuk army's bowmen. This ambush very rapidly dissolved the little order they had, and the crusaders attempted to retreat, unaware that the Seljuk army was much more agile than they were. Almost all the crusaders were wiped out, and The People's Crusade was no more. <sup>[18][19]</sup>

## ***2. Siege of Nicaea***

Several months after the failure of the People's Crusade, the primary Crusade army regrouped in Constantinople and was briefed on the Seljuk military by Byzantine commanders Manuel Boutoumites and Tatikios. Meanwhile, after witnessing what he thought to be the bulk of the crusaders, Sultan Kılıç Arslan assumed the crusades to not be a

proper threat and took his army to campaign against the Danishmends, leaving the capital, which housed his treasures and family, vulnerable and exposed.<sup>[20]</sup>

Soon after, the crusaders besieged the capital which prompted Arslan to rush back and face the crusaders once more. Judging from his previous confrontation, he was taken by surprise against the heavy infantry of the opposing army, and the agile and projectile-based combat of Arslan was heavily countered. While both sides suffered heavy losses in the ensuing battle, the clear victors were the Crusaders. However, their siege would not find success until Byzantine assistance arrived, finally cutting provisions to the city, which led the Turks to surrender the city on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.<sup>[20]</sup> The capital was moved to Konya.

### ***3. Battle of Dorylaeum***

By the end of the month, the crusaders started their journey through Anatolia, with the company of commander Tatikios and a portion of byzantine forces he brought with him. The army was also split into two groups, led by the Normans and the French respectively. This measure was taken in order to have better administration in the army. The Normans marched ahead to their next destination, which was Dorylaeum, where the French and Normans would meet and regroup. Meanwhile, Arslan had gathered a significantly bigger army, with the support of atabegs, and launched an attack against the Normans. The crusader army was quickly surrounded and forced into a defensive position, however, their heavy equipment proved useful once more, as they had bought enough time for the French contingent to catch up, breaking the offense and flanking the Turks from both ends. Arslan and his army managed to flee with minimal casualties.<sup>[21]</sup> During his flight, however, Arslan burned down and destroyed all that he left behind, vastly limiting the resources that the crusaders had access to.<sup>[22]</sup>

After the Battle of Dorylaeum, there was no real opposition for the crusaders on their march to Antioch. Along the way, Baldwin, Godfrey's brother, abandoned the main army to become involved in Armenian politics and subsequently, ruled Edessa, which would be the first of the Crusader states.<sup>[23]</sup> This state played an important role during the siege and defense of Antioch.

#### **4. Siege of Antioch**

“A city very extensive, fortified with incredible strength and almost impregnable...” is how Stephen of Blois describes Antioch in one of his letters, and the following years would prove him to be nothing short of right.

The crusader army marched toward Antioch, one of the patriarchal sees of Christianity, and home to the first Church ever. Being a city surrounded by a massive circle of walls with hundreds of towers studded along the way, it is understandable that the crusaders barely considered the idea of a direct assault and occupation. They instead opted out of a siege that would go on for months. The crusaders did not have enough soldiers to completely surround the city, which resulted in a peculiar situation where Antioch was simultaneously under siege and adequately supplied. This siege has been referred to as “the most interesting siege in history”.<sup>[24]</sup>

After many months of harsh conditions and low supplies, with the help of an Armenian commander of the city wall, the crusaders got in. Their victory however, was short-lived, as Kerbogha turned the siege around itself, trapping the crusaders to their starvation. With rapidly declining morale, the crusaders found their purpose thanks to the discovery of a peasant visionary, the location of the Holy Lance that had pierced Christ on the cross. On 28

June 1098, the crusaders marched out of the city for a battle with Kerbogha, who allowed them to deploy, hoping to destroy them in the open field. Unbeknownst to him, the crusaders almost doubled his army in size and his authority over his army was inadequate, resulting in his army breaking form and fleeing from the battle. <sup>[25]</sup>

When Stephen of Blois learned of the situation at Antioch, he was in Alexandretta. He departed the Middle East, warning Alexios and his troops on his way back to France, since their condition appeared bleak. The leaders of Antioch, most notably Bohemond, claimed that Alexios had fled the Crusade and thereby invalidated all of their oaths to him because of what appeared to be a great betrayal. Because not everyone agreed with Bohemond's claim to Antioch (most notably Raymond of Toulouse), the crusade was postponed for the rest of the year while the nobility debated amongst themselves. <sup>[26]</sup>

Meanwhile, a plague struck the army, killing many soldiers. Even fewer horses were available than before, and the Muslim peasants in the area refused to feed the crusaders. As a result, historical records show the first instance of crusader cannibalism in December, following the Siege of Ma'arrat al-Numan. At the same time, the lower knights and troops had grown restless and threatened to leave Jerusalem without their arguing commanders. At the start of 1099, the march resumed, leaving behind Bohemond as the first Prince of Antioch. <sup>[27]</sup>

### ***5. Siege of Jerusalem***

The journey from Antioch to Jerusalem saw very little resistance, as local rulers would prefer to make peace with and supply the crusaders as opposed to fighting them. A year prior, in-fighting between Muslims, Sunni Seljuks, and Shii Fatimids, saw the fall of Jerusalem to the

latter in August 1098. Fatimids' attempts for negotiation were denied by the crusaders, however the governor of Jerusalem was confident that the city could withstand a siege long enough for reinforcements from Egypt to arrive. The Crusaders however, were running very short on supplies and were barely a shadow of the army they once were in terms of size. However, after about a month, several vessels of supplies arrived at Jaffa, giving the crusaders back the means to achieve their intended goal, to take Jerusalem.<sup>[28]</sup>

After a section of walls was torn down, Tancred and Raymond entered the city, prompting the governor to surrender the city and be escorted out alongside his soldiers. While Tancred promised protection in the Aqsa Mosque, his words were not heeded, and carnage took place in Jerusalem, as the blood of the women, children, Muslim and Jew alike, wet the soils of the Holy Land.<sup>[29]</sup>

A letter that was sent to the pope by Raymond goes as follows: "And if you desire to know what was done with the enemy who was found there, know that in Solomon's Porch and in his temple our men rode in the blood of the Saracens up to the knees of their horses."<sup>[30]</sup>

## ***6. Crusader States***

Following the First Crusade, many Crusaders returned home, having accomplished their aim in an astonishingly short period of time. Those who stayed formed three large western settlements, or Crusader states, in Jerusalem, Edessa, and Antioch, to rule the captured land. In the following years, a portion of the remainder of the crusade forces also established the County of Tripoli.<sup>[31]</sup>

## ***E. The Second Crusade***

### ***1. Historical Background***

The County of Edessa was the first crusader state formed; however, it would also be the first to fall. The county struggled a lot during its short lifespan from constant harassment and attacks from the surrounding Muslim states, the Ortoqids, Danishmends, and Seljuk Turks. Due to some quarrels between the crusader states, Edessa was left with no strong allies.<sup>[32]</sup>

Imad al-Din Zengi, a Seljuk Turk Atabeg, had been gathering his own forces and additional support under the name of jihad, and on October 1144, he besieged Edessa, capturing it a month later. However, he could pursue his goals no longer, as the events in Mosul urged him back home. He was later assassinated and succeeded by his son, Nur ad-Din.<sup>[33]</sup>

The pleas of the remaining Crusader states reached Pope Eugene III and in December 1145 the Papal Bull *Quantum Praedecessores* was issued, calling for a second crusade for the recapture of Edessa and some secondary goals within Europe. This papal bull was the first of its kind and vastly differed from the first call for a crusade as it was much more precise and carried an ideology not dissimilar to a means of redemption. Coincidentally, the king of France, Louis VII, was planning on his very own expedition to the middle east, independent from the Pope. Hearing the bull finalized his plans as he joined the forces of the second crusade, the first of its kind to include a king.<sup>[34]</sup>

The response to the bull was poor and even had to be reissued, but sure enough, after Conrad III of Germany took on the cross as well, the enterprise was ready.

The situation on the east was also subject to change when compared to the first crusade. Emperor of the Byzantine, Manuel Comnenus had made peace with the Sultanate of Rum, with hopes to avoid retaliation after the first crusade. While this might have been a



strategically sound move, many Western Christians saw this as a confirmation of the apostasy of the Greeks. <sup>[35]</sup>

## **2. *March to Constantinople***

The Germans, under the leadership of Conrad, marched to Constantinople arriving in mid-September 1147. The tension created by the undisciplined troops of the crusade did not affect the good terms Conrad and Manuel were on. <sup>[35]</sup>

Louis VII traversed Europe on foot and arrived at Constantinople on October 4<sup>th</sup>, bringing with him a misunderstood cause. Some of his followers, upon hearing the truce between the Seljuks and the Byzantine, accused emperor Manuel of treason and tried to encourage King Louis VII to attack the Byzantines. The king, in complete refusal of this idea, agreed to restore any imperial possessions he captured on their journey to Edessa. <sup>[35]</sup>

## **3. *Battle of Dorylaeum***

Emperor Manuel had advised Conrad on an alternate route to Edessa, following the coastal line around Anatolia as opposed to marching through the Seljuk territory. Conrad had split his forces into two contingents, one group of civilian pilgrims, the army's heavy load and a portion of his army to protect them, led by his brother, and another group with the bulk of his military power led by himself. Conrad, partially ignoring this advice, moved his contingent right past Nicaea and started his march through Anatolia while his brother would route alongside Seljuk borders, regrouping later down their journey. The army was weary from their travels and lacked adequate provisions to a level that would compromise their journey beyond. They encamped close to the position of the first Battle of Dorylaeum in order to find supplies and rest. <sup>[36]</sup>

The crusaders were lacking in surveillance and failed to notice Sultan Mesud I's army who were tailing them from afar, had been deployed up the hills of their camps, ready to exact revenge for the defeat they took previously. <sup>[36]</sup>

Conrad's encampment severely lacked any proper safety measure against a swift attack. Mesud I, who was made aware of this fact, launched a very rapid attack on the camps that took the Crusaders by complete surprise. The ensuing event was barely even a battle. The Seljuks plowed through Conrad's forces, and virtually wiped the army out with minimal casualties. The remainder of the crusaders, about %10 of the 20,000 German knights, managed to flee the scene back to Nicaea. <sup>[37]</sup>

#### ***4. Journey to Edessa***

By the time Conrad and his army, in their torn-up state, arrived at Nicaea, King Louis VII and his forces were in the city, preparing for a journey following the route set by the Germans. Upon bearing witness to the state of their allies, the French decided to take Emperor Manuel's advice and traverse along the borders of the Sultanate of Rum, staying within Byzantine Soil. <sup>[38]</sup>

Soon after the French had set off from Nicaea, Conrad's brother and his followers had reached Denizli, where they were ambushed by Sultan Mesud I's army and subsequently virtually wiped out. <sup>[39]</sup>

Emperor Manuel had gained intelligence on the movement of the Seljuk army, who had grouped around the west of Konya and had set off to the Aegean Sea. Manuel managed to inform King Louis VII of the Seljuk movement, and advised them to tread carefully. The Seljuks however, had far superior intelligence thanks to their spies deployed all over

Anatolia. The Sultan was informed of the crusader movements and swiftly placed his troops on the narrow hills of Kazıkbeli, where he planned an ambush. <sup>[39]</sup>

As the crusaders were slowly moving through the narrow hills, the Seljuks carried out their plan and swiftly ambushed them, resulting in a mass panic on the crusaders' end. While the Seljuks dealt a considerable blow to the crusader forces in the ensuing battle, a significant number still managed to flee, moving forward with their journey. <sup>[40]</sup>

The crusaders, having lost more than half of their entire forces, had received intelligence that Nur al-Din had massacred Edessa's Christian population. This information in turn with their dwindling numbers, made the original goal of the crusade, the recapturing of Edessa no longer feasible. The crusaders then made their way to Jerusalem to regroup. <sup>[41]</sup>

The welcoming of Kings Louis VII and Conrad alongside their forces to Jerusalem was warm, and the nobility of Jerusalem formed a council to discuss their next steps. The Council of Palmarea was held on June 24<sup>th</sup> of 1148, and upon a long discussion, the siege of Damascus, a Muslim city to the east, was agreed upon as the best course of action for them. <sup>[42]</sup>

### ***5. Siege of Damascus***

The crusader army was tired and needed time to fully replenish, so after about a month of rest, they, now combined with the army of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, set out for Damascus. The atabeg of Damascus however, was already aware of the siege that waited for him, and used his chance to prepare the city with provisions and bolstered defenses. He had also sought aid from Nur al-Din. Shortly after the siege began, the crusaders quickly faced a problem with their resources, as the water was scarce, and the city's defenses were tough. As much as the constant harassment of the bowmen bothered them, the arrival of Nur al-

Din with his army was not a situation they could account for. After he led an attack on the camps, the Crusaders retreated to the east of the city, which had less fortification. Unfortunately for the crusaders, resources were significantly less in that part of the plain, and with Nur al-Din on the field, return to their original position was not possible. Met with these conditions, the three kings refused to carry on with the siege and abandoned the city. They were harassed by Turkish archers during their retreat. <sup>[42]</sup>



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