

#65 The Legs of Iron – The Crusades of the Holy Roman Empire

Key Understanding: *The Crusades of the Holy Roman Empire.* The Crusades are the validity that the Western and Eastern Legs of Iron of the Roman Empire, meaning the Holy Roman Empire and Byzantine Empire respectively, believed in their own eyes that they were Christian Empires.



The Crusades. The Crusades were military expeditions, organized mainly to recapture Palestine during the Middle Ages. Palestine, also called the Holy Land, was important to Christians because it was the region where Jesus Christ had lived. The Muslims had captured it from the Christians. The crusaders, who came from Western Europe, organized eight major expeditions between 1096 and 1270 A.D. The Crusades were part of a broader Christianized movement of Europe.

Kings, nobles, and thousands of knights, peasants, and townspeople took part in the Crusades. They had two stated goals: (1) to gain permanent control of the Holy Land, and (2) to protect the Byzantine Empire, the Greek Christian Empire of the East, from the Muslims. The word *crusade* came from the Latin word *crux*, meaning *cross*. Members of the crusades sewed the symbol of the cross of Christ on their clothing. “To take up the cross” actually meant to become a sword-bearing crusader.

*Mark 8:34-36 (KJV) And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and **TAKE UP HIS CROSS**, and follow me.*

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

We are not covering the crusades in detail, but here are maps of the Second Crusade and the Third Crusade. We are primarily understanding that “Christian Europe” and the Holy Roman Empire along with the Byzantine Empire were the forces behind the Crusades.

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