

The King of the South Revealed

Daniel 11:25 reads, "And he (King of the North) shall stir up his power and courage against the king of the South with a great army; and the king of the South shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army; but he shall not stand." The context of this is after the Roman Empire (verse 19) and before "the time of the end (verse 35)."

One commentator writes, "verses 25-30 foreshadow the era of the crusades... initiated vigorously by the persuasive oratory of Pope Urban II..."^[1] The first Crusade, initiated in 1095 AD, was successful. Jerusalem was taken in July, 1099 AD. The *King of the South* represents the Muslim kings who fought the Christian Europeans over control of the Holy Land. Jerusalem became the focal point of this struggle between the Northern Christians and the Southern Muslims.

Later the Muslims recaptured the Holy Land and sent the Europeans back home without success. Daniel predicted this in verse 11:28. "And he (King of the North) shall return to his land with *great wealth*, but his heart shall be against the holy covenant..."

"For over a century, Bishops, clerics and Kings repeated the call 'to avenge the injury which had been inflicted upon Christ.' This explains how some Christians came to regard the land, rather presumptuously, as their exclusive inheritance, being the 'true' Israel. The theological justification for the Crusades went through significant and progressive stages. To begin with the motivation was simply to liberate the Holy Land as a means of achieving salvation and of hastening the apocalypse. Having conquered and settled the land and created Christian kingdoms, when Jerusalem was once again threatened by infidels, it was an opportunity for sacrifice.

"After Jerusalem was lost, the Muslim presence was seen as an insult to God, and the later Crusades were justified to avenge the injury to God. Toward the end of the Crusading era the Crusaders saw themselves as the *successors of Israel*; their duty to claim Christ's patrimony and inheritance.

"Such religious arrogance and the consequent extermination of the inhabitants of Palestine by the European Crusaders unleashed a spiral of barbaric savagery between Jew, Christian and Muslim alike which has fermented for a thousand years, each side locked in what Armstrong calls 'a murderous triangle of hatred and intolerance...' Cragg draws some important conclusions about the effect of the Crusades and their religious imprimatur on the Arab psyche.

"The Western, Latin Rome saw the Christian East in terms of judicial dominance and ecclesiastical power....The Crusades became an enduring symbol of malignancy as well as heroism, of open imperialism and private piety...They left noble piles of architecture on the eastern landscape but seared the eastern soul. They gave Arab Muslims through every succeeding century a warrant of memory

to hold against Christian Arabs as, by association, liable to pseudo-Arabness or worse. What the crusaders did to the eastern psyche, long outlived their tenure.... The image of them is one no century since has been able to exorcise."[\[2\]](#)



Saladin and Guy de Lusignan after battle of Hattin in 1187

"The Crusades "exhibit the muscular Christianity of the new nations of the West which were just emerging from barbarism and heathenism. They made religion subservient to war and war subservient to religion. They were a succession of tournaments between two continents and two religions, struggling for supremacy,— Europe and Asia, Christianity and Mohammedanism. Such a spectacle the world has never seen before nor since, and may never see again."[\[3\]](#)

So the Crusades, initiated by Pope Urban, lead to the idea of conquering the non-Christian world for "God and country." Daniel writes "he will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers (Daniel 11:24)." As the European, Christian kings

expanded their exploration and conquests, the Papacy was very much involved with the distribution of these new riches. In two bulls, issued May 4th and 5th, 1493, he divided the Western world between Portugal and Spain by a line 100 leagues west of the Azores, running north and south. These documents mention Christopher Columbus as a worthy man, much to be praised, who, apt as a sailor, and after great perils, labors and expenditures, had discovered islands and continents—*terras firmas*— never before known. The possession of the lands in the West, discovered and yet to be discovered, was assigned to Spain and Portugal to be held and governed in perpetuity,—*in perpetuum*,—and the pope solemnly declared that he made the gift out of pure liberality, and by the authority of the omnipotent God, conceded to him in St. Peter, and by reason of the vicarship of Jesus Christ, which he administered on earth. Nothing could be more distinctly stated. As Peter's successor, Alexander claimed the right to give away the Western Continent, and his gift involved an unending right of tenure. This prerogative of disposing of the lands in the West was in accordance with Constantine's invented gift to Sylvester, recorded in the spurious Isidorian decretals." [4]

In fact "Columbus signed an agreement April 17, 1492, to devote the proceeds of his undertaking beyond the Western seas to the recovery of the holy sepulchre. Before his fourth and last journey to America he wrote to (Pope) Alexander VI, renewing his vow to furnish troops for the rescue of that sacred locality" [5] I wonder what ever happened to those funds? Don't you? What we must understand is that, although the Papal power was unsuccessful in taking control of the Holy Land during the Middle Ages, its *purpose has never changed*. It still seeks to control the Holy Land, but it would find success in a later time, "the time of the end," with the emergence of a new, world power.

This great wealth is explained as follows, "The *most important effect of the Crusades was economic*. The Italian cities prospered from the transport of Crusaders and replaced Byzantines and Muslims as merchant-traders in the Mediterranean. Trade passed through Italian hands to Western Europe at a handsome profit. This commercial power became the economic base of the Italian Renaissance.

"It also provoked such Atlantic powers as Spain and Portugal to seek trade routes to India and China. Their efforts, through such explorers as Vasco da Gama and Christopher Columbus, helped to open most of the world to *European trade dominance and colonization* and to shift the center of commercial activity from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic." [6]

Is it possible that this ancient struggle between the western, Christian kings and the eastern, Muslim kings continues to this day, empowered by one of Europe's own former colonies?

[1] C. Mervin Maxwell, *God Cares*, page 293

[2] The Historical Origins of Christian Zionism , Section 2.2, <http://www.cc->

vw.org/articles/history1.html

[3] Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Chapter VII, Section 48

[4] Ibid, Chapter VI, Section 54

[5] Ibid, Chapter VII, Section 47

[6] Joel T. Rosenthal, The Crusades, Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia

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