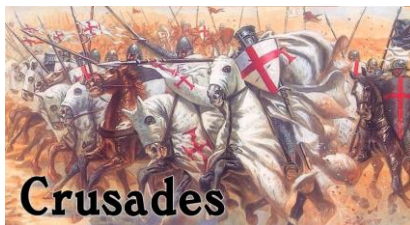


The Crusades and Jihad

By Terry Carter

Muslims, and their apologists, like to bring up the crusades to argue that Islam and Christianity are on equal ground when it comes to violence and atrocities.



Of course, the Crusades cannot justify Islamic Jihad, but they try to deflect the conversation, focus, and blame off themselves and onto Christianity. Such a

comparison is poor reasoning for a number of reasons. It is trying to compare apples and oranges.

1. It was not Christians that carried out the crusades, it was the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, the atrocities committed were not what the Church authorized; it's what individuals did as a result of their having been "absolved" of their sins by the Church.

Clearly these people were not following either the teachings or examples of Jesus or the apostles. They weren't even following the directives of the Catholic Church.

2. What happened in the Crusades was despite what Jesus and the apostles had taught about loving your enemies and being at peace with all men as much as it lies within you. By contrast, the jihad (holy war) of the Muslims is a direct result of following the teaching and example of their prophet Muhammad.

There is a big difference between those who **violate** the teachings of Jesus yet still call themselves Christians and those who **follow** the teaching and

example of Muhammad while calling themselves Muslims.

3. Where did the Roman Catholic Church get the idea of a holy war in the first place? Straight from Islam. The Muslims had been doing it for centuries before anyone in the "Christian" world decided to try it themselves. That was how the religion of Islam was spread in the beginning. Christianity, by contrast, was spread by the blood of the martyrs. It grew despite persecution for the first three centuries or so. Islam grew by persecution of the "infidel".
4. The Crusades came in response to Muslim aggression, not in response to Biblical teaching. They were a direct result of the slaughter of tens of thousands of Christians by the Muslims. Many thought the response was delayed far too long. Nevertheless, it was Muslim tactics that were adopted.

The crusaders were attempting to regain territory that the Muslims had taken from them. They were certainly not attacking peaceful neighbors like the Muslims have done throughout their history, and continue to do today.

5. The Crusades were abandoned nearly a thousand years ago. No Christian living today had anything to do with the Crusades. In fact, there is no organized effort among professed Christians to resume such a thing. However, countless Muslims living today have taken part, or are taking part, in Jihad.

There are many organized efforts among Muslims to carry out Jihad. Just watch the news to see the truth of this. All over the world Christians are being actively persecuted by Muslims today. The fact that Muslim apologists have to go back nearly a millennium to find anything comparable in "Christianity" speaks volumes.

This whole thing reminds me of the school yard bully who cries that another kid hit him last month. Of course, he conveniently leaves out the fact that he has been

tormenting and physically abusing that kid for months both before and after that incident.

The bottom line is, the crusades were in opposition to the teaching and example of Jesus, the apostles, and early Christians.

I find it appalling that some of our leaders refuse to label anything ISIS does as Islamic, yet they have no trouble labeling the crusades as Christian.

I find it absolutely ridiculous that when ISIS is slaughtering Christian children by the hundreds, they believe that lecturing Christians about the misdeeds of the Catholic Church one thousand years ago is an appropriate response.

But if they are going to do that, they ought to at least take time to get their facts straight.