

Document B: Ibn al-Athir (Modified)

ibn al-ʿAthir (1160–1233) was an Arab historian who wrote a history of the first three crusades, though he only witnessed the third one. The passage below is a modified excerpt from his account of the siege of Jerusalem during the First Crusade.

Jerusalem was taken from the north on the morning of July 15, 1099. The population was put to the sword by the Franks, who pillaged the area for a week. A band of Muslims barricaded themselves into the Tower of David and fought on for several days. They were granted their lives in return for surrendering. The Franks honored their word, and the group left by night for Ascalon. In the **Al-Aqsa Mosque** the Franks slaughtered more than 70,000 people, among them a large number of **imams** and Muslim scholars. **devout** men who had left their homelands to live lives of religious seclusion in the Holy Place. The Franks stripped the Dome of the Rock of more than forty silver **candelabra** and more than twenty gold ones, and a great deal more booty. Refugees reached Baghdad and told the **Caliph's** ministers a story that wrung their hearts and brought tears to their eyes. They begged for help, weeping so that their hearers wept with them as they described the sufferings of the Muslims in that Holy City: the men killed, the women and children taken prisoner, the homes **pillaged**.

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Source: Excerpt from Ibn al-Athir's "The Complete History," written in 1231.

Vocabulary

Al-Aqsa mosque: see note on Temple of Solomon above

Franks: Christians

Imams: Islamic leader

devout: very religious

candelabra: large candlesticks

Caliph: Islamic ruler

lilleged: rob violently

Caliph: Islamic ruler
pillaged: rob violently

Mrs. German

Document C: ?

At the noon hour on Friday, with trumpets sounding, amid great commotion the Franks entered the city. . . Men joyfully rushed into the city to pursue and kill the nefarious enemies, as their comrades were already doing. Many of our enemies fled to the roof of the temple of Solomon, and were shot with arrows, so that they fell to the ground dead. In this temple almost 10,000 were killed. Indeed, if you had been there you would have seen our feet colored to our ankles with the blood of the slain. But what more shall I relate? None of them were left alive; neither women nor children were spared.

Vocabulary

nefarious: wicked or criminal

First Crusade Reading Guide

Document A: Raymond d'Aguiliers

- 1) Read Document A. While you are reading, underline any words, phrases, or sentences that indicate that this document was written from a Crusader's perspective.
- 2) Share with your partner what parts of the document you underlined, and why you underlined those parts.

Document B: Ibn al-Athir

- 1) Read Document B. While you are reading, underline any words, phrases, or sentences that indicate that this document was written from a Muslim perspective.
- 2) Share with your partner what parts of the document you underlined, and why you underlined those parts.

Corroboration	
Identify 1-2 <i>similarities</i> and 1-2 <i>differences</i> of these accounts	
Similarities	
1)	
2)	
Differences	
1)	
2)	

Document C: ?

- 1) Read Document C. While you are reading, underline any words, phrases, or sentences that might indicate the perspective of the document's author.
- 2) Which document is Document C more similar to?

Document A

Document B

Explain your choice. Use 2-3 specific examples from the documents in your explanation:

- 3) Do you think this document is from a Christian or Muslim perspective? Why?