



We sometimes like walls. Fences...walls...define our space. They set our boundaries. They provide us privacy. In a home, walls mark off where we eat, where we sleep, and where we watch television. (Although for some of us that is the same place on Sunday afternoons.) Walls also defend us. They protect us from unwarranted intruders. Imagine a bathroom or bedroom without walls. Walls guard our common treasures lest a thief break in to steal. How would a bank, museum or jewelry store be secure without walls?

A fortified church is a church that is built to serve a defensive role in times of war. Such churches were specially designed to incorporate military features, such as thick walls, battlements, and embrasures.

A Proverb: "Good fences make good neighbors."

As a church, we have certain options. We can spend our time, energy, and resources building the wall...and forfeit the church.

Or we can invest our time, energy, and resources building the church and forfeit the wall. This series tells the story of Each Castle or Fortress in Israel and relate them to the Church.



Series:
CASTLES & CITADELS
IN
ISRAEL



Caesarea National Park

2008

Caesarea National Park



How long did the Crusades last in Jerusalem?

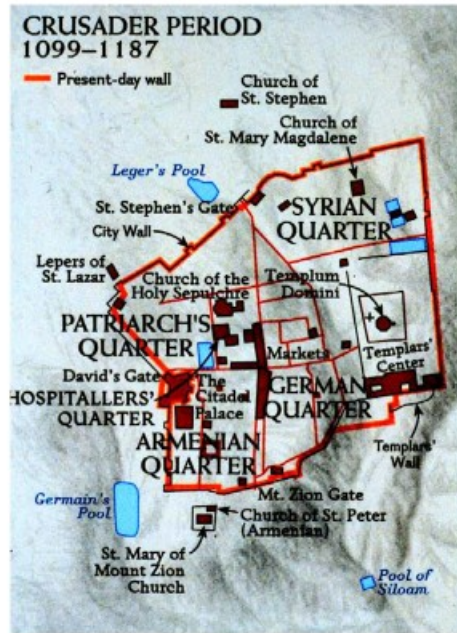
The armies of the Christian Crusades were only able to hold Jerusalem for about **90 years**—a shorter period than other regions in Crusades history.

So even though Crusades history in Jerusalem is relatively brief, the architecture of the city contains lasting evidence of the Christian Crusades.

The Crusades history of Jerusalem is evident

- ❖ Churches as **St. Anne's**
- ❖ **Church of the Tomb of the Virgin**
- ❖ **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**

which was rebuilt during the Christian Crusades on the site where **St. Helen** is said to have built the original in the 4th century.



Knights Templar Hot Spots in the Holy Land Where they built, fought and prayed.

Acre

This strategic Holy Land port came under Western control during the First Crusade—but changed hands several times after. In 1291 it was the last Christian-held fortress in the Holy Land when it fell to the Mamluks—one of the most devastating events in Templar, and Western, history.



Pope Urban II orders first Crusade

On November 27, 1095, Pope Urban II makes perhaps the most influential speech of the Middle Ages, giving rise to the Crusades by calling all Christians in Europe to war against Muslims in order to reclaim the Holy Land, with a cry of “Deus vult!” or “God wills it!”

Born Odo of Lagery in 1042, Urban was a protege of the great reformer Pope Gregory VII. Like Gregory, he made internal reform his main focus, railing against simony (the selling of church offices) and other clerical abuses prevalent during the Middle Ages. Urban showed himself to be an adept and powerful cleric, and when he was elected pope in 1088, he applied his statecraft to weakening support for his rivals, notably Clement III.

By the end of the 11th century, the Holy Land—the area now commonly referred to as the Middle East—had become a point of conflict for European Christians. Since the 6th century, Christians frequently made pilgrimages to the birthplace of their religion, but when the Seljuk Turks took control of Jerusalem, Christians were barred from the Holy City. When the Turks then threatened to invade the Byzantine Empire and take Constantinople, Byzantine Emperor Alexius I made a special appeal to Urban for help. This was not the first appeal of its kind, but it came at an important time for Urban. Wanting to reinforce the power of the papacy, Urban seized the opportunity to unite Christian Europe under him as he fought to take back the Holy Land from the Turks.

Pope Urban II orders first Crusade

At the Council of Clermont, in France, at which several hundred clerics and noblemen gathered, Urban delivered a rousing speech summoning rich and poor alike to stop their in-fighting and embark on a righteous war to help their fellow Christians in the East and take back Jerusalem. Urban denigrated the Muslims, exaggerating stories of their anti-Christian acts, and promised absolution and remission of sins for all who died in the service of Christ.

Urban’s war cry caught fire, mobilizing clerics to drum up support throughout Europe for the crusade against the Muslims. All told, between 60,000 and 100,000 people responded to Urban’s call to march on Jerusalem. Not all who responded did so out of piety: European nobles were tempted by the prospect of increased land holdings and riches to be gained from the conquest. These nobles were responsible for the death of a great many innocents both on the way to and in the Holy Land, absorbing the riches and estates of those they conveniently deemed opponents to their cause. Adding to the death toll was the inexperience and lack of discipline of the Christian peasants against the trained, professional armies of the Muslims. As a result, the Christians were initially beaten back, and only through sheer force of numbers were they eventually able to triumph

Urban died in 1099, two weeks after the fall of Jerusalem but before news of the Christian victory made it back to Europe. His was the first of seven major military campaigns fought over the next two centuries known as the Crusades, the bloody repercussions of which are still felt today. Urban was beatified by the Roman Catholic Church in 1881

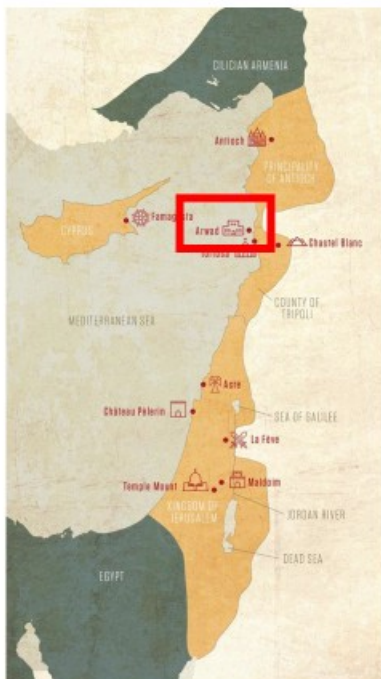
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Antioch

One of the four Crusader states established following the success of the First Crusade. Antioch (located near modern-day Antakya, Turkey) and its surrounding areas were the site of crucial early Templar holdings, including the castles of Baghras, Darbask, La Roche de Roussel and La Roche de Guillaume. The latter, Antioch's last Templar stronghold, fell to the Muslims around 1299.

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Arwad

Lying just off the coast of the one-time crusader town of Tortosa, this tiny island (also known as Ru'ad) was the site of one of the Templars' last major battles. In 1300-1302 they occupied the fortress here, trying to launch a counter-strike against the Mamluks on the mainland. The offensive failed and the Templars on Ru'ad were captured and taken to Egypt for sale as slaves.

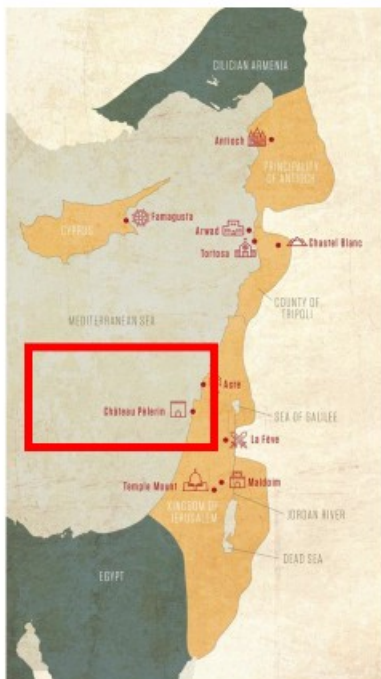
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Chastel Blanc

Templars built this stronghold, located in the northwest of modern-day Syria, on the central of the region's three hills, providing a key vantage point for nearby fortresses. The 91-foot-tall square tower, erected in 1202, is one of the better-preserved Templar sites in the region.

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Chateau Pelerin

One of the most successful Crusader fortresses constructed, Chateau Pèlerin (meaning Castle Pilgrim, a.k.a. 'Atlit) supported some 4,000 troops. Its prime coastal location allowed it to be resupplied by land and sea. And its unique double-wall design—with a taller inner wall that allowed defenders to shoot down and over a shorter outer wall—withstood many sieges.

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Cyprus

Following the fall of Acre in 1291, the Templars moved their Eastern headquarters (including their treasury and archives) to Cyprus. There, they fought with other Crusader-era orders, including the Hospitallers, over control of the island's stronghold fortresses. One of them, Famagusta, the island's only deep-water port, saw a huge influx of refugees from elsewhere in the Holy Land after Acre fell.

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Temple Mount

In 1119-20, when the King of Jerusalem officially tasked the Templars with defending the city and protecting Christian pilgrims who came there, he granted them quarters in the al-Aqsa mosque, then his palace. It would go on to become the first Templar headquarters in the Holy Land. The mosque, which stood atop Temple Mount, a hill overlooking the city, was built on the site of the Jewish Temple of Solomon, inspiring the Order's name, "The Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon."

La Fève

A key Templar castle guarding the intersection of the roads leading from Jerusalem to Tiberias and from Baisan to Acre. The fortress, built atop a Bronze-Age mound, could accommodate more than 50 knights.

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Maldom

Templars in this small castle could patrol and stand watch over the road between Jerusalem and Jericho, along which pilgrims traveled on their way to bathe in the river Jordan. It was also known as the Red Cistern, because it was built in an area famous for its striking red-coloured rock, not far from an underground reservoir which collected rainwater.

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TORTOSA

In 1105, Crusaders captured the area known as Antartus (modern-day Tartus, Syria) and built the Cathedral of our Lady of Tortosa, now one of the region's best-preserved religious structures. Templars took control in 1152, building a military keep with double walls and chapel, which they held until the city fell to the Mamluks in 1291.



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