

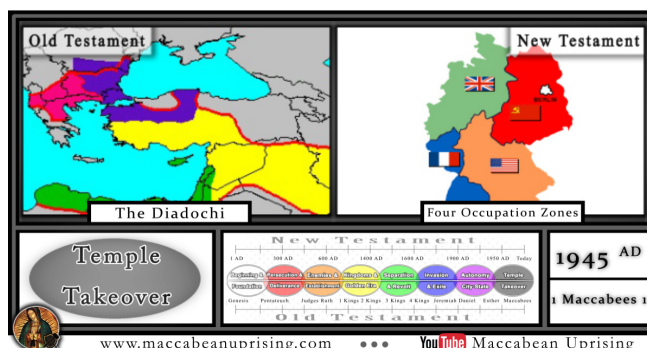
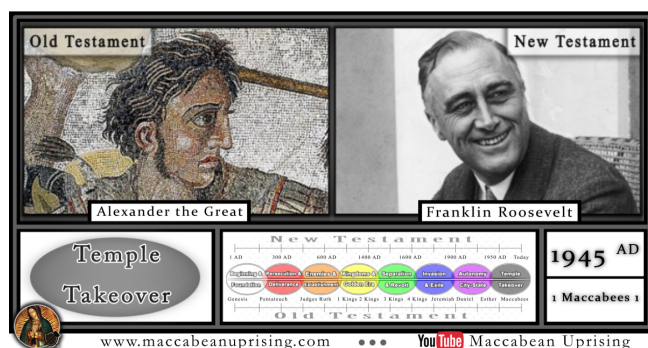
# Parallels Between the Fall of Troy and the Crusades, King Arthur and Robinhood

- By Dominic Caggese and Paul

## Introduction

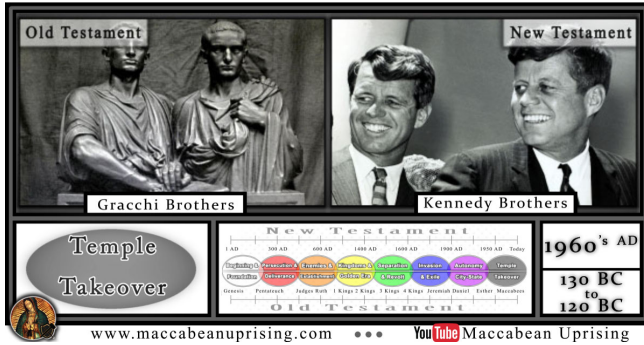
Amazingly, it seems that God has orchestrated the history of the Catholic Church to mirror, in sequential fashion, the entire history of Israel in the Old Testament. Essentially, the people, places, and events of the Old Testament Israelites serve as foreshadowings or parallels to those of the New Testament (the History of the Catholic Church). Most strikingly, these parallels occur in chronological order, spanning from the beginning to our present day.

On our internet sites, we have sought to document and present these astonishing chronological parallels in detail. As we explored, investigated, contemplated, and documented them, more of these marvelous typological threads began to unravel. For example, it became evident that it wasn't just the Old Testament people of God, the Israelites, who were prefigurements or foreshadowings of Catholics in the New Testament. In addition to the Israelites, the secular/pagan peoples in the Old Testament also served as chronologically ordered parallels (or types) for secular counterparts in Church history. The unexpected death of Alexander the Great after his twelve-year reign and the subsequent four-part breakup of his empire typifies the unexpected death of Franklin Roosevelt after his twelve years as President and the subsequent four-part division of conquered Germany following World War II.

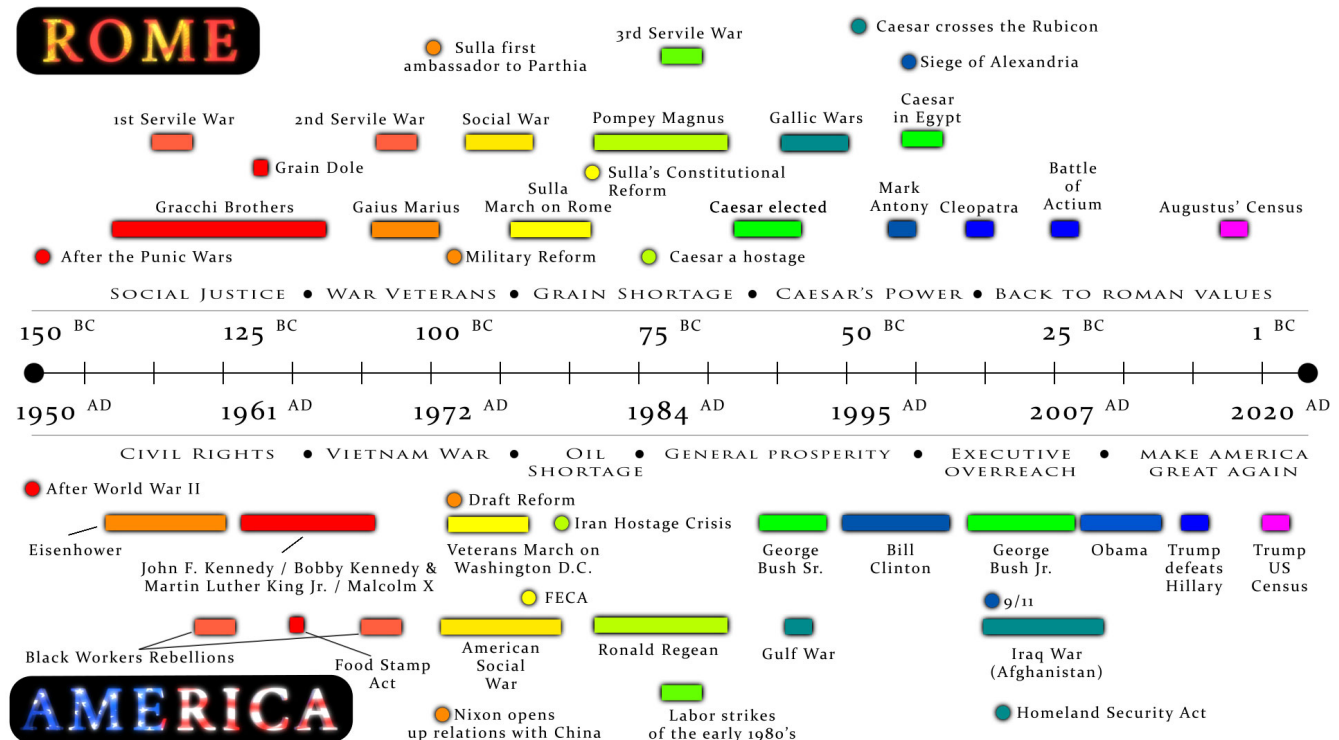


Thus, if all of Church history is prefigured by the entirety of the Old Testament in chronological order, and if the secular peoples and groups in Church history (such as the French Revolution, United Nations, Fascists, etc.) are prefigured by pagan counterparts in the Old Testament, then it logically follows that these parallels between the secular/pagan worlds of the Old and New would be as complete and detailed as the parallels between God's people, both Old and New.

Therefore, although I was astonished, I was not surprised to discover that the Roman Republic (and the beginnings of the Roman Empire) in the Old Testament is chronologically paralleled by the American Republic in the New Testament. I have a video on YouTube and various articles on our website that demonstrate, in some detail, these chronologically ordered parallels, including the major peoples and events of both the Romans and the Americans. Some notable examples include the assassination of the two Gracchi brothers and the assassination of the two Kennedy brothers, the Punic Wars and the World Wars, Julius Caesar and George Bush, the Roman roads and the American railroads, and many more.



Relying on the completeness of God's masterpiece in causing all of the Old Testament to prefigure all of Church history, I began to experiment and explore deeper connections between the two. Surmising that the American Republic and the Roman Republic shared chronological parallels, I examined the ancient stories of the founding of Rome, inevitably arriving at the great siege of Troy. In that ancient story, quasi-mythical, quasi-historical, the Trojan man Aeneas fled Troy to the Italian Peninsula. His descendants, hundreds of years later, founded Rome. Thus, to find a corresponding event in Church history for the fall of Troy, I would likewise need to go back hundreds of years from the founding of the American Republic. What emerged was an analysis of the English myths of King Arthur, as well as the stories from the Crusades and the fall of Jerusalem in the Middle Ages. Thus, the quasi-mythical, quasi-historical nature of the fall of Troy is satisfied by the mythical stories of King Arthur and the historical accounts of the Crusades. What follows in this article is my presentation, along with the assistance and contributions from my friend Paul, on the topic of chronologically ordered parallels between the fall of Troy and this quasi-mythical, quasi-historical account of this period in Middle Age history.



## ***The Gathering of the Kings***

The ancient story of the Fall of Troy begins with a Trojan prince named Paris. Zeus selected Paris to resolve a conflict among three goddesses—Athena, Aphrodite, and Hera—over who was the most beautiful. In return for selecting her, Aphrodite promised Paris the love of the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen, who was the wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta.

Before Helen's marriage to Menelaus, she had many noble and kingly suitors, each desiring to make her his bride. Helen was concerned that no matter whom she selected, the others would be jealous and potentially go to war over her decision. To prevent this, Odysseus proposed that all the potential suitors swear an oath to defend and support Helen's chosen suitor. This oath was meant to avoid any future conflicts among the rejected suitors.

This oath, however, became the impetus for the great Trojan War. When Paris seduced Helen and brought her back to Troy—thanks to Aphrodite's promise—the Greek kings were bound by their oath to go to war with Troy to retrieve Helen for Menelaus.

Similarly, the Crusades saw a gathering of kings and princes, united by the Crusader oath, to besiege and ultimately retake the city of Jerusalem. The First Crusade featured Christian nobles such as Bohemond, Raymond of Toulouse, Godfrey of Bouillon, and Robert of Flanders. The Third Crusade saw the involvement of prominent kings, including Richard the Lionheart of England, Philip II of France, and Frederick I Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor.

To gather the Greek kings, Agamemnon, brother of Menelaus of Sparta, sent emissaries to remind them of their oath and rally them for battle. Similarly, papal emissaries were dispatched to assemble kings and nobles for various Crusades, with a primary focus on the First Crusade.

The Greek kings accomplished their task and successfully besieged and conquered Troy. Likewise, the nobles of the First Crusade did the same with Jerusalem.



*The Greek kings gather at Troy and the Christian kings gather during the Crusades*

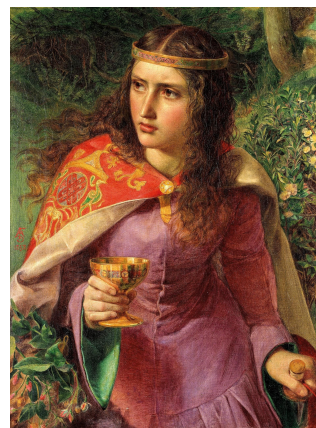
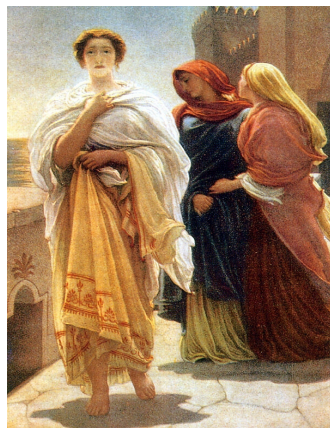


## ***A Beautiful Woman and Powerful Kings***

The ancient story of the Fall of Troy centers around Paris, a Trojan prince who seduced Helen and brought her from Sparta to Troy. Paris was given the power by the goddess Aphrodite to seduce any woman, and he chose Helen, the wife of King Menelaus of Sparta, renowned as the most beautiful woman in the world. Helen's abduction by Paris led to the ten-year Trojan War, involving many famous warriors and heroes. Her story is central to the epics of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

In a parallel narrative, Eleanor of Aquitaine, the mother of King Richard the Lionheart, moved away from her husband, King Henry II of England to rule over her lands in Aquitaine. Eleanor, like Helen, was known for her beauty, intelligence, and influence. Her annulled marriage to Louis VII of France and her later marriage to Henry II of England had significant political ramifications and played a crucial role in shaping the history of medieval Europe. Eleanor's involvement in the Second Crusade and her political maneuvering are reminiscent of Helen's impact on the Trojan War. Intriguingly, the name "Eleanor" is a derivative of the name "Helen".

Eleanor of Aquitaine's move from the French Capetian family to the English Plantagenet family bears resemblance to Helen moving from the Achaean to the Trojan nobility.



*Helen of Troy and Eleanor of Aquitaine*

## ***Disagreement Among the Besieging Army***

In Homer's *Iliad*, when King Agamemnon took Briseis, the concubine of Achilles, it created a severe rift between the two heroes. Deeply dishonored by Agamemnon's actions, Achilles withdrew from the battle, leaving the Greek forces without their greatest warrior. This absence on the battlefield significantly impacted the besieging Greek kings, as they struggled to continue their campaign against Troy without Achilles' formidable presence in arms and strategy.

A similar scenario occurred during the Third Crusade when King Philip II of France, after quarreling with Richard the Lionheart and facing political concerns back home, decided to leave the crusade and return to France. His departure left Richard to carry on the campaign largely on his own, a significant setback for the efforts to reclaim the Holy Land.

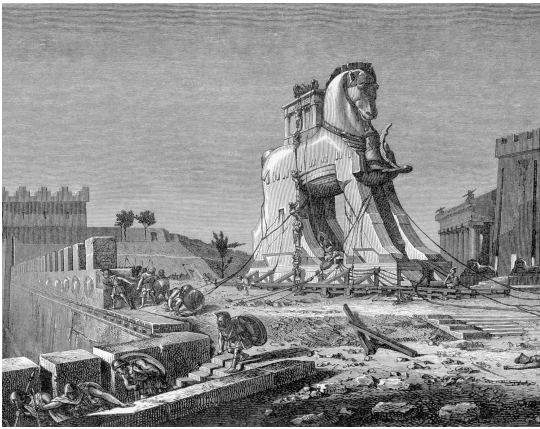


Furthermore, King Richard the Lionheart was a legendary and seemingly invincible warrior during the Crusade (notably at the siege of Acre and the Battle of Arsuf), just as Achilles was during the siege of Troy.

### ***Sneaking into the Fortified City***

The Greeks used the cunning strategy of the Trojan horse to infiltrate the city of Troy. By hiding a select group of warriors inside a massive wooden horse, which was presented as a gift to the Trojans, the Greeks managed to smuggle their soldiers within the city walls. Believing they had won, the Trojans brought the horse into their city. Under the cover of night, the Greek soldiers emerged from the horse, opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army, and launched a surprise attack, leading to the ultimate downfall of Troy.

Similarly, Bohemond of Taranto employed a strategic ruse to gain access to the city of Antioch during the First Crusade. Through a covert relationship with the tower guard, Firouz, Bohemond was able to secure an entry point into the heavily fortified city. Firouz, swayed by Bohemond's promises, allowed an elite band of Bohemond's best knights to covertly enter Antioch. Once inside, they opened the city gate, ultimately leading to its capture and the fall of the city.



*The Trojan Horse and Bohemond Sneaking into Antioch*

### ***Help from Above***

In the siege of Troy, the "gods and goddesses" frequently intervened to alter the course of events. Aphrodite saved Paris during his duel with Menelaus by enveloping him in a mist and transporting him to safety. Apollo aided the Trojans by sending a plague to the Greek camp and guiding Paris' arrow to fatally wound Achilles. Athena often assisted Greek heroes, such as when she tricked Hector into facing Achilles by appearing as his brother, Deiphobus. These divine interventions were believed to shape the outcome of battles and alter the destiny of both the Trojans and the Greeks.

Similarly, during the Crusades, saints appeared alongside the Crusaders, providing supernatural support and encouragement. During the Battle of Antioch in the First Crusade (1098), reports claimed that St. George led the charge on a white horse, inspiring the Christian knights to victory. In the siege of

Thessalonica (1185) by the Normans, defenders saw St. Demetrius on the city walls, bolstering their morale and providing protection. Crusaders also invoked St. Theodore during various battles, who appeared to guide and protect them in their quest.

### ***A Disbelieved Prophet***

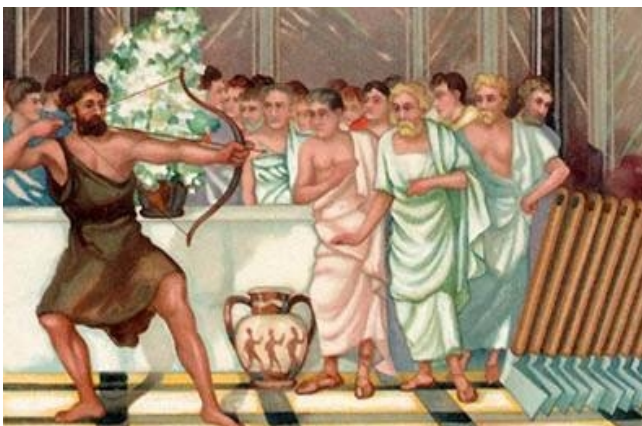
Cassandra, the sister of Hector and Paris and the daughter of King Priam of Troy, was cursed with the gift of true prophecy that no one would believe. Her accurate predictions, often ignored by those around her, led to a tragic irony where her warnings went unheeded, resulting in great misfortune for the Trojans.

Similarly, Peter the Hermit was a self-proclaimed prophet during the First Crusade, known for his passionate and prophetic speeches urging people to join the cause. Despite his fervent calls for the Crusade and his claimed visions of divine support, Peter's warnings and predictions were often met with skepticism and disbelief by the Crusading leaders and nobles.

### ***Archery Contest, Hero in Disguise***

Odysseus survived the battle at the fall of Troy and was long delayed in returning to his loving wife, Penelope, who did not know if he would ever return. Upon his return, Odysseus came back in disguise and participated in an archery contest to win back his wife's hand, as she was about to marry the winner of the contest. By winning the contest and revealing his true identity, Odysseus reclaimed his place beside Penelope.

Similarly, King Richard the Lionheart survived the battles of the Third Crusade but faced a prolonged delay in his return to England. During his journey back, Richard had to wear a disguise while passing through Germanic lands to avoid capture, just as Odysseus was in disguise on his way back to Penelope. Meanwhile, the English people were suffering under the rule of John Lackland. In this context, the legendary figure Robin Hood emerged as an opponent to "King John." Disguised, Robin Hood entered an archery contest to win the favor of Maid Marian, the niece of King Richard, mirroring the actions of Odysseus.



*Odysseus and Robin Hood competing in a critical archery contest*

## ***Detained Twice on His Way Back Home***

On his way back home from the Third Crusade, Richard the Lionheart was captured and held in captivity by two rulers. The first was Leopold V, Duke of Austria, who captured Richard near Vienna in December 1192. Richard was later handed over to Henry VI, Holy Roman Emperor, who continued to hold him captive until a ransom was paid.

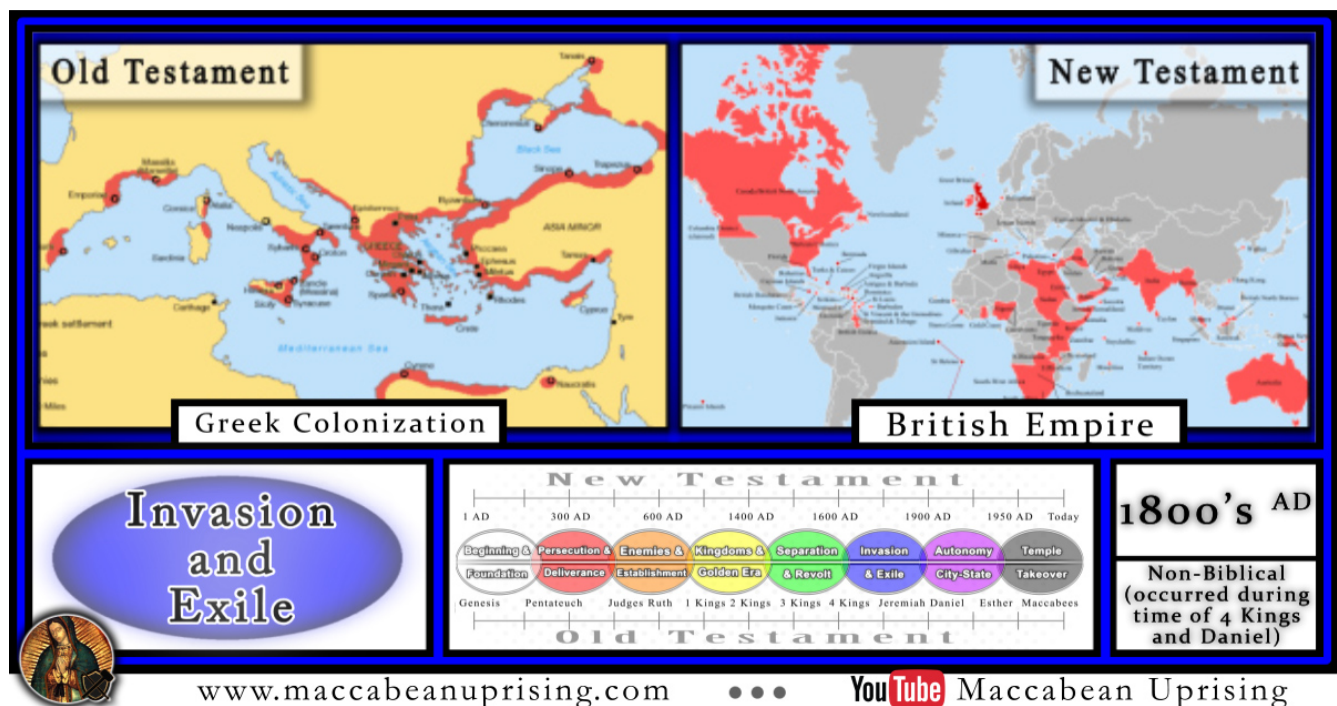
In Homer's *Odyssey*, two goddesses held Odysseus in captivity during his journey back home. The first was Calypso, who kept Odysseus on her island, Ogygia, for several years, hoping to make him her immortal husband. The second was Circe, who initially turned Odysseus' men into swine and detained him on her island, Aeaea, before eventually helping him continue his journey.

## ***Crossing the Sea, Founding of New Civilization***

In the system of parallels, Rome is compared to America (the United States). Notably, Aeneas was one of the survivors of the fall of Troy who escaped and crossed the Mediterranean Sea, eventually landing on the Italian Peninsula. His descendants, Romulus and Remus, went on to found the city of Rome, establishing a new civilization from the remnants of a fallen one.

Similarly, after the Crusading years ended, the Knights Templar remained together and intact. One of their knights, Henry Sinclair, is thought to have crossed the Atlantic in the 1300s from the Orkneys in Scotland. This legend suggests that the Knights Templar may have traveled to North America, specifically Nova Scotia, before Christopher Columbus. The theory is based on a Venetian document from the 1500s, describing a journey by Nicolò and Antonio Zeno under the direction of a prince named Zichmni. In the centuries to follow, the English, who parallel the Greeks in this comparison, would break away from their kingdom and form the United States of America.

(See [www.maccabeanuprising.com](http://www.maccabeanuprising.com) for an analysis of chronological parallels between the early Greek colonies and the British colonies of the 1600 to 1800's.





## ***English and Greek Mythology***

English Arthurian legends and Greek myths share many thematic and cultural similarities. Both the English and the Greeks are known for their colonizing efforts and rich mythological traditions. These parallels highlight the divine favor and legendary quests that resonate across both traditions.

One prominent parallel is the significance of legendary weapons and divine artifacts. In Greek mythology, heroes often wielded divine weapons bestowed upon them by the gods, such as Achilles' powerful spear crafted by Hephaestus and Perseus' mirrored shield given by Athena to defeat Medusa. These divine artifacts symbolized the heroes' special favor and power. Similarly, in Arthurian legend, King Arthur's mythical sword Excalibur, obtained from the Lady of the Lake, signified his divine right to rule and exceptional prowess as a warrior. Both Greek heroes and Arthurian knights were empowered by their legendary weapons, reinforcing their heroic status and inspiring those around them.

Another key parallel is the motif of heroic quests and journeys. Greek mythology is rich with tales of epic journeys, such as Odysseus' long and arduous journey back to Ithaca after the Trojan War, as recounted in Homer's *Odyssey*. These quests tested the heroes' cunning, bravery, and determination, shaping their character and legacy. Similarly, in Arthurian legend, the knights of the Round Table embarked on various quests, the most famous being the quest for the Holy Grail. This quest tested the knights' virtue and chivalry, shaping their character and defining their legacy.

### ***The Artifact that Inspires the Troops***

The discovery of Excalibur by King Arthur and the discovery of the Holy Lance by Peter Bartholomew in Antioch during the First Crusade share compelling parallels. In Arthurian legend, the discovery of the mythical sword Excalibur endowed King Arthur with a sense of divine favor and invincibility, rallying his knights and subjects with newfound courage and strength. Similarly, the Crusaders' belief in the authenticity of the Holy Lance, which Peter Bartholomew claimed to have unearthed, instilled them with the conviction that they had divine support. This belief galvanized the Crusaders, empowering them to break the siege of Antioch and launch a successful assault against the Turkish army.