

The Words of Saladin

"If God blesses us by enabling us to drive His enemies out of Jerusalem, how fortunate and happy we would be! For Jerusalem has been controlled by the enemy for ninety-one years, during which time God has received nothing from us here in the way of adoration. At the same time, the zeal of the Muslim rulers to deliver it languished. Time passed, and so did many [in different] generations, while the Franks succeeded in rooting themselves strongly there. Now God has reserved the merit of its recovery for one house, the house of the sons of Ayyub [Saladin's family], in order to unite all hearts in appreciation of its members."

- 1. What reasons does the Pope give for fighting for Jerusalem? What arguments does he use to persuade his listeners to go on a Crusade?**
- 2. What reasons does Saladin give for retaking Jerusalem? What arguments does he use to inspire his listeners?**
- 3. What are the similarities and differences between the arguments the Pope and Saladin use to persuade their listeners?**
- 4. What impressions do these speeches give you about the Crusades? What ideas do the speeches give you about the purposes of the people who fought during the Crusades?**
- 5. Using evidence from the reading give 2 examples (one from each writer) of language that shows a slanted or biased viewpoint and then explain how it shows bias.**