The Third Crusade - Leadership

Guy of Luisignan, King of Jerusalem (Raymond III of Tripoli)

Baldwin IV’s leprosy made his rule very short. His sister, Sibylla, was promised Jerusalem if she married, and she could marry who she wished in the death of her son and temporary king, Baldwin V. She chose Guy in 1186, much to the disgust of many, especially Raymond III of Tripoli. This internal conflict would distract the Franks from the approach of Saladin, and when they finally turn their attention to him their approaches will be different and therefore counterproductive. This is due to the pact between Raymond and Saladin. Raymond had been planning to take Jerusalem for himself, and Guy had undermined him and had even made further plans to take Raymond’s lands in Galilee. Saladin’s army were allowed to pass through Raymond’s lands as long as they supported his kingship. This shows the extent of the disunity of Outremer in 1186.

At the Battle of Hattin in July 1187 Raymond will be supporting Guy, however, as Saladin raids crusader territory at the end of the truce in response to the violations of Reynald of Châtillon. Guy will be imprisoned here, and at the fall of Jerusalem will lose his title of king. He will be at the siege of Acre with his men, holding it in a stalemate with Conrad until Richard arrives. After this, he is promised the return of the title of king when Jerusalem falls back to Christian hands (which it will not). This promise will be revoked at the second march on Jerusalem in 1192, as Richard will shift his support to Conrad, but in the event of his death he assumes the position he was in anyway.

Philip of Flanders, King of France

A very experienced king despite his age – in 1188 he was 24 but had been ruling France for 8 years already. In comparison, Richard was older, more powerful and wealthier. But Philip had a lot of experience as king, whereas Richard had only become king in 1189. Philip set out to the crusade with a smaller, less-equipped army. There would be mistrust between the two kings throughout the entirety of the Third Crusade, mostly due to personality differences and the fact that Philip will be more concerned over what is happening in his kingdom back home.

At the siege of Acre, Philip was of little help – he was better at tactical attacks opposed to the required brute military skill. He will support Conrad in becoming king of Jerusalem as they are related. However, he will leave the crusade in 1191 because of ill health and a dispute to settle in Flanders. His men departed with him – this was a serious blow to the crusade. When he returns home, he will be problematic for Richard, who had only wanted him to come on crusade so that he would not be able to take his land in his absence. Now he was home and Richard away, Philip was seriously threatening Normandy. This caused a lot of distress for the king, who was unable to focus on the crusade.

Reynald of Châtillon

Sets out for fortune in the east, as he is the second son of a wealthy family – thus gaining nothing through inheritance. In 1153 he marries Constance, the Princess of Antioch (and the widow of Raymond), making him the Prince of Antioch, the second most important city in the Holy Land. He takes Cyprus, a crusader ally and part of the Byzantium Empire, and sends the noses of priests to Emperor Manuel Comnena. To appease this, King Baldwin III married Manuel’s niece. Three years