AP World History: Crusades Primary Source Analysis

Postclassical Era

*Instructions: Fill out your POV template as you read the following primary source.*

Context: In 638 CE, the Arab people conquered Jerusalem and added it under the control of the Islamic Caliphate. After the Arab conquest, Jews were given permission to re-enter. There was a treaty signed between the Islamic Caliphate and the Coptic church promising that the Muslim people would protect the Christian people and holy sites / relics. Eventually, the Dome of the Rock was built and coexisted in the midst of Jewish and Christian temples in the 7th century. However, the next several centuries were a bit unstable.

**Prompt: Why did Western Europeans participate in the Crusades?**

*Pope Urban, speech to Crusaders, 1095 CE*

All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent God and is made glorious with the name of Christ! With what reproaches will the Lord overwhelm us if you do not aid those who, with us, profess the Christian religion!

Let those who have been accustomed unjustly to wage private warfare against the faithful now go against the infidels and end with victory this war which should have been begun long ago. Let those who for a long time have been robbers, now become knights. Let those who have been fighting against their brothers and relatives now fight in a proper way against the barbarians. Let those who have been serving as mercenaries for small pay now obtain the eternal reward. Let those who have been wearing themselves out in both body and soul now work for a double honor. Behold! on this side will be the sorrowful and poor, on that, the rich; on this side, the enemies of the Lord, on that, his friends. Let those who go not put off the journey, but rent their lands and collect money for their expenses; and as soon as winter is over and spring comes, let them eagerly set out on the way with God as their guide.