**Document A: Pope Urban’s speech (excerpted, modified)**

*At the council of Clermont, Pope Urban II encouraged his audience to take action against the Muslims in Palestine.*

“For your brethren (fellow members of the Christian religion) who live in the east are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten (hurry) to give them the aid, which has often been promised them. For, as most of you have heard the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania (the Byzantine Empire) as far west as the shore of the Mediterranean… They have occupied (taken) more and more of the lands of those Christians, and have overcome them in seven battles. They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire. If you permit them to continue thus for awhile with impunity (without punishment), the faithful of God will be much more widely attacked by them. On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech (beg) you as Christ’s heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldier and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends. I say this to those who are present, it is meant also for those who are absent. Moreover, Christ demands it.

All who die this way, whether by land or sea, or in battle against the pagans (uncivilized person with an evil religion), shall have immediate remission **(forgiveness)** of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what disgrace if such a despised and base (disgusting) race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent (all-powerful) God and is made glorious with the name of Christ?”

***Source:*** *Speech by Pope Urban II in 1095 at the Council of Clermont (according to Fulcher of Cartres, Western European chronicler of the First Crusade).*

**Full Text Available:** <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/urban2-5vers.html>

"Urban II (1088-1099): Speech at Council of Clermont, 1095." Medieval Sourcebook. Ed. Fordham University. Paul Halsall, Dec. 1997. Web. 8 July 2014.