
Ibn al-Athir gives a much more succinct description of the battle, which is nonetheless packed with detail and can be compared to Documents 47 and 48.¹

The Egyptians appointed as deputy in Jerusalem a man called Iftikhar al-Dawla, who remained there until this present time, when the Franks attacked after they had besieged Acre but with no success. After their arrival they erected forty trebuchets or more and they constructed two towers, one on the Mount Zion side, but the Muslims burnt that one and killed all inside. After they had completely destroyed it by fire, their help was then called for, as the city defences had been overwhelmed on the other side. The Franks did indeed take the city from the north in the forenoon of Friday, seven days remaining of Sha‘ban. The inhabitants became prey for the sword. For a week the Franks continued to slaughter the Muslims. A group of Muslims took refuge in the Tower of David and defended themselves there. They resisted for three days and then the Franks offered them safe-conduct, so they surrendered the place. The Franks kept faith with them and they departed at night for Ascalon, where they remained.

In the Aqsa Mosque the Franks killed more than 70,000,² a large number of them being imams, ulema,³ righteous men and ascetics. Muslims who had left their native lands and come to live a holy life in this august spot. The Franks took forty or more silver candlesticks from the Dome of the Rock, each of which weighed 3,600 dirhams, and also a silver candelabrum weighing forty Syrian rotls. They removed 150 small candlesticks of silver and twenty or so of gold. The booty they took was beyond counting.

¹ *The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athir for the Crusading Period from al-Kamil fi l-ta'rikh*, trans. D. S. Richards (Surrey U.K.: Ashgate, 2005), 1:21–22. This excerpt is from the *First Crusade*, edited by Jay Carter Rubenstein (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin, 2015), 150–151.

² An exaggeration, but probably an attempt to convey how tremendous the death toll seemed.

³ An imam is a leader in a mosque; an ulema is a Muslim legal scholar.