

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

By

Giovanni Zelko

ATLAS FILMS
2721 SECOND STREET
SUITE 203
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405
TEL: 310-396-8236
FAX: 310-399-5597

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED/COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL/W.G.A. REGISTERED

WHITE TEXT ON BLACK SCREEN:

1033 A.D.

1,000 YEARS HAS PASSED SINCE THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST
SURROUNDED BY PLAGUES, STARVATION, & MURDEROUS WAR ON ALL
SIDES, MOST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE BELIEVE THE BIBLICAL END OF
TIMES ARE UPON THEM. IT IS THE PEAK OF THE DARK AGES.
CHRISTIANS AWAIT THE APOCALYPSE & CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

EXT. DAY. MEDIEVAL VILLAGE IN WESTERN EUROPE.

Close Up of a peasant's screaming face as a battle-ax lops
off the entire head and blood splashes onto the screen.

CUT TO:

Extremely brutal MONTAGE of mounted knights descending on a
helpless village, gleefully killing, raping, and robbing.
Chickens, grain, goats, a few cattle and a few teenage girls
are rounded up by some knights as others methodically hunt
down and kill men, women and children. An OLD WOMAN is
cornered by a GIANT KNIGHT. The old woman holds up a
pitchfork in her defense.

OLD WOMAN

You'll burn in hell for this! You
bastards call yourselves knights!
I curse all of you to the eternal
fires of hell!

The Giant Knight, spattered in blood from his day's work,
wheels his horse around and rears up in front of her, scaring
her back against the wall of a hut. Grimacing, he thrusts
his broadsword downward, completely severing her head and
right upper torso and arm off, splattering blood all over the
wall and his own arm and face. Unflinching, he calmly turns
his horse around to view the burning village and the
continuing horrors of his men's work.

GIANT KNIGHT

Hell? We are in hell.

The Giant Knight spurs his horse on and charges through the
burning village, trampling over a young child in his path.
The camera booms up to a birds-eye-view of the multiple
plumes of smoke and fires rising from the village. The
horrific sounds of screaming people, along with the sound of
crackling fires, grows louder.

SLOW DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. DAY. CHURCH. MEDIEVAL PARIS. EASTER.

Extreme Close Up of a WALL MURAL OF THE PITS OF HELL. We continue to hear the horrible sounds from the last scene while we see the details of the mural - screaming souls thrown into the fires of hell where demons and devils eat them alive.

CUT TO:

Standing below a life-size wooden statue of Jesus Christ nailed to the cross, A PRIEST delivers an electrifying sermon to his captivated congregation. The priest has a crazed, fanatic look in his eyes, and gestures wildly with his arms as he speaks. A five year old BOY looks on in awe at the mural of hell as he listens to the apocalyptic sermon.

PRIEST

You will all burn in **HELL**!!!!
All of you! Hell I say! Unless you
repent now! The end days are here.
Signs are everywhere. It is the
year 1033 and the Apocalypse has
begun to unfold! The lord has
spoken! Will we not hear him?
Today, Easter Sunday, is exactly
one thousand years, *to the hour*,
since the Lord Jesus Christ was
nailed to the cross and rose from
the dead. 1,000 years, my flock!
The time to save your soul is now,
for the second coming of Christ has
begun! Are we not told in
Revelations 20:

The priest opens the Bible before him and reads aloud.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

"When the one thousand years are
ended, Satan will be released from
his prison and come out to deceive
the nations Gog and Magog in order
to gather them for battle; they are
as numerous as the sands of the
sea. They marched up over the
breadth of the earth and surrounded
the camp of the saints and the
beloved city."

He slams the book shut and waves it high in the air.

PRIEST

Don't you see? The peoples of Gog
and Magog are the Muslim Saracens
of Turkey and Arabia that have
taken Christ's beloved city of
Jerusalem!

A murmur runs through the church. The young Boy turns to
listen intently at this next part.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

The armies of the Antichrist have
risen in the East! The end of the
world is here! We must, as
Christians preparing for His Second
Coming, go to Jerusalem where
Christ awaits his flock! But only
the penitent may enter the Heavenly
City. We must become the "*Christi
Milite Peregrini*" that the Bible
speaks of! The Pilgrim Soldiers of
Christ!

The congregation rises to its feet and unanimously chants:

CONGREGATION

Amen! Amen! Amen!

BOY

(mesmerized)

Amen.

We cut to an Extreme Close Up of the young boy's brilliant
blue eyes amidst the sound of cheering "Amen".

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DAY. VATICAN CITY. POPE'S QUARTERS. 1095 A.D.

The extreme close up of the boy's eyes dissolves into an
extreme close up of the same eyes 62 years later. The camera
pulls away from the eyes to reveal the boy is now the 68 year
old POPE URBAN II.

POPE URBAN II

Amen.

Subtitle Reads: "VATICAN CITY, 62 YEARS LATER: 1095 A.D."

The Pope is sitting at a large candlelit desk in his chamber and is looking at various open books, scrolls, and artwork of the Apocalypse. He is focused on the artwork from the open Carolingian Trier Apocalypse in front of him. He turns to a page where he reads a passage next to an illustration of a lamb with a book of seven seals open.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

(reading out loud)

"The guileless lamb slain for our sake but triumphantly risen, has torn away the veil from the book of the old law: and been found worthy to loosen the seven seals of that book."

Interrupted by a knock at the door, he turns away from his books.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

Come in.

BISHOP ADEMAR, in his forties, and another TWO BISHOPS in their fifties, enter.

BISHOP ADEMAR

Good evening, your excellency.

POPE URBAN II

Brothers. What bad news do you bring?

BISHOP ADEMAR

Pope Urban II, we have gathered reports from the corners of Christendom. Both the Peace of God and the Truce of God movements are failures, as suspected.

BISHOP II

The devil has Christianity by its throat. Our own Christian Princes, Counts and Barons of Europe are killing each other faster than plagues and Saracens are.

BISHOP III

Holy Roman Christendom is in a vice grip, your excellence. The entire weight of the Muslim world is on our doorstep in the East.

(MORE)

BISHOP III (CONT'D)

With Jerusalem lost and defiled by Muslims and Jews, and the Turks swarming throughout the Eastern Churches on our borders, Rome could be overrun within a year!

There is a pause. The sage-like elder pope frowns.

POPE URBAN II

I know this better than any of you, my brothers.

BISHOP ADEMAR

Your excellency, drastic times call for drastic measures. We cannot stall any longer. You know what must be done. You must organize a Holy War. It is the will of God.

POPE URBAN II

The will of God is for man to live in Peace with one another, not to make war on one another.

Bishop Ademar bows his head slightly in accordance.

BISHOP III

Pope Urban, the time to act is now, before it is too late. We have two excommunicated kings and a false pope to deal with in our midst here in Europe, let alone the chaos on our Christian borders.

BISHOP II

Thus weakened, we cannot hope to survive the coming storm from the East. Only you can unite us. Only you can save us.

POPE URBAN II

The Lord will save us. He has made all clear before me. Try as I may to see otherwise, our teachings point unanimously to the same conclusion: The final Judgement is at hand.

The Bishops glance at one another in concern. The Pope waves his hand across his desk full of open books.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

The Old and New Testaments, the Long Latin Versions of Paul, the Sibylline texts, four Carolingian Manuscripts of the Apocalypse, Abbot Adso's teachings of the Antichrist, and our manuscripts of Charlemagne and the Last Emperor. The solar eclipse of two years ago, the falling stars seen everywhere this April. And now the Antichrist sits in Jerusalem with his armies of the East. The signs are everywhere. They are unrefutable. You are all correct. The time has come to act. God wills it. The time for the Peace of God and the Truce of God is over, I know that now. The time for the War of God has come. We must summon the Soldiers of Christ from the corners of the world and defeat the armies of the Antichrist. I have been waiting all my life for the Lord to reveal this moment of truth to me. It is now. I know it.

The three Bishops all smile at his reaction. The pope rises from his desk and walks solemnly to a nearby window, looking out, with his back to the three Bishops.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

As a child, in a church in Paris, I was told the end was upon us. That the Apocalypse had begun. That once we retake Jerusalem, Christ would descend from the clouds with a sword of fire and destroy the armies of the Antichrist and begin the Reign of the Saints and Armageddon. The final moment is upon us. We must take Jerusalem and prepare it for Christ's coming. I have been preparing for this final stage all my life.

He turns to face the three Bishops.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

The end days are here, my brothers. I have been given a vision by God to unite the armies of Christendom under the holy cross and march on Jerusalem where Christ awaits us. I will build the greatest fighting force this earth has ever known and send it East to destroy the Antichrist and his armies. Only then will Christ descend from the heavens and bring eternal peace on earth.

The three Bishops kneel before the pope, bowing their heads in respect.

ALL THREE BISHOPS

Amen.

POPE URBAN II

Bishop Ademar, as I am too old and my duties require me to remain here, you will go before this great army of God as its spiritual leader and military commander.

BISHOP ADEMAR

(surprised)

I will serve you and the Lord unflinchingly.

POPE URBAN II

Your greatest challenge won't be fighting the armies of the Antichrist, I fear, but keeping the greedy kings and princes of Europe unified and focused on the common goal of capturing Jerusalem for spiritual gain and not earthly gain. We must not fail at this.

BISHOP ADEMAR

Yes, your eminence.

POPE URBAN II

Now. Summon my four best knights immediately. I have a divine mission for them.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. CHURCH OF SAINT PETER. VATICAN CITY.

Four PAPAL KNIGHTS, fully dressed in shining armor and covered in an all white tunic with a red cross on their chest, are kneeling before the Pope while the three bishops and other priests keep busy around them. Incense smoke, holy water, and prayers are showered on the knights as the Pope gives them Communion, assisted by Bishop III.

POPE URBAN II

This is the body and blood of
Christ. Take it and be one with
Him.

As each knight takes the bread and sips wine from the chalice, they make a sign of the cross and say:

KNIGHTS

Amen.

Next, in solemn ceremony, Bishop Ademar carries forth four great swords, handing them one at a time to the Pope, who in turn kisses the hilt before he presents them to the knights. The knights also kiss the sword and the Pope's papal ring.

POPE URBAN II

These are the finest swords ever
made by man. In them is iron from
the nails that pierced the hands of
Christ. The blades are
indestructible and will pierce all
armor and slice through all flesh
as if they were air. They carry my
insignia and that of the Vatican.
They hold within them complete
Papal authority and Divine justice.
No mortal man, King or Prince, can
judge you, or stop you.

KNIGHTS

Amen.

Bishop II carries forth four metal rods with glowing hot ends. Handing them one at a time to the pope, the pope brands the sign of the papal cross into the knights' foreheads. The knights do not so much as wince.

POPE URBAN II

This sign of the cross will protect
you against all enemies of God. He
will be with you every breath of
your way.

KNIGHTS

Amen.

POPE URBAN II

Rise, Soldiers of Christ, and
 summon the Princes and Kings of
 Christendom in my name.

The four knights rise and we finally see how huge they are,
 towering over the Pope and all the holy men around them.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

Deliver me a great multitude at
 Clermont. Strike down any man who
 stands in your way. The agents of
 the Devil walk everywhere with
 forked tongues. Be wary. Trust no
 man. Deliver your message only to
 Kings and Princes, and no one else.
 Kill if you must. God protects
 you. Go swiftly.

The four knights salute the Pope with their swords, turn, and
 head down the center isle towards the doors of the church,
 with all the priests and Bishops kneeling and giving the sign
 of the cross as they pass. Only the Pope remains standing.
 As the knights vanish into the bright light of day like
 angels, their armor blindingly bright, we hear their neighing
 horses and cut to an Extreme Close Up of the Pope's face.

POPE URBAN II (CONT'D)

(whispering to himself)

Go with God, for you are truly the
 four horsemen of the Apocalypse.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. GATES AND DRAWBRIDGE OF VATICAN CITY.

Low Angle Slow-Mo shot of the giant gates of the Vatican
 swinging open to reveal the four knights on their white
 horses riding out. This shot is followed by a high overhead
 aerial shot showing the four horsemen breaking off into four
 different directions, galloping at full speed.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT. CITY OF AMALFI ON THE SEA OF SALERNO.

Subtitle Reads: "NORMAN SIEGE OF AMALFI, 1095"

The city is bombarded with flaming missiles by catapults on ships from sea and siege engines by land. Flames lick at the rooftops of buildings, and smoke bellows over the walls. Scenes of gruesome deaths are flashed by - soldiers trying to scale walls hit with arrows, stones, and boiling oil, while the city inhabitants are killed by arrows and fiery missiles launched over the walls. A siege engine at the main gate is beginning to crack the giant doors it batters. Encamped outside the walls at a safe distance from the fray, is PRINCE BOHEMOND, a giant 40 year old Norman with blonde hair and piercing blue eyes. Standing with his hands on his hips, he smiles at his handy work. He turns to COUNT ROGER next to him, who is less excited and more nervous.

PRINCE BOHEMOND

(pointing excitedly)

You see, Roger? I told you it would work! The main gates are weakening as they protect their sea-side walls. We'll be raping their women by morning!

COUNT ROGER

(not impressed)

Those gates *better* fall. We are almost out of supplies and my men are growing mutinous.

Bohemond, still smiling, waves his hand at him in annoyance.

PRINCE BOHEMOND

Ahh, nonsense! Have some wine. I want to be one of the first through the walls. That gate will give way any minute now.

Laughing as he swigs down some wine and passes it to Roger, Bohemond grabs his helmet and hops on his nearby horse, a giant heavily-armored war horse.

COUNT ROGER

You're mad, Prince Bohemond.

PRINCE BOHEMOND

(laughing)

Perhaps, but I was born for war, and the sounds of battle now call!

Suddenly, they both turn their heads towards the rear where a clamor of swords and screams arises. Bohemond's smile vanishes and his eyes squint. Roger stumbles to his feet, panicking.

COUNT ROGER
 (terrified)
 They have circled around back and
 are attacking from the rear!

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 Impossible.

Bohemond draws his sword and positions his horse to block the road as more screams are heard, then falling silent suddenly. From the misty darkness of the road, a galloping horse approaches with only the bottom half of the severed body of a knight attached. The fear stricken horse gallops past Bohemond into the distance.

COUNT ROGER
 What in Hell did that?

The battle hardened Bohemond is obviously impressed.

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 We shall see any moment now. I'd
 grab your sword if I were you.

Count Roger does so, and takes a few steps back, half hiding in his tent. Suddenly, the sound of a thundering horse is heard and a glowing white rider upon a white horse appears out of the mist of the night like a phantom. Bohemond clenches his grip on his sword as the rider approaches and comes to a stop thirty feet from him. It is one of the four Papal Knights. His white uniform and white horse are splattered in blood, and his drawn sword still drips with blood.

PAPAL KNIGHT I
 By order of God and his holy
 eminence, Pope Urban II, I seek the
 great Prince of men, Bohemond of
 Ontrato.

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 He is I. What business do you have
 killing my guards, Papal Knight?

PAPAL KNIGHT I
 They tried to stop me. My orders
 are to speak to you only.

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 I see.

The Papal Knight turns his head towards the cowering Count Roger and gives him a menacing look, sending the count falling over a low table and scrambling away into the tent.

PRINCE BOHEMOND (CONT'D)
 What message do you bring, Knight
 of the Cross?

The Papal Knight sheaths his bloody sword. Bohemond notices the Papal insignia on the hilt. The Papal Knight then lifts up his face guard to reveal his striking face and the branded cross on his forehead.

PAPAL KNIGHT I
 I am of the army of God and bring
 you a message from the Pope
 himself. You are called to the
 Council of Clermont in the land of
 the Franks where his eminence is
 building a great army of
 Christians.

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 What does a Pope need with an army?

PAPAL KNIGHT I
 He plans to liberate Jerusalem.

Bohemond almost falls off his horse when he hears this.

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 (shocked)
 Jerusalem? The Pope is building an
 army to capture Jerusalem?

PAPAL KNIGHT I
 No. To free it. The Pope awaits
 you in Clermont. The end times are
 near.

With nothing more, the Papal Knight lowers his face mask, draws his sword and rides away, disappearing back into the mist from which he came.

PRINCE BOHEMOND
 (smirking)
 Jerusalem? I will become richer
 beyond my wildest dreams.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DAY. THE WHITE TOWER OF LONDON ON THE THAMES RIVER.

Subtitle Reads: "THE WHITE TOWER OF LONDON"

From across the Thames River, shrouded in early morning fog, we see the White Tower of London, the majestic fortress castle of KING WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR. Across the river, we see a figure of a white knight and horse galloping towards the castle entrance.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. MAIN GATES TO THE WHITE TOWER OF LONDON.

Without being stopped, the Papal Knight II is allowed passage into the castle by the guard, as if they had been expecting him. He rides into the inner courtyard of the castle.

EXT. DAY. INNER COURTYARD OF THE WHITE TOWER OF LONDON.

The Papal Knight II is greeted by King William the Conqueror and his 30 year old son, PRINCE ROBERT, along with their entourage, including the KING'S BISHOP. The Papal Knight dismounts to stand before the king, removing his helmet. The king and his entourage notice his forehead branded with the mark of Christ and stare for a moment. Prince Robert pays more attention to the knight's great shining sword.

KING WILLIAM

Most noble Knight of Christ, I
welcome you as I would welcome the
Pontificate himself! My heralds
told me of your coming.

The Papal Knight bows his head for a moment before speaking.

PAPAL KNIGHT II

King William, Pope Urban II thanks
you for your allegiance and justice
as a King of Christians. You are
held in his highest regard. That
is why I am here today.

KING WILLIAM

(intrigued)

Won't you come inside so we might
dine together and you can rest? I
would be honored to have you here
as a guest.

PAPAL KNIGHT II
With all respect, I must decline.

PRINCE ROBERT
(aggravated)
You dare insult the King of Normans
by declining dinner with him?!

KING WILLIAM
(to Robert, then Knight)
Silence, Robert! Speak when spoken
to. You must forgive my son, noble
Knight. He is young and rash.

PAPAL KNIGHT II
(indifferent)
I must depart immediately. The
candle burns at both ends, I'm
afraid. An unearthly army gathers
strength in the East this very
moment. His eminence awaits my
return with your answer.

KING WILLIAM
And what is the question his
eminence has for me?

PAPAL KNIGHT II
Noble King, a great war is coming.
Unlike any before. It has already
begun, deep in the East and
spreading west faster with each
passing moon. Evil spreads across
Christendom. An army of unholy
Muslims has taken control of the
Holy Land and defiles the most
sacred places of Christ. They kill
and eat the Christians they
capture, and force the others to
flee into the wilderness. The
Antichrist himself sits upon a
false throne in Jerusalem.

Those in the King's entourage, especially the Bishop, murmur.

KING WILLIAM
(alarmed)
I have heard rumors of these
things, but had not thought they
had escalated so far.

KING'S BISHOP

(excited)

The Antichrist? Seated in Jerusalem? Is the Pope declaring the Apocalypse has begun? Who is the Last Emperor?

PAPAL KNIGHT II

I cannot answer those questions, brother. What I can tell you is that Pope Urban II is building a great Army of God from the corners of Christendom to March on Jerusalem before it is too late. He wishes your allegiance, King William.

KING WILLIAM

He has it. I will begin preparing my armies immediately. You will have knights from across Britania.

The King turns to one of his advisors.

KING WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Send word to the corners of the kingdom and order a Council of War, immediately.

The advisor bows his head and departs in a hurry.

PAPAL KNIGHT II

The Pope himself is holding a Council at Clermont on the next new moon. There he will explain all details of his plans.

KING WILLIAM

I must stay here to begin preparations, of course, but my son, Robert, will go in my stead.

Robert, staring at the knight's great sword, raises his eyes to meet the knight's, and smiles maliciously, bowing his head.

PRINCE ROBERT

The will of the Pope is my command, great knight.

PAPAL KNIGHT II

Very well, great King. Your son,
Prince Robert, is welcomed as your
champion.

Prince Robert takes a step forward and bows his head.

PRINCE ROBERT

Knight of the cross, what sort of
sword do you carry? I have never
seen such a one. Where can a
prince find so noble a sword?

PAPAL KNIGHT II

These swords are a burden only the
truly penitent may carry. It is
not for you. I must return to
Rome.

The Papal Knight turns his back on the Prince, slips his
helmet back on, and remounts his horse.

KING WILLIAM

The road to Rome is a long and
dangerous one, fearless knight.
Allow me to provide you with an
escort.

PAPAL KNIGHT II

I thank you, great King, for your
generosity, but none is needed. I
am swifter alone, and the Sword of
God I carry protects me from all
men.

KING WILLIAM

Gods speed, then. May Christ watch
over you.

The Papal Knight nods his head to the King and the Prince,
and spurs his horse on, dashing out of the courtyard and out
of the castle. The King turns to his son with a smile.

KING WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Robert, great riches and lands
await us in the East, and the hand
of God will deliver them to us.
Let the Pope have his Holy War and
heavenly salvation. We'll take the
earthly prize.

PRINCE ROBERT

Yes, father. And that sword. It will one day hang on the wall of our great treasure room.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. CASTLE OF VERMANDOIS. NORTHERN FRANCE.

Subtitle Reads: "CASTLE OF VERMANDOIS, NORTHERN FRANCE."

Standing alone by a giant fireplace in a grand hall of weapons, armor, and heraldry, is the Prince of Vermandois, HUGH the Great, brother to King Phillip of France. Standing next to him is the third Papal Knight. Three great hunting dogs lie on the floor nearby the crackling fire, devouring the remains of a deer.

PAPAL KNIGHT III

As your brother, King Phillip, has been excommunicated by the Pope, and is outside the Lord's flock, he is unable to enter the pious ranks of the Soldiers of Christ. It is up to you to lead your people to salvation under the cross of God.

HUGH

(frustrated)

You realize that my raising an army in France against my brother's wishes would mean war with him. It is impossible.

PAPAL KNIGHT III

The Pope's bishops and priests are already working to prevent that. Hugh, these are petty problems of greed and vanity of this world. Pope Urban II speaks to you of the coming problems of the Apocalypse and the afterlife. You must save your people from the grip of the devil and help bring peace on earth. Your brother, Phillip, is incapable of such things. It is time for Christians to stop killing one another and to join hands and march together as one against its common pagan enemy. God commands it.

HUGH

(solemn)

I understand, and I will make my brother understand, for the good of all.

PAPAL KNIGHT III

Pope Urban II will hold a Council in nearby Clermont shortly to discuss the details of the campaign to Jerusalem. He expects you there.

HUGH

I will be there when the time comes. The Pope can count on my allegiance.

PAPAL KNIGHT III

His eminence thanks you.

The Papal Knight bows his head briefly before turning and exiting, leaving the prince alone with his dogs. Leaning down close to the fire to warm his hands, his face takes on an unnatural hellish glow as the flames from the fire dance across his face and eyes.

HUGH

(whispering to himself)

I will be there, and after this war is over, I will return to take the crown off my brother's severed head.

We push in to an Extreme Close Up of the flames dancing in his hellish eyes and

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NIGHT. GREAT BANQUET HALL OF CAROLINGIAN CASTLE.

From a Close Up of flames in a fireplace, we pull continuously back to reveal a wild boar roasting over open flames in the center of a giant banquet hall encircled by tables full of food and wine.

Subtitle Reads: "Castle of Godfrey of Bouillon, Lower Rhine"

Musicians play music as groups of people dance, laugh, and sing, all the while drinking themselves into a stupor.

The center table is raised higher than all the rest, and there sit three men, PRINCE GODFREY, 35, in the center, flanked by his two younger brothers, PRINCE BALDWIN and PRINCE EUSTACE. The three brothers, with women on every arm, are laughing and having a great time. A clamor of swords and men screaming erupts outside the doors, silencing the music and the revelers. The three princes, and the knights around them who are not too drunk to stand, draw their swords. Women scream as a giant sword splinters through the great wooden doors and metal bolts of the hall, throwing sparks into the room.

GODFREY

Silence! What demon from Hell
comes to our sacred hall?

The doors are kicked forward by the front legs of a great white stallion carrying the fourth Papal Knight. The hall is stunned by the sight of this great white knight spattered in blood wearing a giant red cross on his chest and wielding a magnificent sword. The knight calmly urges his horse forward towards Godfrey's table. The hall is dead silent except for the sound of the crackling fire, the clapping horse shoes, and the horses labored breathing. All eyes, including the prince's, are on him, in awe and not sure what is to come next. The knight keeps his helmet and face guard on, speaking through the mask.

PAPAL KNIGHT IV

Princes of Bouillon, descendants of
the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne
and the great Carolingian Empire,
his holy eminence, Pope Urban II,
summons you to do service for
Christ Almighty in defending
Christendom against the unholy
Saracens who occupy and defile our
Eastern Churches and threaten the
borders of Western Christendom.
This is the word of God.

The three awestruck Princes lower their swords and say "AMEN". Their entire court follows suit and does the same. The Papal Knight points his bloodied sword towards Godfrey.

PAPAL KNIGHT IV (CONT'D)

The Pope will see you at the
Council of Clermont. Prepare your
army for the final battle of Christ
that is upon us all. May God
protect you.

With that, the Papal Knight spins his horse around, and gallops out of the great Hall, leaving the drunken party stunned. Godfrey's face is pale, his eyes crazed, still in shock. He raises his sword up high and speaks to his court.

GODFREY

My brothers and countrymen! I have seen this all before in a dream, a vision! Charlemagne himself showed me these things to come. I am to become King of Jerusalem! It is my destiny, **our** destiny!

The entire crowd cheers, raising up swords and chalices.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DAY. LARGE OPEN FIELD. CLERMONT, FRANCE.

We follow the feet of Pope Urban II as he climbs the wooden steps of a platform, opening up to reveal an outdoor stage overlooking a great multitude of princes, soldiers, and clergy from all over Christendom. Hundreds of flags with the coats of arms of different kingdoms flutter in the air. The crowd cheers as the Pope arrives on stage.

Subtitle Reads: "NOV 27, 1095, THE COUNCIL OF CLERMONT"

In the crowd, we see the faces of Prince Bohemond, Robert of Normandy, King's Bishop, Hugh, Godfrey, Baldwin, Eustace, and a new face, PETER THE HERMIT. Carrying a crooked wooden staff, Peter has rags for clothes and is barefoot. With a long grey beard and piercing blue eyes, he has the crazy look of a prophet. On stage standing behind the Pope are his trusty three Bishops, Ademar and Bishop I and II, among other bishops and clergy. Flanking left and right of the pope are his four giant Papal Knights with their swords at their sides, wearing their customary shining armor with white tunics emblazoned with a red cross on their chest. Pope Urban II raises both his hands and hushes the gathered crowd. *(The following speech is a word-for-word account taken entirely from eye witnesses.)*

POPE URBAN II

Most beloved brethren, by God's permission placed over the whole world with papal crown, I, Pope Urban II, as the messenger of divine admonition have been compelled by an unavoidable occasion to come here to you servants of God.