

## The Chosen Peoples of the 11th and 21st Centuries

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### Abstract

The idea of a people's election by God is a narrative that attempts to efface contestation over the past, erasing history by constructing new memory. This paper will examine how this functions by comparing two Christian narratives of election. The Franks who participated in the First Crusade (1095-99) thought themselves to be God's new chosen people, who were in the process of reclaiming his favor. Similarly, a streak in contemporary evangelical (Judeo-)Christianity thinks itself at a point in that narrative just before the crusaders, with God showing his anger at his new chosen people (Americans). By understanding this process of narrativization, we understand that the idea of election suggests a course of action, in that it creates a hermeneutic seal around the "insiders," flattens differences among "outsiders," and requires the chosen people to fight back against the agents of God's wrath.

### Keywords

Jews; Christians; Judeo-Christian; Election

### Full Text:

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Category: 12th century. We have already read about the life of the great feudal lords and how they ruled the country. Now we shall read about the life of the English peasants under their Norman masters and how they struggled against foreign oppression. Villages After the Norman Conquest. At the end of the 11th and at the beginning of the 12th century England had a population of about 1,500,000 people. The church was the centre of the village. The Anglo-Saxon church would be made of stone, with very thick walls and a tower. In the life of the villagers the church was of great importance. The church bell told men when to begin work and when to come home from the fields. The villagers spent their spare time for the most part in church. 11th century. William the Conqueror – Worth approximately \$230 billion dollars (in today's dollars). There is some thought that due to the vast natural resources and the power over gold trade at the time, that King Tenkamenin of Ghana should be considered the richest man of the 11th century. However, when looking into it further, it seems there is more legend and association than anything else, so we will go with the more concrete choice of William the Conqueror, the Norman King of England. He earned his wealth the old fashioned way – by pillaging. We are only 14 years into the century, but the richest person of the 21st century is considered to be about the eighth richest person in all of history, give or take. And it isn't Bill Gates or Warren Buffett.