

Lesson 4 – Religion, Peace & Conflict

What is a holy war?

Give TWO reasons for war. [2 marks]

One reason for war is...

The second reason for war is...

The concept of holy war, a war 'on behalf of God', developed at a time when the Christian church was becoming increasingly politically powerful. The **Crusades**, which were ordered by various Popes and took place between the 11th and 13th centuries, are the most famous examples of holy war. The intention was to recover Jerusalem from the Muslim Turks. The Crusades resulted in many atrocities being carried out in the name of God.

The concept of holy war is rejected by all mainstream Christian Churches today.

Task: Complete the quote analysis table below.

What does the quote teach about going to war? Is it acceptable or not? Explain your answer.

Quote	Explanation
Blessed are the peacemakers.	
Those who live by the sword will die by the sword.	
An eye for an eye	

Jesus teachings

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.” (Matthew)

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.” (Matthew)

- Why do you think many Christians do not agree with the idea of a holy war?
- How far do you think Christians should go to defend their faith?
- Do you think it is acceptable for people to offend Christians? Explain your answer.