

Research Week Proposal

Title - The Steel Wall of England: The Curious Case of the English Knight in the Hundred Years' War

Presentation Type – PowerPoint

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Category – Textual/Investigative

Abstract: This paper examines the differences that existed, if any, between continental and English knights during the Hundred Years' War, why such differences occurred, and how this effected the deployment of said knights. The Hundred Years' War was a period of immense change for warfare and Northern Europe. In the war, the Plantagenet dynasty of England, and later the Lancastrian and Yorkist dynasties, would compete with the rulers of France for total dominion of the kingdom of France. Over the course of the war, dynasties in both France and England would fall and heroes, like Joan of Arc or Henry V, would rise for both nations. However, this paper does not deal with societal changes in England, but focuses instead on how the battlefield knight of England changed in contrast to the continental, or French, knight. Most studies of warfare in this period focus on the use of the English longbow, but this paper seeks to highlight the unique nature of English knightly deployment and how this translated to their use. This involves an in depth study of English armor, using what little physical pieces of armor remain from the period, as well as burial effigies made during the Hundred Years' War period. These study highlights that English and French knights were concerned with protecting different parts of their body, which further solidifies the idea that both groups had different styles of battlefield deployment. This paper's goal is to highlight the fact that medieval warfare and armor were fluid systems, dynamic in their development, and astounding in the ingenuity.

Christian worldview integration: As a Christian historian, Luke 1:1-4 highlights my mindset as I go about my research. In these verses, Luke states that he has carefully examined the evidence, stories, and eyewitness accounts of Christ's life on earth, and is transmitting his gospel in the most truthful way possible. While I do not focus primarily on biblical studies, it is obvious from what Luke writes that it is important for me to relay any sort of history, regardless of topic, in the most truthful and thorough way. There is something intensely meaningful about connecting with history as well. Often times in the New Testament, and the Old Testament as well Jesus, or Paul, or a prophet, will call on the people of God to remember the things that God has done for them in the past. Obviously, there is something very special with connecting to the past for human beings. Once again, as I study and present medieval history, I am not necessarily helping people connect to the things God has done for them, but I am helping them connect with their cultural past, and I think there is something very important about that, perhaps even biblical, as we see how important remembering the past was for Israel. In summary, Luke 1:1-4 shows us the importance of presenting history in an accurate and complete way for a gospel writer. This, combined with the importance of that seems to exist in the Bible of helping people understand their past, shows me that a Christian historian should be truthful, thorough, and intent on having people understand their past.