

## 1. The Ambush

*Music by Manuel Schallinger / Orchestration by René Berthiaume*

*Lyrics: Stefan Gimpl and Thomas Strübler*

*Syria, Palestine: In the year of our Lord 1187. The territories occupied by the Latins under Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem and the united realms of the Ayyubids under Sultan Saladin were keeping an unstable truce. Knowing that this truce could be broken by the pettiest trespass Lord Raynald of Chatillon, a confident of the King, regularly attacked and plundered Muslim caravans. These misdeeds driven by pride, hatred and greed provoked the single greatest catastrophe in the history of the crusades and sealed the beginning of the end of Christian reign in Outremer. A reign based on faith, courage, honour and glory, carried throughout the land on blazing wings of thunder.*

*In the year 1177 the Crusaders had defeated Saladin's forces at the Battle of Montgisard. What ensued was a truce which was repeatedly broken by the Christian king's ally Raynald of Chatillon who attacked peaceful Muslim caravans without any obvious reason. Longing for war he couldn't foresee that his actions would trigger the beginning of the end of the Christian dominance over the Holy Land.*

## 2. WINGS OF THUNDER

Music and Lyrics by Stefan Gimpl

*(Raynald of Chatillon)*

Now the stars are shining

On my way

A sword of steel makes my day

*Saladin the Great One*

*Bloody liar*

*Burn, burn, burn in fire*

And we ride and we ride and we ride and we ride

For the glory, the king and the pride

Oh how we ride, my duty's calling me to seize the day

In the night we're searching

Lying in wait

Don't run away it's too late

Kill the Islam fever

Stop this lie

"Deus lo vult's" our battle cry

And I know and I know and I know you will go

Into the fire with your soul

Hungry for gold, regain what's good and right for heavens sake

*On wings of thunder made of steel  
We could fly away to the sky someday  
Calling the god of victory  
He will show us now in a dream somehow  
That the evil among us we'll meet on the field  
'Cause the truce that we've made our fall it has sealed  
Why does no-one believe no-one open their eyes  
Why does everyone trust in their lies*

Now the knights are on my side again  
We ride for glory, fame and pride, the end  
Is near, we heed the call of duty  
"Fight for heaven" that's our fate  
Strike them down with your hate  
Till death appears in all it's beauty  
Like a screaming symphony  
What a sweet melody

*When Raynald of Chatillon repeatedly plundered Muslim traders' caravans who relied on the uneasy truce of the early and mid 1180s, Saladin decided to assemble his army and venture a direct confrontation with the Crusaders in July 1187. The shameful defeat at the Battle of Montgisard (1177) in mind, Saladin's forces began their march, determined to crush their Christian opponents once and for all.*

### **3. Vanishing Glory**

Music: Stefan Gimpl

Lyrics: Thomas Strübler

*(Sultan Saladin)*

Christian greed brings them death  
My caravan's lost, I see  
A rush of blood to my head – it's deafening me  
Can't let them go, it's my duty, they died for me  
It's Raynald's will, I don't know is this meant to be  
There is no way out for me – it's killing me  
My army shall rise, Christian downfall we'll see

They have reigned the Holy Land  
Jerusalem in Christian hand  
Shameful fields of Montgisard  
Will the Sultan rise again  
There's no doubt we will regain  
Our old glory, we shall rise

After all – hear me scream, hear me scream  
Battles taking their toll, open the gates

*(Sultan Saladin's forces)*

*Now the war is at hand, we will regain our land  
Our people and our Muslim faith we'll defend – To battle we ride  
It's their final crusade  
Our feud will be brought to an end here and now*

*(Sultan Saladin)*

20000 Eastern men  
Will bring back Jerusalem  
No Knights Templar will remain  
Under Saladin the Great  
Muslim states retaliate  
Guy of Lusignan will fall

One more time - hear me scream, hear me scream  
Battles taking their toll, open the gates

*(Sultan Saladin's forces)*

*Now the war is at hand, we will regain our land  
Our people and our Muslim faith we'll defend – To battle we ride  
It's their final crusade  
Our feud will be brought to an end here and now*

It's our destiny to fight  
Christian hordes won't see the night  
In the end, will we be right?  
It's not us who want this war  
One more battle, then no more  
We will rule just like before

After all – hear me scream, hear me scream  
Battles taking their toll, open the gates

*(Sultan Saladin's forces)*

*Now the war is at hand, we will regain our land  
Our people and our Muslim faith we'll defend – To battle we ride  
It's their final crusade  
Our feud will be brought to an end here and now*

*To lure King Guy into moving his army out of the town of Sephoria, an oasis with indispensable water supplies, Saladin besieged Count Raymond's fortress of Tiberias on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The town was plundered and burned, while Raymond's wife remained besieged in the citadel.*

#### **4. UNDER SIEGE**

Music and Lyrics by Stefan Gimpl

*(Count Raymond III. of Tripoli)*

In the distance far away there is my love  
I could break these walls, my heart is strong enough  
No, we cannot go, they wait for us to come  
To storm the open fields below the desert sun  
Tiberias is under the siege

*(Citizens of Tiberias)*

*We are lost and need to fly  
We're under siege  
To rise up to the sky  
We're under siege  
Are we strong enough to die  
for revolution  
Let them hear our battle cry  
We're under siege*

*(Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem)*

Cry out, it's burning like a flame in the night  
All you soldiers of the magical light  
Obey my call we're getting ready to fight  
March on, and follow me through fire and pain  
We're outnumbered but we fight in HIS name  
To free our city from the unholy reign

*(Gerard of Ridefort, Grandmaster of the Knights Templar)*

The fever of vengeance is burning my eyes  
Beware of the count don't believe in his lies

*Chorus*

*The besieged fortress of Tiberias fell the same day and Guy, despite Raymonds argument that this was just what Saladin wanted, decided to move his troops out of Sephoria on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to face Saladin at Tiberias. While Raymond had argued against this move, Gerard of Ridgeford and others had encouraged Guy to attack immediately. Thus, the battle began...*

#### **5.The Battle (Onward)**

Music: Stefan Gimpl

Lyrics: Thomas Strübler

*(Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem)*

Out of Sephoria  
On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we are  
The vanguard glorious  
Our rearguard pray for us

We will reach Tiberias  
Nine more painful miles, alas!

*(The Christian army)*  
*We will prevail (onward we go!!!)*  
*Our glorious king we hail*  
*Onward! The battlefield*  
*Shall be our grave*

*(Count Raymond III. of Tripoli)*  
*Our kingdom soon will fade*  
*They say no man ever made*  
*Such a distance in one day*  
*Saladin is drawing near*  
*Muslim warcries we can hear*  
*Christian knights must show no fear*

*(Gerard of Ridefort, Grandmaster of the Knights Templar)*  
Till our last breath we march  
The slaughter can begin  
For our kingdom and for our king  
Into battle our old hymns we sing  
By the hawks, our infantry's pride  
All for one and one for all!

*(Count Raymond III. of Tripoli)*  
*Our kingdom soon will fade*  
*They say no man ever made*  
*Such a distance in one day*  
*Saladin is drawing near*  
*Muslim warcries we can hear*  
*Christian knights must show no fear*

*(Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem)*  
The time is near, it's crystal clear  
No-one give in, no man we fear  
Its time to fight, before the night  
Will lay its coat upon this field

*(Count Raymond III. of Tripoli)*  
Marching – Marching till the end of time  
Can it be God's will?  
Will we be burning for a senseless crime  
Some wounds time won't heal

*Chorus*

Saladin was watching every move the Crusaders made and realized that their decision to start heading for Tiberias after an already exhausting march over several miles could give his army the crucial edge which could determine the outcome of the battle. Vested with their firm belief the Muslim forces tightened the noose around the Christians' necks.

## **6. The Battle (Higher than the Sky)**

Music: Stefan Gimpl

Lyrics: Thomas Strübler

(Sultan Saladin)

Onward the Christians go  
It's hard to believe that they did what I hoped for  
They can't win this fight  
It's Saracen sunrise, the Crusaders' sundown  
They won't stand a chance  
Attacked by brave men

Now their fate it is sealed  
We will crush them they're damned for all time  
At home they will tell them 'bout Saladin, all his glory and pride

*(The Muslim army)*

*Hattin brings down the Crusaders  
Muslims triumphant we will vanquish our foe  
Charge after charge we will counter  
Saladin's army in new glory shall rise  
Forever we'll be – higher than the sky*

(Sultan Saladin)

Cut off from water and blinded by fire  
These noble knights, they defect out of fear  
Telling their secrets, their dire situation  
Facing his downfall, their king's gonna crawl

*(The Muslim army)*

*Now we are the ones who will rule again  
Saladin stands above all  
We cannot forgive the Christian invaders  
Who struggle to take our land*

*(The Muslim army)*

*Hattin brings down the crusaders  
Muslims triumphant we will vanquish our foe  
Charge after charge we will counter  
Saladin's army in new glory shall rise  
Forever we'll be*

*(The Muslim army)*

Now we are the ones who will rule again  
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We cannot forgive the Christian invaders  
Who struggle to take our land

*(The Muslim army)*  
*Hattin brings down the Crusaders*  
*Muslims triumphant we will vanquish our foe*  
*Charge after charge we will counter*  
*Saladin's army in new glory shall rise*  
*Forever we'll be*

*(Sultan Saladin)*  
Rightful rulers of these lands  
We've spilled too much blood  
Our reign will be one based on faith in our God  
Christian forces surrender, their final retreat  
Is just hours ahead, they must face their defeat  
Most of them slain, reinforcements they need  
So their king must be wise and give in

*Guy's decision to take Saladin's bait and start heading for Tiberias proved to be a fatal mistake. Saladin, who had expected that move, sent troops around the Crusader army, blocking their line of retreat and separating them from their water supplies. Despite their fierce resistance the Crusaders finally had to face defeat. While most of the Christian army met with death on July 4<sup>th</sup> on the fields of Hattin, some were captured and some could even flee to herald the news of the Saracen rising...*

## **7. The Battle (Saracen Ascension)**

Music: Stefan Gimpl  
Lyrics: Thomas Strübler

*(The Christian knights surrounded by the Saracen enemy)*  
Turan is lost, no retreat  
The heathens we'll meet  
Not one drop to drink  
The spring without reach

Now surrounded by foes  
On this damn plateau  
This camp is no longer safe

Running out of supplies  
Arrows go down  
Blinded by smoke we march  
Still we go on

*(Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem)*

Losing faith, our knights defecting – it's our kings disgrace

*(The knights)*

*This battle is over – we're beaten and lost*

*There is nowhere to go*

*Crusaders defeated – the Holy Land's lost*

*Christians down on the ground*

*(Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem)*

Raymond's charges in vain

There's nothing to gain

Cut off from the rest

Men and horses were slain

Defections in droves

The only ones brave

The knights of the orders alone

*(The fleeing knights)*

Not more than 3000 men we are

Who are fleeing the fields of death

Escape from the heathen's grasp

Led by count Raymond and Balian

Attacked by the blazing sun

We are on our way home

*(Raymond II of Tripoli)*

Charging on Saladin

Again and again

But it's all over now

When the tent falls

*(The knights)*

*This battle is over – we're beaten and lost*

*There is no way to go*

*Crusaders defeated – the Holy Land's lost*

*Christians down on the ground*

*Saracen Ascension – our kingdom is gone*

*We are down on our knees*

*We will rise again – we will return*

*Beat them once and for all*

*Only a small number of Crusaders survived the battle at the Horns of Hattin. Those who didn't die or flee from the battlefield were captured, among them former King Guy of Lusignan, Gerard of Ridefort, Raynald of Chatillon and many others.*

*In the meantime, Richard I Lionheart, King of England, supported by the pope, was already preparing another crusade, swearing to regain the Holy Land for the sake of Christianity.*

## **8. Preach with an Iron Tongue**

Music and Lyrics by Stefan Gimpl

*(Gerard of Ridefort, Grandmaster of the Knights Templar)*

Now the sun is sinking slowly  
Away's the light  
14.000 dead, noone survived?  
All is lost, our troops defeated  
I can't run and hide  
Here I am, a prisoner in decay

But for all time I'll be your son  
Let me preach with an iron tongue

Oh Lord can't you see  
Your knights beheaded by the Saracen  
What a shameful deed  
And in my dreams  
There is no pain  
Soon the day will come to take revenge

To bring back the fields once won  
Let me preach with an iron tongue

*(Richard I, "Lionheart". King of England)*

My call to arms arises slowly  
Heeded throughout the land  
To praise the Lord, the one and only  
We hold HIS crown in hand  
Over the sea on ships so strong  
Another holy war  
Jerusalem we'll bring you back to  
To where you once belonged

The shore is near, Acre in sight  
The fortress will not hold  
A noble knight, I save your life  
The ransom paid in gold  
Their cities fall one by one  
Back into Christian hand  
By the fields of Arsuf we've won  
Leaving thousands dead

*(Sultan Saladin)*

For now we must retreat, our forces failed  
I don't know what went wrong  
The "Lionheart" is too strong  
Will this war never end

*(Pope Gregory VIII.)*

*Kingdom of the brave, far beyond the sea  
Men from England, Spain and France  
Take the cross, deliverance for the  
Master, not the slave, kings we'll always be  
Seek redemption for your sins  
And the realm of glory just begins*

*(Richard I., "Lionheart", King of England)*

I tried to take revenge  
The fields are littered with blood and stench  
Jaffa, Acre, men and land  
I wrest from the Sultan's hand  
For the sake of heaven's light  
Many fought and many died  
If I can't reach Jerusalem  
I'll turn away my eyes again

*(Pope Clement III.)*

My hail goes out to the strong and the bright  
The Templars, the Hospitalers, the Teutonic Knights  
Without whom everything is lost and undone  
The soldiers of Christ preaching with an iron tongue

*(Richard I., "Lionheart", King of England)*

The King's crusade, at last a failure  
So many brave men died  
We sought revenge for the fields of Hattin  
To leave the pain behind  
I finalized for now a treaty  
To make the peace a fact  
And Saladin my noble enemy  
Has launched his last attack

*(Sultan Saladin)*

And now the war is over, the "Lionheart" tamed  
Jerusalem we hold  
Under Muslim control  
But they will come again

*Chorus*

*Retrospect:*

*(Count Raymond III. of Tripoli)*

All you Christian knights and soldiers  
Who came from magic light  
To lead you into battle  
Has filled my heart with pride  
HIS kingdom now awaits us  
The angels choir sings  
Hattin, it has shown us  
What blinded hate can bring