

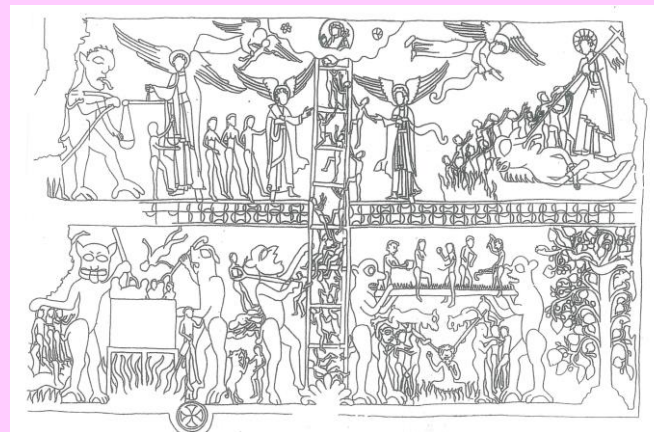


**Overview**

Religion was very important in the Medieval period (1250-1500). Everyone believed in God and there was no science to explain things like illness. Doom paintings show that people believed that they would go to heaven if they lived a good life and go to hell if they committed sins (broke religious rules).

There were a number of crusades, known as Holy Wars, during this period. In 1095 the Pope asked Christian Kings to send armies to the Holy Land. The Pope wanted to evict (get rid of) the Turks who controlled that area. These journeys were known as the Crusades (wars of the cross).

People went on the Crusades for a number of reasons. They included to get rid of sins, to become a hero, for adventure and to see the world. The Crusades helped us gain new products like and cotton and silk and new knowledge like a new number system and better maps.



**Key People and Terms**

**Thomas Becket**

Thomas Becket was made Archbishop of Canterbury by King Henry II. They later fell out. He carried on the quarrel after he had returned to England and he knew that this would put him in danger. He had a good chance to escape but refused to go. He seemed to want to be a martyr so that he could serve God and the Church.



**Henry II**

Henry was King of England and made his friend, Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry became angry with his former friend who was causing so much trouble by taking his new role seriously and going against King Henry II. He wanted Thomas out of the way. He more or less ordered his murder.



**Medieval Life**

**Peasant**

Life for medieval peasants (villeins) was tough. They worked outside in the fields from sunrise to sunset whenever there was work to do. Most of the land was owned by someone else (the Lord of the Manor) who was usually a knight or a baron. The lord let peasants live on his land in return for obedience (doing as they were told), a payment and several says of work a week.

Peasant families lived in wooden huts that they would build themselves. Each had a small garden where they grew vegetables and fruit.

**Town**

About 90% of people lived in small villages in the countryside. After 1066, towns began to grow. Some villages grew in size and became towns. If you saved up you could buy your freedom and land. A town charter gave people the chance to run the town themselves.

**Medieval Health**

**Beliefs:** There were 4 main beliefs for the cause of disease in Medieval England. 1) God sent disease as punishment for sins. 2) Miasma - bad air caused disease. 3) Astrology - the alignment of planets caused people to become ill. 4) The Four Humours - the idea that fluids in the body were out of balance.

**Black Death in England (1348-49)**

The Black Death arrived in England in 1348. It had spread across Europe and was carried by infected rats and people on ships that were transporting goods. Almost half of the population died. Symptoms included swellings in the armpits and groin, fever, bleeding under the skin, coughing blood, spasms and black spots called buboes.



The effects of the Black Death were not all negative. There was more land for people. It also led to changes. There was too much food so many people began farming sheep and selling wool. The Government passed a law to try to keep wages low. It did not work.