

= Raynald of Châtillon =

Raynald of Châtillon , also known as Reynald or Reginald of Châtillon ( French : Renaud de Châtillon ; c . 1125 ? 4 July 1187 ) , was Prince of Antioch from 1153 to 1160 or 1161 , and Lord of Oultrejordain from 1175 until his death . He was born as his father 's second son into a French noble family . After losing a part of his patrimony , he joined the Second Crusade in 1147 . He settled in the Kingdom of Jerusalem and served in the royal army as a mercenary .

Raynald married Constance , the reigning Princess of Antioch , in 1153 , in spite of her subjects ' opposition . He was always in need of funds . He captured and tortured Aimery of Limoges , Latin Patriarch of Antioch , because Aimery had refused to pay a subsidy to him . Raynald launched a plundering raid in Cyprus in 1155 , causing great destruction . Four years later , the Byzantine Emperor , Manuel I Komnenos , came to Antioch at the head of a large army , forcing Raynald to beg for his mercy . Raynald made a raid in the valley of the river Euphrates at Marash to seize booty from the local peasants in 1160 or 1161 , but he was captured by the governor of Aleppo .

Raynald was held in prison until 1176 . After his release for a large ransom , he did not return to Antioch , because his wife had meanwhile died . He married Stephanie of Milly , the wealthy heiress of Oultrejordain . Since Baldwin IV of Jerusalem also granted Hebron to him , Raynald was one of the wealthiest barons of the realm . He controlled the caravan routes between Egypt and Syria . Baldwin , who suffered from leprosy , made him regent in 1177 . Raynald led the crusader army that defeated Saladin at the Battle of Montgisard . He was the only Christian leader to pursue an offensive policy against Saladin , making plundering raids against the caravans travelling near his domains . He built a fleet of five ships which plundered the coast of the Red Sea , threatening the route of the Muslim pilgrims towards Mecca in early 1183 . Saladin pledged that he would never forgive Raynald .

Raynald was a firm supporter of Baldwin IV 's sister , Sybilla , and her husband , Guy of Lusignan , during conflicts regarding the succession of the king . Sibylla and Guy were able to seize the throne in 1186 due to Raynald 's co @-@ operation with her uncle , Joscelin III of Courtenay . Raynald attacked a caravan travelling from Egypt to Syria in late 1186 or early 1187 , claiming that the truce between Saladin and the Kingdom of Jerusalem did not bind him . After Raynald refused to pay a compensation , Saladin invaded the kingdom and annihilated the crusader army in the Battle of Hattin . Raynald was captured in the battlefield . Saladin personally beheaded him after he refused to convert to Islam . Most historians have regarded Raynald as an irresponsible adventurer whose lust for booty caused the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem . On the other hand , Bernard Hamilton says that he was the only crusader leader who tried to prevent Saladin from unifying the nearby Muslim states .

= = Early years = =

Raynald was the younger son of Hervé II , Lord of Donzy . In older historiography , Raynald was described as the son of Geoffrey , Count of Gien , but in 1989 Jean Richard demonstrated Raynald 's kinship with the Lords of Donzy . They were influential noblemen in the Duchy of Burgundy , claiming the Palladii ( a family of Roman senators ) as their ancestors .

Raynald was born around 1123 . He received Châtillon @-@ sur @-@ Loire , but a part of his patrimony was " violently and unjustly confiscated " , according to one of his letters . He came to the Kingdom of Jerusalem before 1153 when he was mentioned as a mercenary fighting in the army of Baldwin III of Jerusalem . According to modern historians , he had joined the crusade of Louis VII of France . Louis departed from France in June 1147 . The 12th @-@ century historian William of Tyre , who was Raynald 's opponent , claimed that Raynald was " almost a common soldier " . Louis VII left the Holy Land for France in the summer of 1149 , but Raynald stayed behind in Palestine .

Raymond , Prince of Antioch , and thousands of his soldiers fell in the Battle of Inab on 28 June 1148 , leaving the principality almost undefended . Baldwin III of Jerusalem ( who was the cousin of Raymond 's widow , Constance , the ruling Princess of Antioch ) came to Antioch at the head of his army at least three times during the following years . To secure the defence of the principality ,

Baldwin tried to persuade her to remarry , but she did not accept his candidates . She also refused John Roger , whom the Byzantine Emperor , Manuel I Komnenos , proposed for her husband .

Raynald accompanied Baldwin to Antioch in 1151 and settled in the principality , according to Steven Runciman . It is certain that Raynald fought in Baldwin 's army during the Siege of Ascalon in early 1153 . He may have already been engaged to Constance of Antioch ( as Runciman suggests ) , or their betrothal took place during Raynald 's visit to the principality before the end of the siege ( as Malcolm Barber proposes ) . They kept their betrothal a secret until Baldwin gave his permission to their marriage .

= = Prince of Antioch = =

After Baldwin granted his consent , Constance married Raynald . He was installed prince in or shortly before May 1153 . In that month , he confirmed the privileges of the Venetian merchants . William of Tyre recorded that his subjects were astonished that their " famous , powerful and well @-@ born " princess condescended to " marry a kind of mercenary knight " . The wealthy Latin Patriarch of Antioch , Aimery of Limoges , was Raynald 's principal opponent . He even refused to pay a subsidy to him . In retaliation , Raynald captured and tortured Aimery , forcing him to sit naked and covered with honey in the sun , before imprisoning him . Aimery was only released on Baldwin III 's demand , but he soon left his see for Jerusalem .

Emperor Manuel sent his envoys to Antioch , proposing to recognize Raynald as the new prince if he launched a campaign against the Armenians of Cilicia , who had risen up against Byzantine rule . Manuel also promised that he would compensate Raynald for the expenses of the campaign . After Raynald defeated the Armenians at Alexendretta in 1155 , the Knights Templar seized the region of the Syrian Gates that the Armenians had recently captured . Although the sources are unclear , Runciman and Barber agree that it was Raynald who granted the territory to them .

Always in need of funds , Raynald urged Manuel to send the promised subsidy to him , but Manuel failed to pay the money . Raynald made an alliance with Thoros II of Cilicia . They attacked Cyprus , subjecting the Byzantine island to a three @-@ week orgy of violence in early 1156 . They only left Cyprus on the rumour of an imperial fleet approaching the island , but only after they had forced all Cypriots to ransom themselves , with the exception of the wealthiest individuals ( including Emperor Manuel 's nephew , John Doukas Komnenos ) , whom they carried off to Antioch . Cyprus would never entirely recover from the devastation that Raynald 's and Thoros 's marauding raid caused .

Taking advantage of the presence of Thierry , Count of Flanders , and his army in the Holy Land and an earthquake that destroyed most towns of Northern Syria , Baldwin III of Jerusalem invaded the Muslim territories in the valley of the Orontes River in the autumn of 1157 . Raynald joined the royal army , and they laid siege to Shaizar . Shaizar was held by a band of Assassins , but it had been ruled by the Munqidhites who paid an annual tribute to Raynald . Before the capitulation of the garrison , Baldwin decided to grant the fortress to Thierry of Flanders , but Raynald demanded that the count should pay homage to him for the town . After Thierry sharply refused to swear fealty to an upstart , the crusaders abandoned the siege . They marched on Harenc ( present @-@ day Harem , Syria ) , which had been an Antiochene fortress before Nur ad @-@ Din , atabeg of Aleppo , captured it in 1150 . After the crusaders captured Harenc in February 1158 , Raynald granted it to the Flemish Raynald of Saint @-@ Valery .

Emperor Manuel unexpectedly invaded Cilicia , forcing Thoros II to seek refuge in the mountains in December 1158 . Raynald hurried to Mamistra to voluntarily make his submission to the emperor . On Manuel 's demand , he and his retainers walked barefoot and bareheaded through the streets of the town to the imperial tent where he prostrated himself , begging for mercy . William of Tyre stated that " the glory of the Latin world was put to shame " on this occasion , because envoys from the nearby Muslim and Christian rulers were also present at Raynald 's humiliation . Manuel only forgave him after Raynald agreed to accept a Greek Patriarch in Antioch . Raynald also had to promise that he would allow a Byzantine garrison to stay in the citadel whenever it was required and would send a troop to fight in the Byzantine army . Before long , Baldwin III of Jerusalem persuaded Manuel to consent to the return of the Latin patriarch , Aimery , to Antioch , instead of installing a

Greek patriarch . When the emperor entered Antioch with much pomp and ceremony on 12 April 1159 , Reginald held the bridle of Manuel 's horse . Manuel left the town eight days later .

Raynald made a plundering raid in the valley of the river Euphrates at Marash to seize cattle , horses and camels from the local peasants in November 1160 or 1161 . Majd al @-@ Din , governor of Aleppo , attacked Raynald and his retinue on the way back to Antioch . Raynald fought bravely , but the Muslim warriors unhorsed and captured him . He was sent to Aleppo where he was put in jail .

= = Captivity and release = =

Almost nothing is known about Raynald 's life while he was kept in jail for fifteen years . He shared his prison with Joscelin III of Courtenay , who had been captured a couple of months before . In Raynald 's absence , Constance wanted to rule alone , but Baldwin III of Jerusalem made Patriarch Aimery regent for her fifteen @-@ year @-@ old son ( Raynald 's stepson ) , Bohemond III of Antioch . Constance died around 1163 , shortly after her son reached the age of majority . Her death deprived Raynald of his claim to Antioch . However , he had become an important personality , with prominent family connections . His stepdaughter , Maria of Antioch , married Manuel I Komnenos in 1161 . Raynald 's own daughter , Agnes , became the wife of Béla III of Hungary .

When Gümüshtekin , governor of Aleppo , one of the last independent Muslim rulers in Syria after Saladin , had conquered almost all neighboring states , he released Raynald , along with Joscelin of Courtenay and all other Christians prisoners in 1176 . Raynald 's ransom , fixed at 120 @,@ 000 gold dinars , reflected his prestige . It was most probably paid by Manuel I Komnenos , according to Barber and Bernard Hamilton .

Raynald came to Jerusalem with Joscelin before 1 September 1176 where he became a close ally of Joscelin 's sister , Agnes of Courtenay . She was the mother of the young Baldwin IV of Jerusalem , who suffered from leprosy . Hugo Etherianis , who lived in Constantinople after around 1165 , mentioned in the preface of his *About the Procession of the Holy Spirit* that he had asked " Prince Raynald " to deliver a copy of the work to Aimery of Limoges . According to historian Bernard Hamilton , these words suggest that Raynald led the embassy that Baldwin IV sent to Constantinople to confirm an alliance between Jerusalem and the Byzantine Empire against Egypt .

= = Lord of Oultrejordain = =

= = = First years = = =

Raynald married Stephanie of Milly , the lady of Oultrejordain , and Baldwin IV also granted him Hebron . The first extant charter styling Raynald as " Lord of Hebron and Montréal " was issued in November 1177 . He owed service of 60 knights to the Crown , showing that he had become one of the wealthiest barons of the realm . From his castles at Kerak and Montréal , he controlled the routes between the two main parts of Saladin 's empire , Syria and Egypt . Raynald and Baldwin IV 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , William of Montferrat , jointly granted large estates to Rodrigo Álvarez , the founder of the Order of Mountjoy , to strengthen the defence of the southern and eastern frontier of the kingdom . After William of Montferrat died in June 1177 , the king made Raynald regent .

Baldwin IV 's cousin , Philip I , Count of Flanders , came to the Holy Land at the head of a crusader army in early August 1177 . The king offered him the regency , but Philip refused the offer , saying that he did not want to stay in the kingdom . Philip declared that he was " willing to take orders " from anybody , but he protested when Baldwin confirmed Raynald 's position as " regent of the kingdom and of the armies " . Philip left the kingdom a month after his arrival .

Saladin invaded the region of Ascalon , but the royal army launched an attack on him in the Battle of Montgisard on 25 November , leading to his defeat . William of Tyre and Ernoul attributed the victory to the king , but Baha ad @-@ Din ibn Shaddad and other Muslim authors recorded that Raynald was the supreme commander . Saladin himself referred to the battle as a " major defeat

which God mended with the famous battle of Hattin " , according to Baha ad @-@ Din .

Raynald was the first among the witnesses to sign most royal charters between 1177 and 1180 , showing that he was the king 's most influential official during this period . Raynald became one of the principal supporters of Guy of Lusignan , who married the king 's elder sister , Sybilla , in early 1180 , although many barons of the realm had opposed the marriage . The king 's half sister , Isabella ( whose stepfather , Balian of Ibelin was Guy of Lusignan 's opponent ) was engaged to Raynald 's stepson , Humphrey IV of Toron , in autumn 1180 . Baldwin IV dispatched Raynald , along with Heraclius , Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem , to mediate a reconciliation between Bohemond III of Antioch and Patriarch Aimery in early 1181 . Roupen III , Lord of Cilician Armenia , married Raynald 's stepdaughter , Isabella of Toron .

= = = Fights against Saladin = = =

Raynald was the only Christian leader who fought against Saladin in the 1180s . The contemporaneous Ernoul mentioned two raids that Raynald made against caravans travelling between Egypt and Syria , breaking the truce . Modern historians debate whether Raynald 's desire for booty inspired these military actions , or were deliberate maneuvers to prevent Saladin from annexing new territories . Saladin tried to seize Aleppo after As @-@ Salih Ismail al @-@ Malik , the Zengid emir of the town , died on 18 November 1181 . Raynald stormed into Saladin 's territory , reaching as far as Tabuk on the route between Damascus and Mecca in late 1181 . Saladin 's nephew , Farrukh Shah , invaded Oultrejourdain instead of attacking Aleppo to compel Raynald to return from the Arabian desert . Before long , Raynald seized a caravan and imprisoned its members . On Saladin 's protest , Baldwin IV ordered Raynald to free them , but Raynald did not obey him . His defiance annoyed the king , enabling Raymond III of Tripoli 's partisans to reconcile him with the monarch . Raymond 's return to the royal court put an end to his paramount position . He accepted the new situation and cooperated with the king and Raymond during the fights against Saladin in summer 1182 .

Saladin revived the Egyptian naval force and tried to capture Beirut , but his ships were forced to retreat . Raynald ordered the building of five ships which were carried to the Gulf of Aqaba at the northern end of the Red Sea in February 1183 . Raynald laid siege to the Egyptian fortress on Ile de Graye . Part of his fleet made a plundering raid along the coasts , threatening the security of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina . Raynald left Ile de Graye , but his fleet continued the siege . Saladin 's brother , Al @-@ Adil , the governor of Egypt , dispatched a fleet to the Red Sea . The Egyptians relieved Ile de Graye and destroyed the Christian fleet . Raynald 's soldiers were executed , and Saladin took an oath that he would never forgive him . Though Raynald 's naval expedition " showed a remarkable degree of initiative " , according to historian Bernard Hamilton , most modern historians agree that it contributed to the unification of Syria and Egypt under Saladin 's rule . Saladin captured Aleppo in June 1183 , completing the encirclement of the crusader states .

Baldwin IV , who had become seriously ill , made Guy of Lusignan bailli ( or regent ) in October 1183 . Within a month , Baldwin dismissed Guy , and had Guy 's five @-@ year @-@ old stepson , Baldwin V , crowned king . Raynald was not present at the child 's coronation , because he attended the wedding of his stepson , Humphrey , and Baldwin IV 's sister , Isabella , in Kerak . Saladin unexpectedly invaded Oultrejordan , forcing the local inhabitants to seek refuge in Kerak . After Saladin broke into the town , Raynald only managed to escape to the fortress because one of his retainers had hindered the attackers from seizing the bridge between the town and the castle . Saladin laid siege to Kerak . According to Ernoul , Raynald 's wife sent dishes from the wedding to Saladin , persuading him to stop bombarding the tower where her son and his wife stayed . After envoys from Kerak informed Baldwin IV of the siege , the royal army left Jerusalem for Kerak under the command of the king and Raymond III of Tripoli . Saladin abandoned the siege before their arrival on 4 December . On Saladin 's order , Izz al @-@ Din Usama had a fortress built at Ajloun , near the northern border of Raynald 's domains .

= = = Kingmaker = = =

Baldwin IV died in early 1185 . His successor , the child Baldwin V died in late summer 1186 . The High Court of Jerusalem had ruled that neither Baldwin V 's mother , Sybilla ( who was Guy of Lusignan 's wife ) , nor her sister , Isabella ( who was the wife of Raynald 's stepson ) , could be crowned without the decision of the pope , the Holy Roman Emperor , and the kings of France and England about Baldwin V 's lawful successor . However , Sybilla 's uncle , Joscelin III of Courtenay , took control of Jerusalem with the support of Raynald and other influential prelates and royal officials . Raynald urged the townspeople to accept Sybilla as the lawful monarch , according to the *Estoire de Eracles* . The bailli , Raymond III of Tripoli , and his supporters tried to prevent her coronation and reminded her partisans of the decision of the High Court . Ignoring their protest , Raynald and Gerard of Ridefort , Grand Master of the Knights Templar , accompanied Sybilla to the Holy Sepulchre , where she was crowned . She also arranged the coronation of her husband , although he was unpopular even among her supporters . Her opponents tried to persuade Raynald 's stepson , Humphrey , to claim the crown on his wife 's behalf , but Humphrey deserted them and swore fealty to Sybilla and Guy . Raynald headed the list of secular witnesses in four royal charters issued between 21 October 1186 and 7 March 1187 , showing that he had become a principal figure in the new king 's court .

Ali ibn al @-@ Athir and other Muslim historians recorded that Raynald made a truce with Saladin in 1186 . This " seems unlikely to be true " , according to historian Bernard Hamilton , because the truce between the Kingdom of Jerusalem and Saladin covered Raynald 's domains . In late 1186 or early 1187 , a rich caravan travelled through Oultrejordain from Egypt to Syria . Ali ibn al @-@ Athir mentioned that a group of armed men accompanied the caravan . Raynald seized the caravan , possibly because he regarded the presence of soldiers as a breach of the truce , according to Hamilton . He took all the merchants and their families prisoner , seized a large amount of booty , and refused to receive envoys from Saladin demanding compensation . Saladin sent his envoys to Guy of Lusignan , who accepted his demands . However , Raynald refused to obey the king , stating that " he was lord of his land , just as Guy was lord of his , and he had no truces with the Saracens " . Saladin proclaimed a jihad ( or holy war ) against the kingdom , taking an oath that he would personally kill Raynald for breaking the truce .

Prince Reynald , lord of Kerak , was one of the greatest and wickedest of the Franks , the most hostile to the Muslims and the most dangerous to them . Aware of this , Saladin targeted him with blockades time after time and raided his territory occasion after occasion . As a result he was abashed and humbled and asked Saladin for a truce , which was granted . The truce was made and duly sworn to . Caravans then went back and forth between Syria and Egypt . [ In the year 582 AH ] , a large caravan , rich in goods and with many men , accompanied by a good number of soldiers , passed by him . The accursed one treacherously seized every last man and made their goods , animals and weapons his booty . Those he made captive he consigned to his prisons . Saladin sent blaming him , deploring his treacherous action and threatening him if he did not release the captives and the goods , but he would not agree to do that and persisted in his refusal . Saladin vowed that , if ever had him in his power , he would kill him .

= = Capture and execution = =

The *Estoire de Eracles* wrongly claimed that Saladin 's sister was also among the prisoners taken by Raynald when he seized the caravan . Actually , she returned from Mecca to Damascus in a subsequent pilgrim @-@ caravan in March 1187 . To protect her against an attack by Raynald , Saladin escorted the pilgrims while they were travelling near Oultrejordain . Saladin stormed into Oultrejordain on 26 April and pillaged Raynald 's domains for a month . Thereafter , Saladin marched to Ashtara , where the troops coming from all parts of his realm assembled .

The Christian forces assembled at Sepphoris . Raynald and Gerard of Ridefort convinced Guy of Lusignan to take the initiative and attack Saladin 's army , although Raymond III of Tripoli had tried to persuade the king to avoid a direct fight with it . During the debate , Raynald accused Raymond of Tripoli of co @-@ operating with the enemy . Saladin inflicted a crushing defeat on the crusaders in

the Battle of Hattin on 4 July . Most commanders of the Christian army were captured in the battlefield .

Guy of Lusignan and Raynald were among the prisoners who were brought before Saladin . Saladin handed a cup of iced rose water to Guy . After drinking from the cup , the king handed it to Raynald . Imad ad @-@ Din al @-@ Isfahani ( who was present ) recorded that Raynald drank from the cup . Since customary law prescribed that a man who gave food or drink to a prisoner could not murder him , Saladin stated that it was Guy who had given the cup to Raynald . Saladin called Raynald to his tent . He accused him of many crimes ( including brigandage and blasphemy ) , offering him to choose between conversion to Islam or death , according to Imad ad @-@ Din and Ibn al @-@ Athir . After Raynald flatly refused to convert , Saladin took a sword and struck Raynald with it . Raynald fell to the ground and Saladin beheaded him for the honour of Islam . The reliability of the reports of Saladin 's offer to Raynald is subject to a scholarly debate , because the Muslim authors who recorded them may have only wanted to improve Saladin 's image . Ernoul 's chronicle and the *Estoire de Eracles* recounted the events ending with Raynald 's execution in almost the same language as the Muslim authors . However , according to Ernoul 's chronicle , Raynald refused to drink from the cup that Guy of Lusignan handed to him . He was murdered after he enraged Saladin , saying that he would behead Saladin if he had captured him in the battle . According to Ernoul , Raynald 's head was struck off by Saladin 's mamluks and it was brought to Damascus to be " dragged along the ground to show the Saracens , whom the prince had wronged , that vengeance had been exacted " .

= = Family = =

Raynald 's first wife , Constance of Antioch ( born in 1128 ) , was the only daughter of Bohemond II of Antioch and Alice of Jerusalem . Constance succeeded her father in Antioch in 1130 . She was given in marriage to Raymond of Poitiers in 1136 . Years after his death , Raynald married the widowed Constance and seized Antioch .

Their daughter , Agnes , moved to Constantinople in early 1170 to marry Kaisar Alexios @-@ Béla , the younger brother of Stephen III of Hungary , who lived in the Byzantine Empire . Agnes was renamed Anna in Constantinople . Her husband succeeded his brother as Béla III of Hungary in 1172 . She followed her husband to Hungary , where she gave birth to seven children before she died around 1184 . Raynald and Constance 's second daughter , Alice , became the third wife of Azzo VI of Este in 1204 . Raynald also had a son , Baldwin , from Constance , according to historian Bernard Hamilton , but Runciman says that Baldwin was Constance 's son from her first husband . Baldwin moved to Constantinople in the early 1160s . He died fighting at the head of a Byzantine cavalry regiment in the Battle of Myriokephalon on 17 September 1176 .

Raynald 's second wife , Stephanie of Milly , was the younger daughter of Philip of Milly , Lord of Nablus , and Isabella of Oultrejordain . She was born around 1145 . Her first husband , Humphrey III of Toron , died around 1173 . She inherited Oultrejordain from her niece , Beatrice Brisbarre , shortly before she married Miles of Plancy in early 1174 . Miles of Plancy was murdered in October 1174 .

= = Legacy = =

Most information on Raynald 's life was recorded by Muslim authors who were hostile to him . Baha ad @-@ Din ibn Shaddad described him as a " monstrous infidel and terrible oppressor " in his biography of Saladin . Saladin compared Raynald with the king of Ethiopia , who had tried to destroy Mecca in 570 and was mentioned as the " Elephant " in the Surah CV of the Quran .

Most Christian authors who wrote of Raynald in the 12th and 13th centuries were influenced by Raynald 's political opponent , William of Tyre . The author of the *Estoire of Eracles* stated that Raynald 's attack against a caravan at the turn of 1186 and 1187 was the " reason of the loss of the Kingdom of Jerusalem " . Modern historians have usually also treated Raynald as a " maverick who did more harm to the Christian than to the [ Muslim ] cause " . Runciman describes him as a

marauder who could not resist the temptation presented by the rich caravans passing through Oultrejordain . Runciman argues that Raynald attacked a caravan during the 1180 truce because he " could not understand a policy that ran counter to his wishes " . According to Barber , Raynald 's behavior during the reign of Guy of Lusignan shows that the kingdom had broken up into " a collection of semi @-@ autonomous fiefdoms " by that time .

Some Christian authors regarded Raynald as a martyr for the faith . Peter of Blois dedicated a book ( entitled Passion of Prince Raynald of Antioch ) to him shortly after his death . Among modern historians , Bernard Hamilton describes Raynald as " an experienced and responsible crusader leader " who made several attempts to prevent Saladin from uniting the Muslim realms along the borders of the crusader states .

= = In fiction = =

Raynald is depicted in the 2005 film Kingdom of Heaven , played by Brendan Gleeson .