Travel, Middle East and Asia Minor

This collection of travel narratives, primarily from the nineteenth century, describing the topography, antiquities and inhabitants of the Middle East, from Turkey, Kurdistan and Persia to Mesopotamia, Syria, Jerusalem, Sinai, Egypt and Arabia. While some travellers came to study Christian sites and manuscripts, others were fascinated by Islamic culture and still others by the remains of ancient civilizations. Among the authors are several daring female explorers.

Biblical Researches in Palestine and the Adjacent Regions

American philologist Edward Robinson (1794–1863) is considered a founding figure in the field of biblical geography and archaeology. In 1838 he explored Palestine with Eli Smith (1801–57), a Yale graduate and Protestant missionary, and co-author of Missionary Researches in Armenia (also reissued in this series). Smith had settled in Beirut and was proficient in Arabic. The authors succeeded in identifying many biblical locations, and the original edition of their book, structured as a travel journal, was published in 1841. It was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society the following year. Robinson and Smith returned to Palestine in 1852 and published an enlarged edition in 1856. This reissue is of the 1857 third edition, which was slightly abridged but contained new maps and plans. Volume 3 covers Robinson’s 1852 itinerary through Beirut, Galilee, Samaria, Jerusalem and Damascus, again with detailed accounts of topography, history and architecture.
Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.
Biblical Researches in Palestine and the Adjacent Regions

A Journal of Travels in the Years 1838 and 1852

Volume 3

Edward Robinson
Eli Smith
BIBLICAL RESEARCHES

IN

PALESTINE.

VOL. III.
BIBLICAL RESEARCHES
IN
PALESTINE
AND
THE ADJACENT REGIONS:
A JOURNAL OF TRAVELS IN THE YEARS
1838 & 1852.

BY EDWARD ROBINSON, ELI SMITH, AND OTHERS.

DRAWN UP FROM THE ORIGINAL DIARIES, WITH HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY EDWARD ROBINSON, D.D.
LATE PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE IN THE UNION THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY, NEW YORK.

IN THREE VOLUMES.—VOLUME III.

THIRD EDITION, WITH NEW MAPS AND PLANS.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1867.
VOL. III.

A new Map of Palestine, including Phœnicia and Coelosyria.
TO

WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE, ESQ.

THE MODEL TRAVELLER,

AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT AND GrATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT,

THIS VOLUME

IS INSCRIBED.
PREFACE.

The occasion and plan of this second journey in the Holy Land are set forth in the beginning of the introductory Section.

During the more important part of the journey, my companion in travel was, as before, the Rev. Eli Smith, D. D. He went with me to Jerusalem and the vicinity of Hebron; and thence northwards as far as to Hasbeia. From Hasbeia the Rev. W. M. Thomson accompanied me to Bâniás and back; and then, on the way to Damascus, until within a day’s journey of that city. From Damascus, the Rev. S. Robson became my companion to Ba'albek and around the northern end of Lebanon to the cedars, and so to Beirût.

That very much of the success and comfort of the journey depended on the long and familiar acquaintance possessed by my companions with the language and character of the people, I need not here repeat. Each of them kept his own separate journal of daily occurrences and observations. These were kindly left in my hands; and have been freely used in the preparation of this volume. To these friends, the public, as well as myself, are under lasting obligations.

The present volume is strictly supplementary to the former Biblical Researches; and is published in connection with the new edition of that work. It is also issued separately, for the convenience of those who already possess the first edition of the Researches.

The observations made during this second journey, rendered necessary a new construction of the Maps of Palestine. This has been done by Kiepert of Berlin, with his accustomed scien-
vi

PREFACE.

tific skill. It will be seen, that the routes of the different years very rarely coincide.—The other maps also are republished; that of Sinai with some corrections; and the interior of Jerusalem is given according to the Plans of Tobler and the English engineers.

In the Index of Arabic Names and Words, the Arabic letters have not been employed. These are sometimes important to the scholar; but never to the great mass of general readers. Yet the system of notation in respect to Arabic names will be found sufficient, in nearly every case, to indicate to scholars the proper Arabic letters; and this is strictly all that is required. This notation, however, is fully carried out only in the Index of Arabic Names and Words.—The slight variations which occur in the spelling of several names, have arisen from like variations in the popular pronunciation.

For an exposition of the system of notation above-mentioned, the reader is referred to the specifications immediately following the Preface in the new edition of the former Researches, Vol. I; as also to Dr Smith's Essay on the Pronunciation of the Arabic, in the Appendix to the first edition, Vol. III. pp. 89–111.

With this volume closes, of course, the record of my personal observations in the Holy Land. The principles according to which it has been prepared, are the same with those, which lie at the basis of my former work. If it shall be deemed a worthy supplement to that work, I shall be satisfied. To these my Biblical Researches in the Holy Land, the fruit of thirty years of preparation, and of personal travels in 1838 and 1852, I can hope to add nothing more. The work is now published as a whole, and in a permanent form.

The great object of all these travels and labours has been, as formerly announced, to collect materials “for the preparation of a systematic work on the physical and historical geography of the Holy Land.” To this work, so much needed, should my life and health be spared, I hope speedily to address myself.

With the renewed expression of humble gratitude to God, the author here takes leave of his work; praying that He, who has thus permitted it to be completed, will continue to make it useful for the furtherance of His truth.

New York, July, 1856.
CONTENTS.

PREFAE, v

SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION.—BEIRUT AND THE VICINITY.

Pages 1–32.


CONTENTS.


SECTION II.

FROM BEIRUT THROUGH GALILEE TO 'AKKA.

Pages 33–101.


CONTENTS.

in the priest's house; described, 69. The village; the night, 69. Remains of two Jewish synagogues, 70, 71. A place of Jewish pilgrimage, 71.


SECTION III.

FROM 'AKKA THROUGH GALILEE AND SAMARIA TO JERUSALEM.

Pages 102–160.


April 21st. Way over the great plain; only partly tilled, 115, 116. Cross the Mukūtta, Kishon, 116. Tell el-Mutsellim, prospect, 116, 117. Ta'ammūk, Tammūch, 117. Lejīn, stream, Khūn, and ruins, 117, 118. The same as ancient Legio and
CONTENTS.

Mégiddo, not Maximianopolis, 118. Way over the hills to the plain on the coast, 119. 
Four ancient road, to Nazareth, Tabor, and Jericho; Maximianopolis on latter road, 119. 
No trace of ancient pavement, 119. Turn off to Um el-Fahm, 120. Way to 
Ya'bud, 120, 121. Ya'bud lies on a ridge; fine plain, 121. Kühstätten, 121. Kefr 
Kid, Copropolis, 121. 'Arrabeh, 121. Tell Dothan, Dothan, 122. Road from Belhán 
and Jerzeel to Egypt passes here, 122. Joseph carried away, 122. Roman road 
from Casaarea to Scythopolis, 122. Parties in Ya'bud, 123.—April 22nd. Pass down 
southwest along the ancient road, 123. Leave it east of Zeita, and go to 'Attîl, 124. 
Turn up the mountain on the Nâbulus road, 124, 125. Deir el-Ghûshs, Wady Músûn, 125. 
Wady Sha'âr, 'Anebta, 125. Tûl Keram; route from Nâbulus to Ramleh, 126. 
Follow up the valley; ancient road from Casaarea, 126. Râmûn, situation, 126. 
Basin of Sâbûstet, 126. People would not sell bread, 127.

April 23rd. Way to Nâbulus, 127. Ancient site, Dibbârieh, 128. Strike our 
former route, 128. Deir Seraf, Tell Râfidieh, 128. Lodgings in Nâbulus, 128. Our 
host a leading Protestant, 129. Samaritan priests, 129. Visit them in their syna-
gogue, 129, 130. Their commentaries and literature, 130. Loan of a volume to 
Dr Smith, 130. Others have also manuscripts; some sold, 131. Their Sabbath, 131. 
Many fountains; Gerizim and Ebal alike cultivated, 131. Few antiquities, 131. 
Visit to Jacob's well, 132. Belâthah; road along the plain, 132. Joseph's tomb, 132. 'Askar, not Soucar, 133.—April 24th. Set off on the road to Ramleh, 133. Râfidieh, 
133. Villages; pass around the shoulder of the mountain, 134. Make of the coun-
try; Kurit Jiit, Gita, 134. Fer'aata, Frâkhatom, 134. Funduk, Kefr 'Abbûsh, Wady 
ages; course of W. 'Azûân in the plain, 136. Encamp in low ground south of Hâb-
leh, 136. Our road to day-old ancient, 136. Many ancient cisterns, 136, 137. Sarco-
phagi, 137. Ancient wine-presses, 137. Wely and view, 137, 138. Kefr Sîba, Anti-
patris, 138, 139. Jîlijîleh, Galgála, Gîgol, 139.

April 20th. Set off on the way to Lûdût, 139. Wady Kânah, 139. Wady Ribûh 
coming from 'Akrafeh, 140. Râs (Kûfûr) el-Aïn, head of the 'Âsîeh, 140. Mejdel 
Yâba, 140. Wady Kûrûwâ, 140. Damascus road, Neby Thâry, 141. Rentieh, not 
Arîmatheah, 141, 142. Lûdût, Lydûta, 142. Set off for Yâlû by way of el-Kûbûb, 143. 
Wady 'Atallah, 143. el-Kûbûb, on first hills, 143. 'Ansebeh, Baukunmâ, 144. Yâlû, 
belongs to the family Abu Ghaubah, 144. The Meç Ibu Omeir, drained by W. Atal-
lah, 144, 145. Fine crops, 145. Yâlû is anc. Atjâhû, 145. Beit Nûba, Nobe, Bau-
kunmâ? 145. Kefir, Chephirah, a ruin in the mountains, 146.

April 27th. Start for Sûrà, 146. 'Amwâs, Emmaus, Nicopolis, 146. Is this the 
Emmaus of the New Testament? 147—150. el-Latrûn, a ruined fortress, Castellum 
lies high, 153. View, 153. Wadys coming from the mountains, W. Ghu-
Several roads to Jerusalem; we decide to go by Kesla and Sûrà, 154. Descend 
and cross W. Ghuurb to 'Avtût, 154, 155. Turn back by Yâshûâ's, 155. Mîshâr, 155. 
Way to Sârîs, 155, 156. Sârîs, Sore, 156. Jerusalem road, stony and bad, 156. Kurit 
el-'Enab, Kirjath-jearim, 156, 157. Family of Abu Ghaubah, 157. Way between Beth-
the great valley, 158. Kûlûnîa, Kûlûm, Colos, 158. 'Ain Kârim, 158.—April 28th. 
Way to Jerusalem; Lîbâ, 158, 159, 159. Convent of the Cross, 159. Reach Yâfà 
gate, 159. Hotel, Brûderhaus, 159. Mules pressed by government, 160.—Results of 
our journey, 160. Way from Ramleh to Jerusalem by Beth-horon recommended, 160.
CONTENTS.

SECTION IV.

JERUSALEM.—INCIDENTS AND OBSERVATIONS.

Pages 161–203.


CONTENTS.


SECTION V.

JERUSALEM.—TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES.

Pages 203–263.

Object in entering upon the discussion, 203. Diversities of opinion, 204. My own view the earliest one, 204. Scholars who have adopted it, 205, 206. Points admitted, 206.


II. BEZETHA. 211. Josephus’ description, 211. Inferences, 212.

III. THE GATE GANNATH. 212. Same as ‘Garden gate,’ 213. Probably near Hippicus, 213. This was the natural position, 213. The north side of Zion was covered by the second wall, 214, 215. This shown also from the monument of John; inferences, 215–217.


VI. THE FORTESS ANTONIA, 230. Earlier fortress Barâ, 230. Rebuilt by Herod as Antonia, 231. Described, 231. Its acropolis, 231–233. Extent of the temple and Antonia, 233. Antonia probably occupied the whole northern side of the temple area, 233, 234. Its fosse was the present deep reservoir, 234, 235. The north part of the eastern Haram wall belonged to it, 235. Also the Golden gate, 235. Several things explained by this view, 236, 237. Objections considered; north wall of temple held not to be covered, 237. Sieges of the temple were all from the west and northwest, 238–241. Northern portico as a point of defence, 241–243.

VII. WATERS OF JERUSALEM, 243. Gil'ôn was on the west, 243–245. Well near the Haram, 245. Explored by Wolcott, 245, 246. By Tobler, 246. By Dr Barclay,
CONTENTS.


VIII. SEPULCHRES, 251. Tomb of Helena, 251, 252. — Tombs of the Prophets, 253, 254.

——

SECTION VI.

EXCURSIONS FROM JERUSALEM.

Pages 264–285.


——

SECTION VII.

FROM JERUSALEM TO BEISAN.

Pages 286–335.

CONTENTS.


Salīm and Jemūn, not found, 333.—The Guías, general character, 333, 334. Divided by Kūrn Sūrtabeh, 334. The northern portion well watered and cultivated in parts, 334, 335.

SECTION VIII.

FROM BEISAN TO HASBEITEH.

Pages 336–383.

CONTENTS.


Vol. III.
xvi

CONTENTS.


SECTION IX.

FROM HASBEIYA TO BANIÁS AND BACK.

Pages 384–418.


Sources of the Jordan, and streams above and in the Hûleh, 412. Not the remotest, but the largest fountains, regarded as the source, 413.
CONTENTS


SECTION X.

FROM HASEBYTA TO DAMASCUS.

Pages 419–472.


DAMASCUS.

The Plain, el-Ghutâ.—Boundaries. Western ridge, Jebel Kaşûn, Jebel Tenîyeh, 443, 444. Jebel Aswâd and Jebel Mûnî on the south, 444. On the east, lakes and mountains, 445.—Division, 445.—Tell, 445, 446.—Soil, 446.
CONTENTS.

RIVERS AND FOUNTAINS, 446. The Barada, 446. Its canals on the north and south, 446, 447. Is the ancient Chroorhoush, 447. Probably also the Amasra (or Abasra), 447. — The A'waj, probably the ancient Pharpar; its course, 447, 448. — Various fountains, 448, 449. Artificial fountains or wells, for irrigation, 449, 450.


AGRICULTURE. FRUITS.—Various products, 452. Trees and fruits, 452.


SECTION XI.

FROM DAMASCUS TO BA'ALBEK.

Pages 473-527.


THE TEMPLES.


Small Circular Temple, 517, 518.

Contents.

XX

SECTION XII.

FROM BA’ALBEK BY RIBLEH TO EL-HUSS.

Pages 528–569.


CONTENTS.

June 14th. The fortress el-Husn, its position commands an important pass, 562. Described, 562, 563. View from it east and west, lake of Hums and the Mediterranean, 563, 564. Also Burj Sāfiya, 564. Villages in sight, 564. Visited only by recent travellers, 565. Present structure not older than the times of the Saracens, 565. Historical Notices, 566. Perhaps the Māmūya of Ptolemy, 566, 567. The Water-reek, east of el-Husn, 567. The Orontes might be brought across it, 568. The Entering in of Hamath, was this great depression between Lebanon and the Nasairīyeh mountains, 568, 569.

SECTION XIII.

FROM EL-HUSN BY WAY OF THE CEDARS TO BEIRUT.

Pages 570–626.


THE CEDARS, 588. Situation and character of the grove, 588. No two travellers count the trees alike, 588, 589. Number of old trees constantly diminishing, 589. The spot held sacred, altars, chapel, 589, 590. The cedars stand in a vast amphitheatre, 590. Elevation, 591. The cedar of Lebanon celebrated in Scripture; its uses, 591, 592. Ancient cedar forests destroyed, 592. Still many tracts of cedars further north; Ehrenberg's testimony, 592, 593.—Name of the ridge above the cedars; not Jebel Makhumel, which is known only in Tripoly as a name for the highest peak, 593.
xxii

CONTENTS.


CONTENTS.

NOTES.

Note I. Commerce of Beirut, . . . . . 627

II. Itinerary from 'Akka to Tyre, . . . . 628

III. Statistics of the Province of 'Akka, . . . . 628–630

IV. The Tyropoion and certain Remains in Jerusalem.
   Letter of Mr Whiting, . . . . . 631–633

V. Deuce Letter of Protection, . . . . . 638

Itinerary, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 635–642

Index I. Arabic Names and Words, . . . . 643–657

II. Ancient Geography, Antiquities, etc. . . . . 658–662

III. Passages of Scripture Illustrated, . . . . 663, 664
FOR THE READER.

The references made to Vol. I, and Vol. II, are to the new edition of the former Biblical Researches. They are followed, in each case, by a reference in brackets to the first edition.

ADDENDA.

Page 275. The ruin Beit Fāghūr is probably the Phagor (Φάγωρ) of the LXX and Jerome; see p. 156, n. 3. It is also mentioned by Eusebius and Jerome in the Onomasticon, as Phagor, situated near Bethlehem; Onomast. art. Bogor.

Page 370 sq. Ḥᵉ/respond is mentioned by Bohāeddin during the crusades, and also by Abulfeda. See Bohāed. Vit. Salam. p. 75. Ibid. Excerpt. ex Abulf. p. 63. Schult. Ind. Geogr. art. Ḥonainum.