

The Sea has its deepest part at the northern end, where it is in places nearly thirteen hundred feet deep, making its bottom fully a mile below the level of Jerusalem which is only a few miles away. The southern end is partly shallow. Not more than ten to fifteen feet deep.

It would be well for us to glance rapidly at the principle streams which flow into the Jordan valley. These are few and particularly small from the west, while from the east they are much more numerous and much larger. For the present we shall notice only one of the streams that come down from the West - the Kidron, which starts in the valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives and plays an important part in Bible History. Now we shall glance at the rivers from the east - of these which are important, the northernmost is the Jarmuk, which is formed from several tributaries in the high table lands to the east and flows through the wide and fairly deep valley down to the Jordan just south of the Sea of Galilee. It carries almost as much water as the Jordan. We crossed it at a place where it flows more slowly than it was at most points. The four of us and the Arab who had charge of our horses rode across on horseback, and the other Arabs who drove our pack animals and attended to the setting up of our tents, walked across even though it was a comparatively peaceful spot in this river, the force of this water was still strong enough to carry off the shoes of one of these men so that he was obliged to go barefoot the rest of our trip.

The next river of the south is a very important one in Bible history. The Yarmouk it comes into the Jordan about halfway between the Jarmuk and the Dead Sea. It is bounded by steep hills down which only narrow trails can be followed. Upon its shores Jacob spent a night and it was there that he met the man with whom he wrestled until dawn. On this occasion his name was changed from Jacob to Israel.