

Star of Bethlehem! Shine on this and every place!

To the Jordan and the Dead Sea

This was a week filled with great days. But not least of them was the day we went to the Jordan and the Dead Sea. We started out prepared for a full day. The eighteen miles to Jericho was over a good road and the total descent is over 3,000 feet for the surface of the Dead Sea is all of 1300 feet below the level of the Mediterranean.

We passed the Inn of the Good Samaritan about halfway down the mountain. No doubt it has been kept standing in memory of the parable in Luke 10. The horses seemed to trot all the way down.

We stopped at an inn at Jericho and had our noon meal. We went to the Dead Sea and I had a swim in its clear water. You would never think from looking at the water that it is 37% solid, though if you try to sink you will have to make an effort. I found if I stood in deep water and managed to keep my feet down, my head would be out of the water. It was the middle of June and there had been no rain for about three months but when we took a boat ride on the Jordan the rowers seemed unable to touch the bottom of the river with their oars.

Our guide took us to Elisha's Fountains at the foot of the mountain northeast of Jericho. This is the fountain whose water was not good to drink until Elisha sweetened it. It is used to irrigate a most remarkable garden where clusters of grapes are like those brought out by the spies (Num. 13:23)