

Spring of the Kid," situated on the west coast of the Dead Sea, about the middle and directly opposite the mountains of Moab. Conder thinks the first of these names may be preserved in that of the tract called Hasâsah ("pebbles"), near 'Ain Jidy, which all authorities accept as the modern representative of the second. "The leafy thicket of 'Ain Jidy," writes Tristram, "at the foot of the sheer and towering cliffs of the barren mountain, presents a strange contrast to the desolation which surrounds it. The mighty cliffs that overhang it, with the awful chasms and sombre gorges that divide them, also lend an indescribable grandeur to the scene." Yet it is obvious, both from the name Hazezon-tamar and from the statement of Josephus, that "in that place grows the best kind of palm-trees and the opobalsamum," that in earlier times the locality was not entirely destitute of vegetation, and that the invaders, who had swarmed over from Syria beyond the sea, had selected the spot for their rendezvous because of the leafy shelter it afforded, and the chance it gave them of stealing upon their victims unawares. Their movements, however, were detected in time to put Jehoshaphat upon his guard. The critical nature of the situation at once forced itself on his attention. Not only was this the first occasion on which war with its bloody steps had invaded his kingdom (hitherto Judah's campaigns had been carried on beyond the limits of her own territory, as at Ramoth-gilead), but Hanani's son, Jehu, Jehoshaphat must have remembered, had denounced upon him wrath for helping the worthless Ahab; and this huge multitude from beyond the sea—what if its coming were the first mutterings of the wrath-storm which had been predicted? Jehoshaphat had good cause to tremble when his thoughts turned southward to En-gedi.

In the sudden and dangerous emergency that had arisen, Jehoshaphat, had he been a prudent general as well as a brilliant sovereign, would have looked well to his defences, to the spears and helmets, habergeons, bows and slings of his warriors; to the strength of the city walls, and to the towers upon the bulwarks. Being only a pious man, he betook himself to prayer. Perhaps he recollected that the last time he had