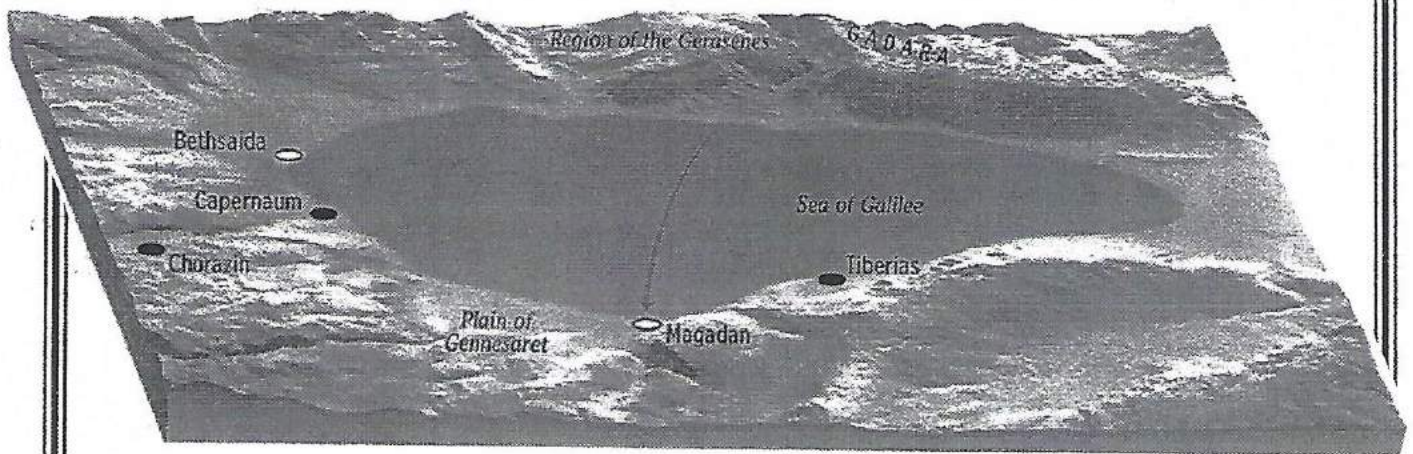
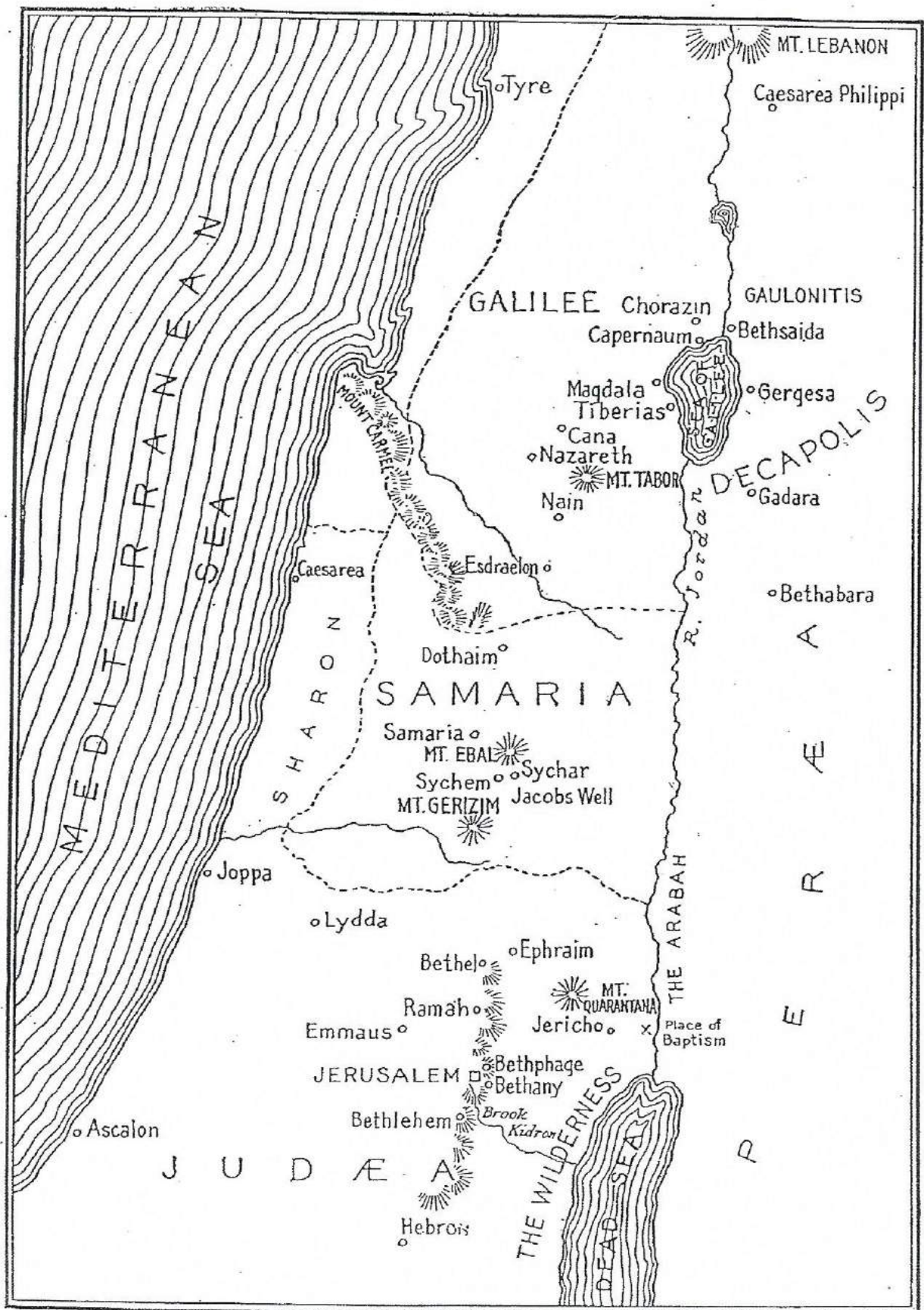


The Sea of Galilee: Lake of Our Lord



Der verfinsterte Petrus.





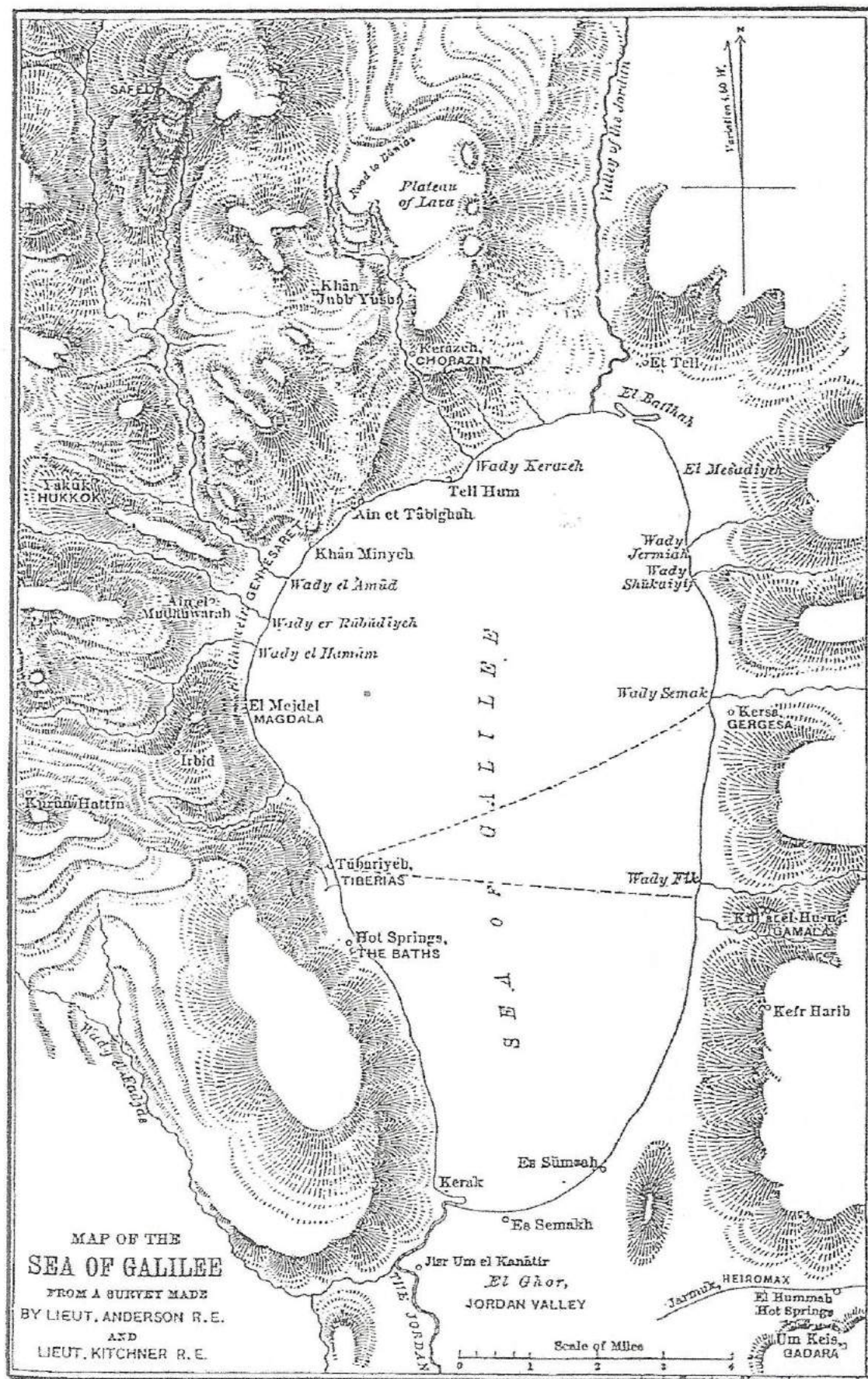




Abb. 121. Der See Genezareth (im Norden).



Der See Genejareth.
 („Rinnereth“ nach der alten Form des Namens, f. A. 3, 17.)

The Sea of Galilee:

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BIBLE LANDS.

now you see nothing but Tiberias, Magdala, and a few shapeless ruins. Then the lake was covered with sails of ships passing from shore to shore; now there are only about three rough fishing-boats to be seen.

Josephus relates a victorious naval battle which Vespasian fought on the lake against the Jews before the destruction of Jerusalem, and gives a glowing account of that country in his day. "The waters of the lake," he says in substance, "are sweet, and extremely pleasant to drink; fish found here differ from others in flavor and species; the surrounding country is admirable for its quality and beauty. Such is the fertility of the soil that it rejects no plant, and so genial is the climate that it suits every variety; the walnut, which delights in a wintry climate, grows here luxuriantly, together with the palm-tree which is nourished by heat, and near to those are figs and olives to which a milder atmosphere has been assigned. One might style this an ambitious effort of nature, doing violence to herself in bringing together plants of discordant habits, and an amiable rivalry of the seasons, each as it were asserting its right to the soil; for it not only possesses the extraordinary virtue of nourishing fruits of opposite climes, but also maintains a continual supply of them. Thus it produces those most royal of all, the grape and the fig, during ten months, without intermission, while the other varieties ripen the year round; for besides being favored by the genial temperature of the air, it is irrigated by a highly fertilizing spring, called Capharnaum by the people of the country."*

* *Bell. Jud. III. 10, 8.*

THE LAKE OF GALILEE.

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This description reads like irony when compared with the present condition. No roads, no houses, no gardens, no cultivated farms meet the eye along the shore, but wild grass, briars, and thistles in abundance.

And yet nature in its beauty is still there, notwithstanding the vandalism of men. There is the lake with its clear blue waters; there the hills in the light of the sun; there the plain of Gennesaret with its tropical fertility. The bright red magnolias grow luxuriantly among thistles and thorns, and occasionally even the fig, the olive, the pomegranate, the date-palm, the sugar-cane may still be found there. The lake district presents a beautiful picture, not indeed so grand and sublime as the lakes of Switzerland, nor so lovely and charming as the lakes of Northern Italy, but with a richer history, a warmer climate, and a better soil. It might be made an earthly paradise under a good government and with an industrious people. If it were not for the utter absence of convenience and comfort, such as every traveller from the West now looks for, one might delightfully spend weeks on those shores consecrated by the life and example of the wisest of the wise and the purest of the pure that ever trod this earth.

The lake forms a triangular oval or pear shape, with the broad end towards the north. It almost resembles a harp. It is over 12 (Bäcker says 16½) miles long, 6 miles broad, 160 feet deep. It lies 60 miles northeast of Jerusalem, and 27 miles east of the Mediterranean. It is on an average 660 (the Dead Sea is 1,292) feet below the Mediterranean. It abounds in fish. Its water

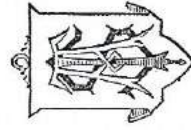
29*

is slightly saline, but pure and wholesome. The Jordan enters in from the north. All the towns which supplied the names of the lake were situated on the western shore. On the northwestern shore is the plain of Gennesaret (El-Ghuweir), about three miles long and one mile broad. The surrounding hills are of limestone capped with basalt, and are small and bare. There are hot springs near Tiberias, but neglected. Earthquakes and violent storms are not infrequent. Dr. Thomson, Captain Wilson, and others witnessed sudden thunderstorms not unlike that which frightened the disciples, till the Lord rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still!"

THROUGH BIBLE LANDS: NOTES OF TRAVEL IN EGYPT, THE DESERT, AND PALESTINE,

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The Sea of Galilee:

A Lake Like No Other

1. The Exquisite Beauty of Scenery

2. The Extended Ministry of Christ

3. The Exceptional Population of the Area

4. The Extraordinary Topography of the Region

5. The Extreme Conditions of the Weather

6. The Exuberant Variety of Marine Life

7. The Extensive Ruins from Antiquity

8. An Exemplary Pattern for Believers

