



0. A TRAP IS SET - Story Preface

1. A CALL TO LIBERATE

2. CRUSADE BACKGROUND

3. WHY CRUSADE?

4. PETER THE HERMIT

5. SLAUGHTER IN JERUSALEM

6. KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM

7. SALADIN

8. A LOOMING SHOWDOWN

9. PRELUDE TO DISASTER

10. A TRAP IS SET

11. DEATH AT THE HORNS OF HATTIN

12. DEFEAT for GUY DE LUSIGNAN

13. BALIEN of IBELIN

14. A DOOMED DEFENSE

15. A FIGHT TO THE DEATH?

16. THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

A view of the 1187 battlefield where Muslims and Franks gathered to fight for control of Jerusalem. The view is from the Horns of Hattin, looking toward the Arbel Cliffs and Lake Tiberias (also known as the Sea of Galilee). Click on the image for a full-page view.

There is a place in today's Israel, just north of the ancient town of [Capernaum](#), called Karnei-Hattin (the [Horns of Hattin](#)). It is, on most days, a peaceful place, near the [Sea of Galilee](#) (which is also called [Lake Tiberias](#)).

It is also the spot where some Biblical scholars believe Jesus preached the Beatitudes (also referred to as the Sermon [on the Mount](#)).

[The lake](#) is freshwater. During the summer months, when there is no rain and nearby streams and river beds are dry, the lake [beckons](#) to all who are thirsty. Saladin knew that in the summer of 1187. He also knew that thirsty soldiers make ineffective fighters.

After the Frankish Templars and Hospitallers were killed at Saffuriyah, Saladin set a trap. With his men, he laid siege to the [citadel at Tiberias](#). Raymond's wife was inside the surrounded tower. Saladin had his men set fires in the area.

Would the smoke attract Guy and the Kingdom's army?

Guy and his advisors debated the situation. Ibn al-Athir reports the discussion:

When the Franj [the Franks] learned that Salah al-Din [Saladin] had occupied and set fire to Tiberias, they met in council. Some proposed marching against the Muslims to fight them and prevent them from seizing the citadel. But Raymond intervened:

"Tiberias belongs to me," he said, "and it is my own wife who is besieged. But I would be ready to allow the citadel to be taken and to let my wife be captured if I could be sure that Saladin's offensive would stop there; for, in God's name I have seen many a Muslim army in the past, but none as numerous or as powerful as the one Saladin commands today. Let us therefore avoid a confrontation with him. We can always retake Tiberias later, and ransom our prisoners."

While Raymond's observations made sense, he was already suspected of friendship with Saladin. It was because of him that the Muslims had been in a position to kill the monk-soldiers at Saffuriya. Ibn al-Athir continues:

But Prince Arnat, lord of Karak [Renaud de Châtillon], said to him, "You are trying to frighten us with this talk of the strength of the Muslim forces simply because you like them and prefer their friendship. Otherwise you would not proffer such words. If you tell me that they are numerous, I answer: the fire is not daunted by the quantity of wood to burn."

The count [Raymond] then said: "I am one of you. I will do as you wish, fight at your side, but you will see what will happen." (Quoted in *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*, page 190.)

Guy de Lusignan decided to engage Saladin. A victory, which he thought likely, would help him to unite the Kingdom. With the largest army the Franks had ever raised in Palestine, he would face the Muslim forces.

For Guy, who significantly misjudged the situation, things went badly from the start.

EDITOR'S NOTE. Some of the images in this story are sourced from a book entitled *The First Photographs of the Holy Land*. It was published after Britain gained control of Palestine.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-TRAP-IS-SET-Kingdom-of-Heaven>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-TRAP-IS-SET-Kingdom-of-Heaven>

Media Stream



View of Battlefield from Horns of Hattin

View of the National Park, at the Horns of Hattin, online via Mapio.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-Battlefield-from-Horns-of-Hattin>



Capernaum

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Capernaum>



Karnei-Hittin

Image online, courtesy Bible Science Guy at Word Press.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Karnei-Hittin>



Horns of Hattin

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Horns-of-Hattin>



Sea of Galilee

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sea-of-Galilee>



Lake Tiberias

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lake-Tiberias>



Sermon on the Mount - Area View

Image of a photo by Detroit Publishing Company, circa 1905, entitled "The Mount of Beatitudes," maintained by the Library of Congress. LoC Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmc-05906 (digital file from original).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sermon-on-the-Mount-Area-View>



View of the Sea of Galilee

Image, described above, online courtesy [New York Public Library Digital Gallery](#).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-the-Sea-of-Galilee>



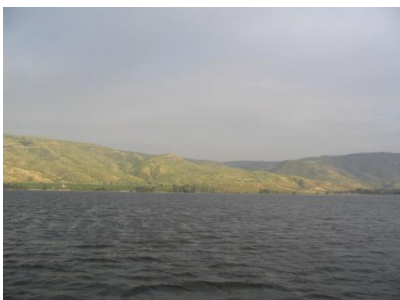
Sea of Galilee - Scene at the Lake

Image, described above, online courtesy [New York Public Library Digital Gallery](#).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sea-of-Galilee-Scene-at-the-Lake>



Sea of Galilee - Panoramic View

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sea-of-Galilee-Panoramic-View>

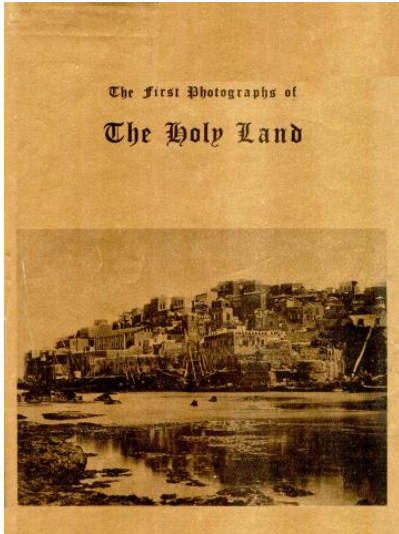


Citadel at Tiberias

Image described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Citadel-at-Tiberias>



The First Photographs of the Holy Land

Book-cover, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-First-Photographs-of-the-Holy-Land>