Les premiers combats se livrèrent dans le voisinage d'Ismaïlieh [1], au rivage de l'ancien Djanab el-Timsaḥ, qui formait autrefois la pointe extrême du golfe de Suez. Ce fut le déclenchement de la campagne palestinienne qui culmina avec le pillage de Jérusalem.

L'histoire d'Edôm a toujours été, et peut encore être considérée comme la pierre angulaire pour la fixation de la date de l'Exode des Israélites. A ce sujet M. Glueck écrit très judicieusement :

« It may be emphasized with regard to the Iron Age pottery of Edom, Moab and the other kingdoms of Transjordan, but particularly with regard to the first two because the largest quantities were found there, that its beginnings go back to what would be the end of Late Bronze in Palestine, no later than the first part of the xiiith century B. C. Again do archaeological facts bear out the validity of details or of the background of Biblical accounts. The precedence of the beginnings of Edomite and Moabite pottery, for instance, over those of Israelite pottery, has a direct relationship to the Biblical account in *Genesis*, 31, 31-39, which lists eight Edomite « kings » who reigned in the land of Edom before the Israelites had a king.

« It becomes impossible, therefore, in the light of all this new archaeological evidence, particularly when studied in connection with the deposits of historical memory contained in the Bible, to escape the conclusion that the particular Exodus of the Israelites through southern Transjordan could not have taken place before the xiiith century B. C. It will be recalled that the Israelites begged the Edomites and Moabites in vain for permission to travel through their kingdoms on their way to the Promised Land. The Israelites were compelled to go around them, and finally force their way westward to the Jordan on the north side of the Arnon, which at that time was part of the territory of Shihon, king of the Amorites. Had the Exodus through southern Transjordan taken place before the xiiith century B. C., the Israelites would have found neither Edomites nor Moabite kingdoms well organised and well fortified, whose rulers could

[1] J. J. Hess, *Suez and Clysma, J. E. A.*, 14, p. 277 sqq. Cf. Posener, *Le canal du Nil à la mer Rouge avant les Ptolémées; Chronique d'Égypte*, 1938, p. 259-273.