Jaffa · View of Jaffa (Tel Aviv-Yafo, Seafront)
Félix Bonfils · c. 1875

The Old City rises above the lower outskirts of the town and looks proudly down from a 36-meter (118-foot)-high hill toward the Mediterranean, as if it were still the eagerly wooded one for whose possession Simon Maccabaeus, Omar and Richard the Lionheart once fought so heroically... Jaffa now derives its importance from the traffic of pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem...
The price of the sea passage depends on the weather and, regrettably, the costs for the poor pilgrim increase in proportion to the life-threatening perils that he is thereby forced to endure.

(Eine moderne Kreuzfahrt [A Modern Crusade],
Dr. Adam Karrillon, 1898)
(Tel Aviv-Yafo, Seafront)

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May 28, 1842

Toward 10 o’clock, we came to Ramleh, which is situated on a small hillock and is visible from far away. Before we reached the small town, we passed a grove of olive trees. We left the horses under a shady tree and turned right, passing through the grove for about 10 minutes until reaching a tower, the Tower of the Forty Martyrs, which was converted into a church at the time of the Crusades and which now serves as a domicile for dervishes. It is a ruin, and it is difficult to imagine how people can still live in it.

[Journal of a Viennese Woman in the Holy Land], Ida Pfeiffer, 1844
We arrived at Lydda... Our Swabian companion told us that, at this place, Peter had healed the man with palsy (Acts 9:33), and while on the city's history, he added that the Roman general, Cestius, had conquered it in 65 A.D. just when the Jews were celebrating their Feast of the Tabernacles. He besmirched his victory by butchering the inhabitants and by laying waste the city and its fields. The Jews soon rebuilt the devastated walls, however; the settlement began to flourish and, being at the crossroads of several routes, rapidly grow in importance. The town now has 8000 inhabitants.

(From: Modern Crusade, Dr. Adam Karrion, 1898)
Thursday August 8, 1850

...Three minutes later: Jerusalem. How clean it is! All of the walls have been preserved. I have to think about Jesus Christ, how He entered and how He then left the city again in order to ascend to the Mount of Olives; I see Him now through the gate that is in front of me: the city behind, the Hebron Mountains glitteringly clear to the right; everything else is dry, hard, gray. The light seems to me as piercing and white as that of a winter’s day. Nonetheless, it has a very warm tone. I also don't know how this happens to be the case.

(Voyage en Orient [Journey to the Orient], Gustave Flaubert, 1853)