

LOT'S WIFE ... who was buried alive
LOT'S WIFE ... who was buried alive

(GENESIS 19: 26)

A Bible character without a name,
Who never to corruption came:
Who died a death none ever died before,
Whose shroud forms part of every household store.

Lot's wife, of course! But based as it is upon old-fashioned beliefs, this quaint verse is untrue. Archeological and geological findings have shed new light upon the ancient account, and modern critics have been confounded. We know now that the cities of the plain perished in flames, just as the Bible describes. The historical record is absolutely true.

A Sure Word

"Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven ; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, hid that which grew upon the ground" (Gen. 19: 24, 25). Modern discoveries have revealed that the ancient cities were built over an oil field, and that this has been burnt out. Geologists have also discovered faults in the strata of the earth, on either side of what was once the cities of the plain. To complete the picture, a layer of rock salt can be seen throughout the entire district. In some strange way the salt deposits of the earth were flung into the air, finally to fall in tremendous quantities over the entire neighbourhood. Thus the ancient scene can be reconstructed. At the time when Lot entered his city of refuge, an earthquake rocked the district, and the cities within the limits of the faults slipped into the earth. The terrific pressure thus brought to bear upon the underlying oil, forced millions of gallons high into the air, where it became ignited, to fall in burning masses upon the doomed habitations. Lifted by irresistible forces, vast quantities of disintegrating rock salt were flung upward, to fall later as a gigantic snow-storm. Overtaken by this unprecedented disaster, Lot's wife was instantly buried and suffocated. She became the inside of a pillar of salt, and perished within a short distance of her husband's refuge.

A Stupid Woman

" And it came to pass, when the angels had brought them forth abroad, that one said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed " (v. 17). Releasing his hold upon the hand of Lot's wife, the angel sent her hurrying to safety. If she had ever recognized the urgency of her need, she ignored it, and slowly decreasing her speed, she paused to look back at the place she had left for ever. Who was she? In all probability Lot had lived in Sodom for twenty years. His children had been born and brought up within the environs of that wicked city. It is truly significant that, while his sons stayed behind with their brothers-in-law (v. 12), Lot's two daughters were willing to leave their husbands in order to accompany their father. The boys belonged to the " younger set," and loved the attractions of Sodom. In her scramble for safety, the mother remembered the things she had left behind. She had heard and partially believed the angels' message, but obedience demanded a degree of sacrifice she seemed unwilling to give. While her husband frantically rushed for safety, she lingered and died within

LOT'S WIFE ... who was buried alive
sight of the open gates. The earth trembled ; the atmo-
sphere was set alight, and her terrified screams were suddenly
stifled.

A Serious Warning

When the Lord Jesus was asked for signs of His return, He
said, " Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot ; they did
eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they
builded ; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it
rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them
all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man
shall be revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the
housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down
to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise
not return back. Remember Lot's wife " (Luke 17: 28-32).
This suggests that she hesitated because she suddenly remem-
bered possessions left behind in her home. Thus Christ
taught that nothing should ever be allowed to interfere with
our readiness to meet the returning Lord. If we place our
hand to the plough, and then look back, we advertise our
unfitness for a place in His eternal kingdom. Most people
erect monuments with their hands: Lot's wife erected hers
with her feet.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.