

# Wings

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*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## Remember Lot's Wife

We don't know her name, but we know the terrible price she paid for looking back on a life she had to abandon. Her mistake holds a lesson today for those who seek to make changes in their lives.

“So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, ‘Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.’ . . . But [Lot's] wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt” (Gen. 19:17, 26).

“Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it” (Lk. 17:32-33).

There is much about Lot's wife that we don't know. We don't know her ethnic background, her character, or any unique talents she may have possessed. We don't even know her name. But she is remembered in history for a single mistake she made that cost her life. Despite the angel's warning not to look back when fleeing Sodom, she turned to look at the destruction that was raining down upon the city, and was instantly turned into a pillar of salt.

The fact that Lot's family was explicitly warned not to look back, and that his wife did so anyway, suggests the presence of some kind of psychological

urge pulling them back to their home. Leaving was not an easy task.

Recall that the family of Lot had moved to Sodom earlier to avoid conflict with uncle Abraham. In making this move, the family exchanged tents (Gen. 13:5) for a house with doors (19:9-11). Every woman can appreciate the improvement in living conditions that Lot's wife must have enjoyed in her new home. But the improved living conditions came with a price. The moral climate in Sodom was horrid; a later source tells us that her husband's righteous soul was tormented by the depravity that surrounded them (2 Pet. 2:7-8). That's what triggered the judgment upon the city.

So when Lot and his family were ordered to leave, they were being rescued from a moral cesspool—but they were also leaving behind the most comfortable home they had ever known. Looking back would indicate a heart that was torn between staying and leaving, a desire to cling to a comfortable life in a spiritually bankrupt society.

Many centuries later, Jesus warned His disciples of the coming destruction

of Jerusalem beneath the boots of a Roman army. He gave them several signs that would signal the approach of the disaster, and urged them to flee the city when they saw those signs. They were not to linger, nor seek to save their homes or belongings, but to flee as quickly as possible. Jesus invoked a familiar story to emphasize His point: “Remember Lot's wife.” The disciples would have instantly understood His meaning: a sentimental attachment to their old lives would risk them being trapped in the city and losing their lives.

Today, we have no foreknowledge of any natural or man-made catastrophe that parallels what Lot or the disciples of Christ had to face. But there is a loose parallel in those situations in which we find ourselves surrounded by a moral climate that is dragging us down, and we must make a difficult decision to leave that part of our past behind. When the decision is finally made to turn away and move on, we must be willing to make the sacrifice, press forward to the new life before us, *and never look back*. Remember Lot's wife!

– David King