

"If the cities that were destroyed were at the north end of the Dead Sea, this *Tell Ektanu* would be exactly in the direction that Lot would take, if his intention was to hasten to the neighbouring hills or towards them for safety, and its distance from the rest of the mounds corresponds well with the time allowed the fugitive, namely, from dawn to sunrise.

"In my judgment, they are not merely accidental circumstances that this *tell* should be one of a group of five; that it should be in the same plain, but nearer the mountains than the others; that the direction and distance corresponds exactly with the requirements of the Biblical account; that the ruins upon it should be some of the oldest in the country; and that the name it bears should have no meaning in Arabic, but be apparent by the Hebrew word signifying 'the little one.'

"The fact that one Hebrew word has been substituted for another identical with it in meaning, *i.e.*, *Katan* for *Zoar*, ought not to be urged as an objection to identifying *Tell Ektanu* with the site of the 'little city' to which Lot fled, provided all the other circumstances of the case point to it as the proper one. Besides it is much easier to understand how this substitution could have taken place than it is to understand how the name *Bela* could have given way to that of *Zoar*."¹

But there is a fact, which, I believe, I was the first to discover, of still greater interest in connection with the northern end of the plain where these *tells* are situated, and one which greatly strengthens the theory that this is the site of Sodom and its sister cities, while at the same time confirming in a most remarkable manner the minute accuracy of the Scripture account of Chedorlaomer's campaign. On this east side of the Jordan, to the north of *Tell Nimrin*, which stands in a district still capable of being well irrigated by a rich stream from *Wady Shaib*, but desolate for want of cultivation, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah,² there is a singularly dry and waterless

¹ *Palestine Exploration Society* (American), *Fourth Statement*, p. 95. January, 1877. New York.

² Isaiah xv. 6.