

Some Bible Thoughts On Snow

by Bill Crews

When moisture in the earth's atmosphere freezes, it can fall to the earth in the form of sleet, or hail, or snow — all of which stand among the myriad phenomena of nature that testify to the wisdom and power of God. What a devastating, frightening, and awesome thing a snowstorm can be. What a beautiful, fascinating, and awe-inspiring thing falling snow can be. Not only do the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament His handiwork (**Psalm 19:1**). So does the earth and every phenomenon thereon, even the snow (**Psalm 148:8**).

The word “snow” appears twenty-two times in the Old Testament (from the Hebrew words SHELEG, SHALAG, and TELAG) and three times in the New Testament (from the Greek word CHION). Let us look at some of those occurrences.

1. Leprous skin is described as being “white as snow” (Moses, **Exodus 4:6**; Miriam, **Numbers 12:10**; Gehazi, **2 Kings 5:27**; all brought on by God).
2. White clothing is another matter altogether, and it was hard to come by in the days when the books of the Bible were written. White garments are often used as a figure of righteousness and purity. Sometimes they are suggestive of majesty and glory. The “Ancient of Days” (God Himself) is seen by Daniel with “raiment white as snow” (**Daniel 7:9**). So also Jesus at the time of His transfiguration (**Mark 9:3**, KJV). So also an angel of the Lord at the tomb of the risen Christ (**Matthew 28:3**).
3. The mountains of Palestine were not very lofty (the highest being a little over 3,000 feet in elevation), and were not often covered in snow, but to the north could be seen the mountains of **Lebanon** (a word meaning “white”) whose loftiest peaks rose to over 10,000 feet and were perpetually covered with snow (**Jeremiah 18:14**).
4. The worthy, wise, and industrious woman (wife and mother) of **Proverbs 31** was “not afraid of the snow for her household” because she had seen to it that each member was clothed in warm, winter (double-woven) clothing which she provided for them (**v 21**).
5. Don't expect to see it snowing in the summertime (unless a large volcanic eruption at that season darkened the atmosphere around the earth with its cloud of ash — a very rare occurrence). Just as out-of-place and unexpected would be honor conferred upon a fool (**Proverb 26:1**). Only those who act wisely deserve to have honors conferred upon them.
6. Jehovah asked Job such questions as these: “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow, or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail?” (**Job 38:22**). As destructive as a hailstorm can be (if a crop is in the field), it also has a beneficial effect. It provides needed moisture and nourishment to the soil. Beautiful beyond words is a snowflake seen through a microscope, each symmetrical, each different. And a good snowfall on a farmer's land is worth much more than the price of a generous application of chemical nutrients.
7. From our human standpoint the most beautiful use of the word “snow” in the Scriptures is in such passages as these:
“Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (**Psalm 51:7**). Sound like one of our hymns?
“Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (**Isaiah 1:18**). What a beautiful promise, and it still stands, for what was true for Israel, is true for us. Don't carry the stains of sin upon your soul when you don't

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