

## It's that Cold Outside

How cold is cold? In 2015, 80 cm of snow fell just north of the Sea of Galilee, and the temperature went down to -14 C. Jerusalem gets snow once every few years, and even Tel Aviv on the Mediterranean coast has seen snow in modern times. Although we normally associate that part of the world with desert heat (it can get to +54 C), the people of Bible times understood the danger of being exposed to cold temperatures, too.

### I. Cold as a literal thing

#### A. The reality of the cold

1. Job 38:29-30 How cold could it get sometimes in that part of the world?
2. Psalm 147:16 What kinds of metaphors did they use to understand such a rare event as snow and frost?
3. Jeremiah 18:14 Where did they usually expect to see frost and snow?

#### B. How the people experienced the cold

1. Genesis 8:22 What did the people understand about the seasons?
2. Proverbs 26:1 What kinds of surprises did they sometimes encounter?

#### C. How people understood the concept of snow and frost

1. 2 Samuel 17:19 Here, the word for "covering", is the same word that is also translated as "frost". Why would that be the case?
2. Psalm 9:16 Here, the word for "snare" is also the word for "frost". Why would the same word be used?

#### D. The challenge of keeping warm

1. Isaiah 47:14-15 What was the standard way to keep warm?
2. Ecclesiastes 4:11 Not everyone could afford to heat their homes all night. What was the best way to keep warm in that case?
3. 2 Kings 1:1-2 What other options did they have?

### II. Cold as a picture of what people most feared

#### A. Exposure to the elements

1. Acts 7:21 The words, "placed outside", mean, "exposed to the cold". Why was it considered a work of God's grace that Pharaoh's daughter took the baby Moses?
2. 2 Corinthians 11:26-27 What kinds of exposure did Paul have to endure for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel?
3. James 2:16-17 How important is it to help people who are exposed to the elements?

#### B. Exposure to danger

1. Micah 4:10 What protection did the city offer that would make the idea of camping in the open cause people to writhe in fear?
2. Luke 12:2 Can you guess which word in this passage is also the Greek word for "snow"?

#### C. Exposure to the truth

1. Hebrews 4:13 Here the word, "uncovered", is the word for "thaw", as in melting frost or snow. How does this help to understand the passage?
2. Hebrews 6:4-6 Here that same Greek word is translated as "fallen away". How does this image help explain the passage?

### III God's Answer to the cold

#### A. God's Assurance of shelter

1. Psalm 55:6-8 The word, "shelter", literally means, "warm place". How far would the Psalmist go to find a warm place in the face of the challenges of his life?
2. Psalm 61:4 Where is true shelter from the coldness of life to be found?

#### B. Exposure as a blessing

1. Ephesians 5:13 How does God make exposure a good thing?
2. Matthew 5:14-16 How does the assurance of God's grace change everything around when it comes to being uncovered?