

MEDITATION ON WINTER

As I look out of my window, I see all the signs of an approaching winter and as I ponder this recurring climactic event, my mind naturally turns to things spiritual. Like all believers, I have been through winter seasons when everything looked bleak and desolate. Icy fingers of fear have gripped my heart and the deep snows of despair have enveloped me. Days turned into weeks as the intensity of the cold increased and that dreaded winter storm of doubt began to beat against my faith. Is there a way to survive the hardships of a winter season?

God's Word has all the lessons for survival that we need and as we read His words, we find all survival techniques summarized in one word; the name of Jesus. But, to prove the point, we can also examine our world, the world that God has made, and learn from it as well. The answer concerning winter survival comes from the world of insects.

Some insects overwinter in the egg stage. As a shell protects the vulnerable insect encased within, so the Lord is our shield (Psa 3:3), protecting us from the assaults of winter.

Other insects enter into a special type of hibernation. Their activity slows and they go into a deep rest. Jesus is my portion (Psa 73:26). This provision enables me to cease from self-serving activity and enter into His rest. It is here that I may wait out the winter.

A few insects migrate south for the winter. They are physically delivered from the life-threatening situation. Jesus is my deliverer (Psa 18:2) and sets me, positionally, in another environment (Psa 91:14) where there is no winter.

If an insect overwinters as an adult, it must find a protected, sheltered location. Jesus is my refuge and my fortress (Psa 91:2).

And, finally, some insects are especially equipped for winter survival by possessing special body fluids that act as antifreeze. Thankfully, Jesus has given me of the living water (Jn 7:38) which ensures me life.

What we must be certain to remember as we enter the winter season is (Psa 74:17) . . . **thou hast made summer and winter.** God, in His infinite wisdom, sends the hardships and trials of winter because we have need of them. And then, in His infinite grace, He supplies us with all things necessary for our survival in the person of His beloved Son. So, as I return to my window and observe the world of nature preparing for winter, I am very determined to spend my next winter season along with Paul in the city of Nicopolis.

Titus 3:12 When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, **be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.**

There is some question as to exactly where this city was located as there were actually three cities by this name in the region. However, it is the name of the city itself which beckons me. Polis, of course, is the Greek word for city and nikos means victory. This is the City of Victory. What an exciting, anticipatory thought to carry me through my next winter season!