



### *Words from Our Pastor*

*He gives a command to the earth, and what he says is quickly done. 16 He spreads snow like a blanket and scatters frost like dust. 17 He sends hail like gravel; no one can endure the cold he sends! 18 Then he gives a command, and the ice melts; he sends the wind, and the water flows. Psalm 147:15-18 (TEV)*

I read the other day in the newspaper that in eight weeks the farmers will be planting corn. But for now, snow, snow, snow, snow....etc. with more on the way. That's what I hear almost everyone talking about right now, not corn planting. I heard on the weather report last night that we've already set a record for snow-fall for the month of February for Waterloo with more on the way....twice more this week. There was a TV news story (with pictures) that noted that people were running out of places to pile it up. I mentioned to Jim and Brenda the other day that the very large snow piles were making me almost claustrophobic. The lanes in the streets keep getting more and more narrow.

The latitude of Palestine is close to that of central Texas and it's a relatively arid climate so/ but they do get snow once in a while....I seem to recall a tour guide saying sometime that Jerusalem gets measurable snow about once every six years I also recall that they've also gotten snow already this year on at least one occasion. Anyway the Bible and the Psalmist know about snow. It's mentioned about 2 ½ dozen times in the Bible as with references above. For the Psalmist things snow were and frost and hail were something of an amazement.

We may find other sources for the changes in the weather that we experience. We (for better or worse) are the children of the Enlightenment. We want to figure things out scientifically and underwrite the things that we believe rationally and have a reason for them. And we are sometimes amazed by that. But even more amazing for the Psalmist (I want to say this correctly) was God. The Psalmist didn't know about polar vortexes and high and low pressure areas and high and low fronts. The Psalmist could really find no other source for the changes experienced than the mind and hand and command of God.

Maybe that's not so bad. After all, don't people still say, "Everybody talks about the weather but no one does anything about it." Even I say when someone asks if I can't do

something about the weather, “Sorry, I’m with sales, not management!”

I’m going to trust God to take care of the weather...but at the same time I’m ( a child of the Enlightenment) going to do what I can to take care of this earth on which we live. I suspect that God has given us some responsibility here for that along with some other things.

God bless you and bless us all in the New Year. Pastor T.