

“White as Snow” & “Whiter than Snow”

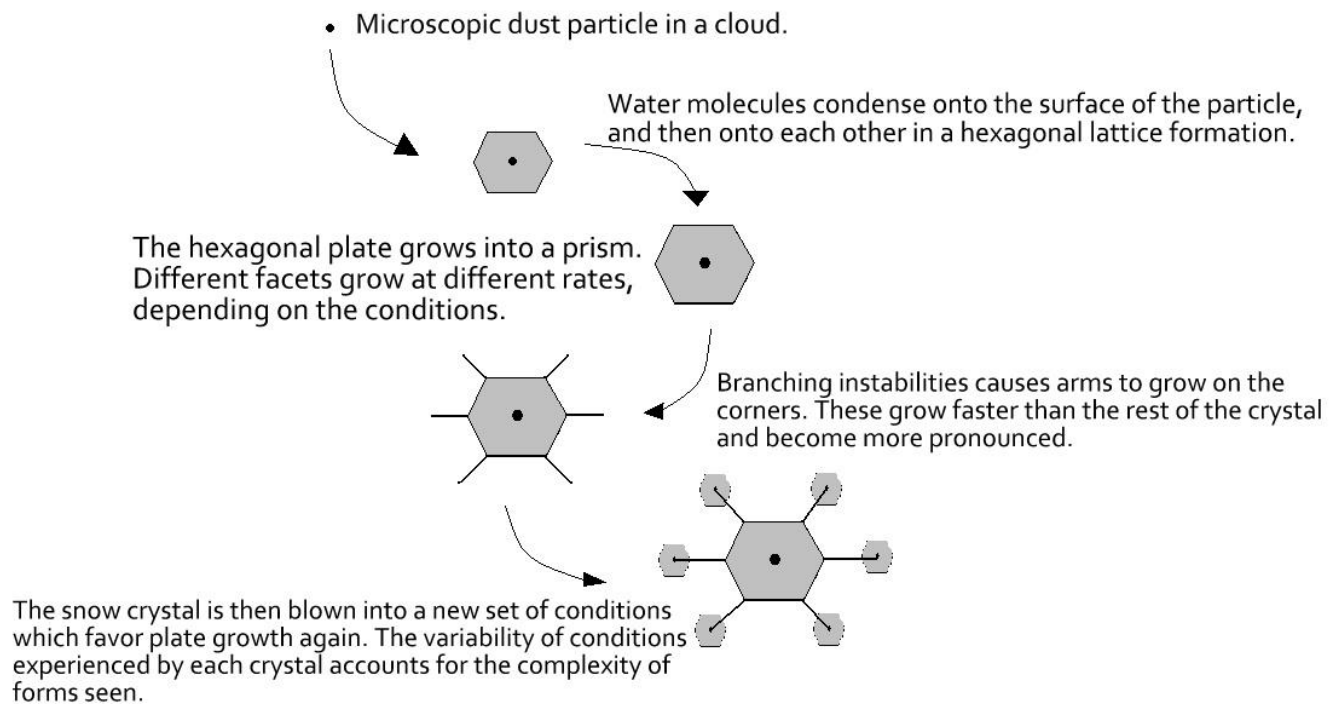
The Bible gives us these two phrases in Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 51:7 respectively. The first phrase is God’s call for Israel to repent and turn to Him for salvation, amidst their scarlet sins. The second phrase is found in David’s plea to God after his adultery with Bathsheba. To understand the difference between “white *as*” and “whiter *than*”, it will help us to have a understanding of how snow is formed.

According to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), “a snowflake begins to form when an extremely cold water droplet freezes onto a pollen or dust particle in the sky. This creates an ice crystal. As the ice crystal falls to the ground, water vapor freezes onto the primary crystal, building new crystals.” What we want to focus on is the pollen or dust particle that is in the midst of that snowflake. Have you ever noticed that when snow begins to melt on the roads, it looks dirty? Why is that? It is because the white covering of the snowflake is vanishing, and there is now a massive number of remaining dust particles accumulating in one place. In the same way that the white snowflake covers that dust particle, Christ covers our sin nature so that God only sees the purity of Christ and not the sinfulness of man.



Adam, being formed from dust, means “red earth” representing the clay from which he was formed. Genesis 2:7 says, “*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*” II Corinthians 15:45-47 contrasts the first man (Adam) with the second man (Jesus Christ) saying, “*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.*” This “first man,” Adam, spoken of here is called by a different name in Ephesians 4:21-24 which reads, “*If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true*

holiness." The old man is the Adamic sin nature that every man inherits at birth. When the new man (Christ) comes into the heart, there is a struggle between the fleshly, earthly old man and the new man. God does see Christ when He looks at the soul. That soul is forgiven, but even as seen with David and his sin with Bathsheeba, that old nature will inevitably resurface. Psalm 51 is a prayer of penitence by David. He is pleading with God to make Him *whiter than snow*. How can one be whiter than snow? It could only happen by the removal of that dirt or dust particle in the center (old man). Romans 13:14 says, "*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*" The Greek word translated as "holy" in our New Testament literally means "without dirt." That is what David prayed for God to do for him in this Psalm. He had already trusted on the Lord, but now he prayed that God would make him pure all the way through, and that his fleshly nature would be cast aside. Ephesians 4:22-24 says, "... *put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*" May that be true of our lives, and may God make us whiter than snow!



Whiter Than Snow

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul.
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Refrain

*Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow.
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Lord Jesus, let nothing unholy remain,
Apply Thine own blood and extract ev'ry stain;
To get this blest cleansing, I all things forego –
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, look down from Thy throne in the skies,
And help me to make a complete sacrifice.
I give up myself, and whatever I know,
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat,
I wait, blessed Lord, at Thy crucified feet.
By faith, for my cleansing, I see Thy blood flow,
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, Thou seest I patiently wait,
Come now, and within me a new heart create;
To those who have sought Thee, Thou never saidst "No,"
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

The blessing by faith, I receive from above;
O glory! my soul is made perfect in love;
My prayer has prevailed, and this moment I know,
The blood is applied, I am whiter than snow.