



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The Loggerhead Turtle

Creation ... The Preacher With Many Sermons

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard, Psalm 19:1-3.

The life cycle of the loggerhead turtle is illustrative of the spiritual dangers that beset the human race. This large creature, weighing about 500 pounds, encounters many enemies especially in its early years.

EGGS LAID

The life cycle begins when a female turtle laboriously drags herself up the beach on a Caribbean island in the late spring or late summer. At a spot well above the high water mark she begins scooping out a hole in which to lay her 200 eggs. She will then cover them with the sand she dug out and leave the area as if it had never been disturbed. Those who have observed this night-time activity have said that the turtle appears to be crying, as if she was aware of the struggle her off-spring would face. The tears are in fact a protective measure to wash the sand out of the turtle's eyes as she digs.

INTENDED VICTIM

Each baby turtle will develop a special 'egg tooth' with which to cut its way out of its egg. Then it must dig its way to the surface of the sand. That may take it several days. Once free of the sand, it emerges into a world of teeth and claws and beaks, all eager to claim it as their victim. Nature waits to feast and the baby turtle is the main dish. Birds, crabs, rats and many others prey on the 50p piece sized infant. It must race for the ocean as fast as its little legs can carry it. Even there it is not entirely safe. Sharks and other fish await its arrival in their domain. Not until the turtle is fully grown, in approximately 8 years time, will it enjoy comparative safety. It may then live to a very old age.

DANGERS WE FACE

It may appear to us that we face no such dangers. Thankfully, we do not face many of the diseases that wiped out so many in former times. We have much to thank God for in the advance of medical knowledge. But there are many spiritual dangers facing the sinner. God's Word calls on us to recognise the dangers and to flee to Christ for refuge. The open beach of our youth is filled with dangers. Sinful habits, impure ways and ungodly company all lie in wait to devour. Satan, the master predator, uses many devices to entrap souls and turn them from eternal salvation in Christ.

RACE FOR LIFE

As the little turtle scuttles for all its worth down the beach for the sea, it is hoping for safety in the waves. Sinners must flee the wrath of God. They must flee the wickedness of



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this world that would serve only to increase that wrath. They must flee the devil and his seductions. "But flee where?" you ask. To Christ and His atoning blood is the answer of the Bible. Such was the psalmist's experience. "Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me."

Oh! bless the Lord for eternal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.