



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Salt

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Salt.

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## Topics.

- The symbolism of salt.
- A covenant of salt.
- Covering a city and land with salt.
- Salted with fire.
- Salt that has lost its saltiness.

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## THE SYMBOLISM OF SALT

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- **Leviticus 2:13:** You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

Salt was required in all offerings, whether they were blood or bloodless offerings, salt was to be put on all grain offering and all animal sacrifices.

- **Ezekiel 43:24:** You shall present the bull, ram and male goat before the LORD, and the priests shall sprinkle salt on them.

Not only does salt preserve from putrefaction and corruption, but also enhances the flavor of food, having both antiseptic and savory qualities. For these reasons it became a symbol of:

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- The everlasting permanence of God's covenant with Israel.
- Hospitality, friendship, durability, loyalty, faithfulness, trustworthiness, and commitment.
- Never being absent from the altar of burnt-offering, signifies the imperishableness of God's love for His people.

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## A COVENANT OF SALT

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- **Numbers 18:19:** All the holy contributions that the people of Israel present to the LORD I give to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. It is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD for you and for your offspring with you." (Num. 18:19).

Abijah said to all Israel:

- **2 Chronicles 13:4-5:** Ought you not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?

Because salt has a preservative property that keeps meat from corruption, and enhances the taste of food and preserves it, it is a perfect emblem, to signify a covenant of:

- Holiness, blessedness, sacredness, and purity.
- Binding everlasting and perpetual until the Gospel dispensation or the Messiah came.

- Indissoluble and incorruptible, because salt is used to preserve things from corruption.

Since salt has always been known for enhancing the taste of food, and preserving and keeping meat from corruption, it is also possible God instructed its use so that the meat would last longer and taste better. The LORD gave the responsibility, of keeping the sacrifices salted to Aaron and His sons, it was the priest's responsibility to take care that no meal offering was ever lacking salt.

- You (Aaron and his sons) shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt. (Lev. 2:13)

It is called the salt of the covenant of God for the following reasons, it represented the perpetuity of God's covenant with them. One of the conditions of God's covenant was that in all their offerings salt was to be added, to neglect to do this would be a breach of the covenant on their part. Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth," (Matt. 5:13), true Christianity is seasoned with purity of mind, sincerity, and grace, which are signified by salt.

In the book of Chronicles, we read of God giving the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt? (2 Chron. 13:5), which is why, it is sometimes called, "the salt of the covenant." Here salt most likely carries the idea that the covenant is a perpetual covenant, because of salts preservative quality. The salt covenant was a way to make an agreement legally binding, but is never specifically defined in the Bible how it was performed, some, suppose, the two parties entering into an agreement would eat salt together in the presence of witnesses, and this act would bind them in their contract, others suggest the two parties or the priest sprinkled salt over the covenant.

Today, salt is easy to come by and we do not necessarily need it as a preservative because of refrigeration. But to those living during the Old Testament and in Jesus' day, salt was an important and precious commodity, which is why Jesus told his disciples they were "the salt of the earth," (Matt. 5:13), meaning that faithful believers have great value and have a preserving and enhancing influence in the world.

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## COVERING A CITY AND LAND WITH SALT

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- **Judges 9:45:** And Abimelech fought against the city all that day. He captured the city and killed the people who were in it, and he razed the city and sowed it with salt.

The statement, "he razed the city and sowed it with salt," means he destroyed its walls and burnt its houses, and afterward, covered the land of the city with salt. Not so much to make the place barren, though salt will do this, for if this was the goal, he would have sowed it in the fields, not the city, but rather to show his utter abhorrence and loathing of the city and its inhabitants, for salt used in this way was used as a symbol that expressed:

- Utter loathing and great hatred and anger against any place.
- A desire that it should never be inhabited again.
- A desire that it should never again produce any fruitful produce.

The following verse shows salt symbolises utter devastation and destruction.

- The whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath. (Deut. 29:23).
- Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a waste forever." (Zeph. 2:9).
- A fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants. (Psalm 107:34).

Covering a land with salt signifies that a place should never be rebuilt again, however, despite the fact Abimelech took the city of Shechem, destroyed it, and burnt the temple of Baal-berith where the people had fled for safety and covered the land with salt, Shechem was rebuilt in the 10th century BC, and became a very flourishing city in Jeroboam's time, and may have been the capital of Ephraim (1 Kings 4). Today Shechem (also spelled Shekhem), is a Canaanite city of ancient Palestine, near Nablus.

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## SALTED WITH FIRE AND SALT THAT HAS LOST ITS SALTINESS

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- **Mark 9:49:** For everyone will be salted with fire.

The expression, "everyone will be salted with fire," is an allusion to the Old Testament offering that was burnt on the altar of fire having to be sprinkled with salt to make it acceptable. Jesus words, "everyone will be salted with fire," means, that everyone will be judged. Salt, preserves food, makes it taste better and makes people thirsty so that they want more, so salt symbolises a preserving and cleansing agent that makes people want more of something else.

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## SALT THAT HAS LOST ITS SALTINESS

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- **Mark 9:50:** Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Jesus has just finished telling his disciples to cut off their hand and foot and tear out their eye if they are causing them to sin therefore the phrase, "If salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Means if a disciple has turned from the Lord and become a sinner again how will they be restored, it refers to those who have not cut off their hand, their foot or torn out their eye, meaning rather than forsaking their sinful lifestyle and practices, they have gone back to their old worldly corrupt and sinful lifestyle.

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## HAVE SALT IN YOURSELF

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- **Mark 9:50:** Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**Have, salt in yourself:** these words of Jesus' means, let the fruits of the Spirit dwell in you, be merciful, kind, humble, caring, patient forgiving and loving, do not give up the faith or stop doing good to others but rather, wherever possible, strive to be at peace with each other.

**NOTE:** John in his letter says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess (acknowledge) our sins the Lord is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us

from all unrighteousness, but if we say we have not sinned, we make the Lord a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10), clearly showing us that Jesus is not saying that those who belong to him will never sin, but rather that they will not make sin the practice of their life or their lifestyle.

Salt preserves food from spoiling, likewise the Gospel keeps believers from being corrupted by sin. In the same way that salt must be applied to render the Old Testament sacrifices acceptable to God, the Gospel must be applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit for a sinner to be accepted into God's Kingdom.

In the following verse the apostle Paul links salt to godly speech:

- **Colossians 4:6:** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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