

Doctrine of Salt

1. In the Hebrew Bible, there are thirty-five verses which mention salt, so it is an important topic in Scripture.
2. One of the more interesting verses in the Bible tells the story of Lot's wife turning into a pillar of salt after fleeing from Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - *Genesis 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*
3. The Hebrews made general use of salt in the food both of man and beast (Isa 30:24).
 - *Man. Job 6:6 Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?*
 - *Beast. Isaiah 30:24 The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan.*

Special Note.

The term "provender" should be translated "salted fodder" (*New American Standard*), a mash composed of barley and vetches (peas) made more savory with salt and vegetables.

4. Salt was used in various offerings presented on the altar, because salt made food more palatable and preserved it. Spiritually, salt denoted a sacrifice free from impurity.
 - *Leviticus 2:13 And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.*
 - *Numbers 18:19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the Lord, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the Lord unto thee and to thy seed with thee.*
5. Because salt was highly valued, it was used to confirm a covenant.
 - *2 Chronicles 13:5 Ought ye not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?*

Unusual Objects to Confirm a Covenant

• A rainbow	Genesis 9:15-17
• Stars	Genesis 15:5
• A smoking furnace and a burning lamp	Genesis 15:17, 18
• Tablets of stone	Exodus 34:28
• Salt	2 Chronicles 13:5

6. Salt could be a destructive element. There arose the custom of sowing with salt the foundation of a destroyed city as a symbol of its utter destruction.
 - *Judges 9:45 And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.*
7. Salt was a figure of desolation.
 - *Zephaniah 2:9 Therefore as I live, saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.*
8. In the *New Testament* salt is used to speak of individuals who have become worthless, or of no value to God or society.
 - *Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*
9. When used in a positive way, salt is a symbol of grace in the heart, and wisdom in speaking.
 - *Mark 9:50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.*
 - *Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*
10. Jesus spoke of individuals being "salted with fire", referring to the purification of the good and punishment of sinners.
 - *Mark 9:49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.*
11. The purpose of salt.
 - Salt is used to season food and make it more enjoyable.
 - Salt is used to preserve meat from decay.

- Salt is used to cure or dry food for preservation.
 - Salt is used to melt ice.
 - Salt is to be used daily in proper proportion.
12. By way of spiritual application, Christians are called by Jesus, “*the salt of the earth*”. Believers are to be a seasoning, a preservative, and a cure in a world putrefied by sin and filled with hatred toward God and the people of God.
- *Matthew 5:13a Ye are the salt of the earth:*
13. Christians can “season” life and make it better by being careful in what is said.
- *Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*
14. Christians can act as a preservative in society by living out the ethics of the Christian life. God will spare a nation whose hearts are turned to Him.
- *Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*
15. Christians can melt icy relationships by sharing God’s word.
- *Psalms 147:16 He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. 17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? 18 He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.*
16. Christians are to have a daily intake of spiritual salt in order to offer spiritual sacrifices to God. This principle is established by type in the Old Testament.
- *Ezra 6:9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:*