

‘THE SALT COVENANT’

Salt was an essential and important part of everyday life in the culture and life-style of those in the east. Due to the heat of the day, their food would very quickly spoil without salt being added to it. Salt is a preserving agent. Before freezers were invented, I can remember my grandmother ‘putting-down’ string beans in salt: they would last right through the winter until needed.

We need salt in our daily diet — salt that can be readily assimilated into one’s system. When we lived in Australia where the summers can be quite hot, we were encouraged to eat ‘salt tablets’ to replace the salt that one lost due to perspiring so much.

THE SALT COVENANT

Back in the old days, one could “*take salt with another*” in relation to any major agreement or contract. It was making a *covenant of salt* with the other party. Such a covenant was more binding to them than a witnessed agreement in writing. . . such as we have today.

What does this covenant mean to us **today** as His sons? It relates to the Kingdom; the salt cube relates to the kingdom realm — a realm of fullness and perfection as the end result of such a covenant. When we are the irreproachable *salt of the earth*, it is like saying, ‘**We are the ones that God can depend on!**’ What a huge statement yet that is just what God is desiring. That is the challenge of this hour. We have been called out by His grace and given privilege upon privilege . . . and He wants to be able to depend on us. To be the salt of the earth means that we have come into the place where He rely can upon us to hear His voice and be the expression of His thought, which is His Word. We are to be the expression of the thinking of God which He has placed within each of us as a covenant resource (called *the mind of Christ*) and is released out of us when He truly is Lord. He did it — thus we are the salt of the earth!

Mark 9: 49+50. ‘*For everyone shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. 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.*’

There is **an equation** here if you can see it!

What is salted with fire = a sacrifice

A sacrifice = offering salted with salt . . . thus we see that . . .

SALT & FIRE ARE PARTNERS

Every sacrifice had salt and fire was applied to every sacrifice. So we see that wherever salt is there will also be fire! Salt and fire are partners under the heading of **PURIFICATION** whereby ‘*the salt of the earth*’ will be purified, cleansed and preserved!. The fire will burn up the dregs of salt that has lost its savour and leave us ‘*pure in heart*’.

Perhaps you have felt that you have lost some of your earlier vitality and as *the salt of the earth*, not too salty or effective! Our God is MERCY-FULL and will replenish each salt supply. If we do not request such a refreshing , we could easily get *trodden under foot* by circumstances of day to day living. We are told to have salt in ourselves and to *have peace with one another*. As the salt of the earth, we have been brought to the place of sacrifice by **fire** where our own ways and thinking must be cast out so that each one of us can be replenished with effective salt.

**Such ‘salt’ will most certainly effect our relationships
with other parts of the Body of Christ.**

We must have salt in ourselves to move into that higher dimension that He has for us. We have to see it working out in us **now, by having peace one with another.. We cannot be upset, or ‘uppity’!** We must

learn what the peace of God is. We need to see and know God truly pulling our hearts. Then we begin to realize that we are becoming that peace, and **then** we shall truly become *peace makers*. When the kingdom is functioning in us in fullness, **we will be peace**, and therefore fit to be **a peacemaker**. It is a progressive change.

COME UP HIGHER WITH YOUR WORDS

Every aspect of what He is, we see first, **outside of us** then **inside**; our thinking completely changes which affects our actions, so that we **become it . . . the expression of Him**. These three steps correspond to the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holiest of All. Paul adds to this: “*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man*” (Col. 4:6). It is clear to see that salt added to our relationships purifies them, and we will have peace with one another. Now, our conversations are to be empowered by the grace of God, seasoned with salt. The word *conversation* means far more than the words you speak; it refers to your **whole manner of life**. Our conversation should be in relation to the calling of God upon our lives to be the salt of the covenant which releases the kingdom. So we must come up higher with our words, and our whole manner or life! Season it with salt—caring, feeling, sharing, and exhorting one another **in relation to the kingdom**.

“*That ye may know how to answer every man.*” **The kingdom of God is going to reach out to every man!** Jesus died for the whole world, not just for the Christians, and every man is eventually going to require an answer, and that answer must have life in it. His sons will not need to be loud, or pushy, for they will have an authority which will be evident in all those who are party to this *covenant of salt*. Knowing that God is merciful, our hearts desire is to bear the responsibility of His kingdom through this covenant of salt as a son of David. We desire to have a salt-input in our conversation, our behaviour, and our relationships. **God looks upon the salted ones as those whom He can utterly depend upon at all times**. In all the dealings in the Bible, the breaking of the covenant of salt, meant death. The covenant is made in the realm of our desire.

“Father, I desire to walk into the responsibility of entering into Your kingdom and allowing Your kingdom work to be put through Me: and, any failure that I might manifest, Your Blood covers it, and your mercy covers it, Lord, because My heart is set.”

If we would allow our vision of the calling of God to enter into the fullness of the Kingdom to fade, the calling and the accompanying ‘pressing-in’ will simply die. It does not mean that we shall ‘lose our salvation’, but we will miss out from being part of the FIRSTFRUITS COMPANY.

“MRS. LOT”

When this term “*becoming a pillar of salt*” was used in olden times in the east, it was simply declaring that one would become ‘**a monument to one’s disobedience**’ . . . as a result of being stubborn, unteachable and unyielding . . . in fact as lifeless as a monument!

Genesis 19:17 ‘*Escape for your life . . . don’t look back . . . go to the mountain!*’ God shows us through Lot’s wife how accurate He is with this covenant. She broke the salt covenant and became dead salt, salt that had lost its savour and she was trodden under the foot of man. A little rain and wind would soon have brought the rigid pillar of salt that she became, to a dirty pile of dust on the road to Sodom. She looked back with a longing for the old ways!

Genesis 19:23,26 ‘*The sun was risen (A NEW DAY) upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar (Zoar means ‘little’ — vision of the ‘new day’) . . . but his wife looked back from behind him and she became a pillar of salt.*’ Jesus clarifies this when He made a specific comment concerning Mrs. Lot in **Luke 17:32,33**, ‘*Remember Lot’s wife. Whosoever shall seek to save HIS LIFE (what he is used to — where his security is — where ‘he feels at home!’) shall lose it (like Mrs. Lot): and whosoever shall lose*

his (former) *life shall preserve it*’ (**his real life** that easily obeys the Lord). As one reads on, you will discover that which took place in “THE DAY” was only a manifestation of what had taken place in “THE NIGHT” prior to ‘the new day’.

We are in the dark hours that are just before the dawn of God’s ‘*new day*’ when He will do *a new thing* in the earth. It is very important that our covenant and commitment are strong towards the Lord. To plan ‘eleventh-hour’ changes is risky. We need to be as the wise virgins who were ready to go in and be with the bridegroom.

Mrs. Lot, like many of us, had her security in a natural environment that excluded the personal word of the Lord . . . we get so caught up in the ordinary things that make up our life that we hardly ever ‘gossip the gospel’. **If you don’t leave where you have been, Mrs. L — it will be the (spiritual) death of you!** Take your desires and your thinking to the MOUNTAIN, to a higher place and make Mount Zion your dwelling place. Mrs. Lot had heard the word of the Lord but allowed the convenient (status-quo) Sodom-earthly thinking to push out the calling of God to come to higher ground.

OUR COMMITMENT

Judges 4:17,18 teaches us some particulars of the salt covenant. There was war between Sisera and Barak. Here we are shown the household of Heber and Jael who are neutral in this conflict. Jael (Mrs. Heber) went out to meet Sisera who was on the run, and she said, *‘Turn in my lord. Turn in to me and fear not’*. This was an invitation to “*come in*”, which he did and she showed him into **THE** tent and covered him with a mantle. Such an invitation in those days meant that you would care for your guest and you would be expressing a COVENANT with them to feed them, protect them and care for them 100% . . . now that’s called COMMITMENT even to the point of laying down your life to see it fulfilled.

‘THE’ TENT

This account is as a parable for us. Note that Jael invited Sisera into THE tent. He had been running and was tired; he needed rest. He knew of the covenant of guests and asked for a drink of water. Jael, however, gave him some MILK instead. This was not sweet milk such as we have today, but it was more like buttermilk and it would have been salted in order to be able to keep it. By serving him **MILK**, she took out **a covenant of salt** with him! This lady would even lie to protect him now and keep the covenant of salt. Distrusting Sisera was still shaky and **UNBELIEVING**, but he knew about *the covenant of salt* — it was very much a part of their culture. He then proceeds to instruct her how to move in the said covenant! *‘He said unto her, stand in the door of the tent and it shall be, if any man come and enquire of thee saying, ‘Is there any man here?’ Thou shalt say, ‘No!’*. He felt very insecure in this covenant and he didn’t trust her to keep the covenant. (Men quite often cannot receive from a woman of God!) He failed to believe that Jael would protect him in every possible way.

Now comes a shocking contrast to everything that has been said and done thus far. *“Then Jael, Heber’s wife, took a nail of the tent and took a hammer in her hand and went softly unto him and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.”* Wait a moment here, this looks very much like a ‘double-cross’! *‘And behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, ‘Come and I will show thee the man whom thou seekest.’ And when he came into HER tent, behold, Sisera lay dead . . .”* The background to these people was nomadic. They lived in tents sectioned off with curtains. There was the main tent (described here as **THE tent**) where family and friends ate and visited — it could have more than one ‘room’. In every Bedouin tent arrangement, there would be a separate tent (room) for the wife alone. It was **her tent**, her private space — a place where she could be quiet and no one was allowed to violate the sanctity of **HER** tent. Even her husband came in only when invited.

NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTRACT

What had happened here was that UNBELIEVING Sisera had not only received the covenant or covering of the household, but had also been given the salt covenant (via the milk). All he had to do was to stay resting in THE tent, all cozy and covered up with that mantle, knowing that Jael would have somehow skirted around any embarrassing questions to protect him from Barak. He should have **TRUSTED in the covenant**. But alas, he didn't believe and so when she was not looking, he slipped out of THE tent into HER tent where he knew he would be safe! (How often we try to help the Lord keep His covenant that He has with us?) As soon as she saw that he had gone into HER tent, she knew, of course, that he had broken the salt covenant and she also knew that the penalty for such was death. She went into him and fixed him right through his unbelieving mind, his weak-thinking department . . . she nailed him to the ground, literally. His thinking was of the earth, earthy and received the due reward of such which is death. For us, it is not physical death — but most certainly it can be spiritual death, cut off from the effects of the great covenant that Jesus has provided. Jael was praised for fulfilling the salt covenant.

Amazingly in our daily walk with the Lord, we so often behave just like Sisera. The grace of God gives us everything that we need . . . to be fully cared for with His unconditional love as He draws us into Himself. **We either have not been told about the full content and effect of grace — or, if we have . . . we don't believe it!** How do we know? We still try to earn God's favour by believing correctly or saying the right words etc. We are still *the salt of the earth* called to manifest His nature . . . *we know we are the suit of clothes that God goes around in!* God has spoken . . . therefore it is so!

JUDAS BROKE THE SAME COVENANT

Judas Iscariot at the last supper, was given the sop dipped in the common bowl. There would have been salt in it and thus he, along with the others, had entered into a salt covenant with Jesus. Then he went out and betrayed our Lord and thus *the penalty of death* became his portion. If he had not killed himself, someone else just might have done it — as *the Gospel of Grace* was not yet on the scene! Jesus most assuredly wants our whole being centered on Him and His Kingdom and **HE IS DEPENDING ON US!**

LEAVE THE OLD AND WALK

We have seen through Lot that God's desire is for us to leave the old (thinking) and we have His covenant assurance, *'that He will never leave us nor forsake us'*. Thus with His Life within, which contains His Headship and thinking (the Mind of Christ), He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him. The natural realm will be judged by fire and any of our former thinking that remains with us, will also be judged by fire and removed from us or us from it! *'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?'* Jesus is Son of David (**Romans 1:3**) and **WE ARE IN HIM**. Therefore we are also sons of David. **The Kingdom has been given to us by a covenant of salt**. As we desire to flow into that high calling of experiencing the King and the Kingdom in fullness, we allow the salt to permeate our whole being — especially our believing and our speech which expresses our believing — until we become **in experience** the **SALT OF THE EARTH**, that purifying agent, that preserving agent that is linked with fire and sacrifice.

As we become this salt in reality, the earthly ways with its natural thinking will be renewed to God's thinking by the Holy Spirit's work in us. In making that covenant with Him, we understand that God is **DEPENDING ON US!** Even so we have to depend upon Him Our desire is to take this responsibility of walking in the covenant which we have with Christ Jesus. This will enable us to walk into **experiencing** *the Holiest of All* position — the Throne and the full release of His Mind and Will. "Help us, Father, to walk believing you and your word to us, that we do not look back to what we have come out of, but keep our eyes forward, with all our 'Sodoms and Gomorrahs' behind us for good.

KEEP THE COVENANT OF SALT AND LIVE!

Don't break it through unbelief . . . there is still the penalty of spiritual death, that of being separated from His voice wherein is the call of God for this hour of Tabernacles. Rather believe that Jesus Christ did the dying for us which released His overcoming life that enables this covenant of salt to be kept. As we grow, we progress!

“Father, please protect us, your salt, from losing its saltiness!”

We need to be *“worth our salt”* as the common expressions says. . . like giving an hour and half's work for an hour's pay! Simply, a job very well done!

Originally, Roman soldiers were paid and in their pay there was an extra sum called *'salt-money'*. This was to be used for buying salt which was essential part of each man's supply.

The Latin word for *'salt-money'* is *SALARIVM* from which we get the English word *SALARY*. So with His supply of grace, we need to be able to say with understanding that *“a man is worthy of His hire!”*.